

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

- 1st Century Trading ships plying between India and China make stops on the Malay Peninsula. "Indianification" of Southeast Asia, including Hinduism, follows.
- 1386 First record of Islam on the peninsula introduced by Indian traders.
- 1400 A settlement is established at Malacca by fugitives from Singapore and East Sumatra which grows rapidly as a trading centre.
- 1509 The first appearance of Europeans. A Portuguese fleet sails into Malacca in search of a Far East trading base but leaves following hostilities.
- 1511 The Portuguese return and capture Malacca causing the collapse of its empire and allowing Siam to regain sovereignty over the northern Malay states.
- 1641 The Dutch capture Malacca from the Portuguese after 40 years of hostility and commercial rivalry for control of the Straits of Malacca.
- 1786 The British East India Company, needing a trading post, occupies the island of Penang, hitherto a part of Kedah.
- 1819 Sir Stamford Raffles, in search of a more convenient base for the British East India Company, lands on the island of Singapore.
- 1824 The Treaty of India settles the rival claims of British and Holland in their commercial war to monopolize the Far East trade.
- 1858 The British East India Company is taken over by the British Government which administers its territories through the India Office.
- 1867 The Straits Settlements comprising Penang, Malacca and Singapore are transferred to the Colonial Office.
- 1874 The first of a series of treaties between Great Britain and the rulers of the Malay States marking the beginning of British intervention.
- 1877 The British introduce the rubber tree from South America.
- 1890's Tin mining starts, leading to influx of Chinese labour.