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Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar



Ibn Khaldun's Theory and the Party-Political Edifice of the United Malays National Organisation

Edited by Mansoureh Ebrahimi

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Description of the Book

This study examines the decline and erosion of UMNO as a dominant political party of Malaysia through the perspective of Ibn Khaldun's theory of '*asabiyyah*' and '*umran*'. It uses the qualitative method of data collection from Ibn Khaldun's original works. After discussing Ibn Khaldun's theory of '*asabiyyah*' and '*umran*', it looks in detail at UMNO's '*umranic*' contributions and erosion of Malay '*asabiyyah*'. The research outlines how '*asabiyyah*' led UMNO rise to prominence, gain political power and bring progress and development of Malaysia to an '*umranic*' stage before it started to decline and erode in concordance with the five stages of Ibn Khaldun's theory of rise and fall of civilisations. This book highlights that early leaders of UMNO played a significant role in fostering group feeling and solidarity among the Malays ('*asabiyyah*'). '*Asabiyyah*' was the engine that propelled UMNO to acquire *mulk* and transform the Malays and Malaysia to an '*umranic*' society. In conclusion, the later leaders of UMNO contributed to weakening of the Malay '*asabiyyah*' and the fall of UMNO from power in the 14th General Election in 2018. The process of UMNO's decline and erosion of the political power has been primarily caused by the leaders' failures and shortcomings. The study, among others, recommends that for UMNO to be relevant again in the current political landscape, it must initiate new and serious approaches and initiatives to change itself and must focus on good governance and rule of law in a multi-ethnic Malaysian society.

This book provides a comprehensive review of the social transformation brought about by '*umran*', includes in-depth discussions on the loosening of solidarity or '*asabiyyah*' within the Malay Muslim society, covers a vast array of the operationalisation of Ibn Khaldun's theory, illustrating the many factors that led to the decline of political power and dominance of UMNO. It adds value to the corpus of knowledge and seeks to fill the gap on the applicability of Ibn Khaldun's political theory to the UMNO dilemma. This book covers a vast array of the operationalisation of Ibn Khaldun's theory of '*asabiyyah*' and '*umran*' to the decline of political power and dominance of UMNO and its leadership of Malaysia from GE12 in 2008 until GE14 in 2018. Finally, it examines whether Ibn Khaldun's theory of '*asabiyyah*' and

'umran would be relevant to UMNO today and discusses how it could be applied by illustrating the numerous factors responsible for the decline of UMNO. The findings of the study offer suggestions if UMNO wants to regain power and rise again.

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