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The Strait of Malacca and Strait of Hormuz: A Brief Historical Review

Mansor Majdin, Mohamad Firdaus^a ; Osman, Rahmah Ahmad H.^b; Yaapar, Salleh^c [Save all to author list](#)^a Department of History and Civilization, Abdul Hamid Abu Sulayman Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia, P.O. Box 10, Kuala Lumpur, 50728, Malaysia^b Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Abdul Hamid Abu Sulayman Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia, P.O. Box 10, Kuala Lumpur, 50728, Malaysia^c Department of Literature, School of Humanities, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang, 11800 USM, Malaysia[Full text options](#) [Export](#) [View PDF](#)[Abstract](#)[Author keywords](#)[Sustainable Development Goals 2023](#)[SciVal Topics](#)[Funding details](#)**Abstract**

This study attempts to revisit two prominent trading networks between the Arab world and the Malay archipelago, namely the Strait of Malacca and the Strait of Hormuz, which historically linked the two worlds. This historical linkage is made possible via visitations by the Arab-Persian traders to the Malay world and the Malay traders' visits to their destinations. Given the geopolitical environments they have experienced in the past and present, there is no denying the immense significance of these straits to Malaysia and the Kingdom of Oman, respectively. They had contributed abundantly in the past to Malaysia and the Kingdom of Oman, as well as to the countries bordering the two straits. Nonetheless, the study argues that given the current unstable world conditions, the safe navigation of both straits is increasingly vulnerable. It also highlights some socioeconomic and political dynamism, which reveal historical changes and continuities that have occurred in the past and present. The situation here seems critical since both straits have established themselves as major world shipping lanes from the

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west to the east and vice versa. In short, the study investigates the current issues and how small countries like Malaysia and the Kingdom of Oman handle conflict in the most strategic and effective way. © Penerbit Universiti Sains Malaysia, 2023.

Author keywords

Malaysia; Oman; Strait of Hormuz; Strait of Malacca; trading straits

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👤 Mansor Majdin, M.F.; Department of History and Civilization, Abdul Hamid Abu Sulayman Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia, P.O. Box 10, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
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