The Hadhrami Diaspora in Southeast Asia

Identity Maintenance or Assimilation?

Edited by Ibrahim Abushouk & Hassan Ahmed Ibrahim

BRILL
The Hadhrami Diaspora in Southeast Asia

Identity Maintenance or Assimilation?

Edited by
Ahmed Ibrahim Abushouk
Hassan Ahmed Ibrahim

BRILL
LEIDEN • BOSTON
2009
On the cover: top to bottom:
1. The city of Hadhramaut, Yemen. Used by permission of the Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Yemen.
3. Hadhrami woman. Courtesy of Prof. Daniel M. Varisco, Hofstra University, USA.

This book is printed on acid-free paper.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Includes bibliographical references and index.
DS8523.4.A73H33 2009
305.89273335 — db22

ISSN 1385-3376

Copyright 2009 by Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, The Netherlands.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher.

Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use is granted by Koninklijke Brill NV provided that the appropriate fees are paid directly to The Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Suite 910, Danvers, MA 01923, USA.
Fees are subject to change.

PRINTED IN THE NETHERLANDS
CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ........................................................................................................ vii
Foreword .................................................................................................................... ix
   Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar
A Note on Transliteration ......................................................................................... xv
Introduction .................................................................................................................. 1
   Ahmed Ibrahim Absoukou and Hassan Ahmed Ibrahim

I. Reflections on the Longevity of the Hadhrami Diaspora in the Indian Ocean .... 17
   Ulrike Freitag

II. Arabophobia and Iskak: How Sayyid ‘Uthmān Became Advisor to the Netherlands Colonial Administration .................. 35
   Nico J. G. Kaptein

III. Arab Hadhramis in Malaysia: Their Origins and Assimilation in Malay Society 45
   Abdul Rahaman Teng Abdullah

IV. Tea and Company: Interactions between the Arab Elite and the British in Cosmopolitan Singapore .......... 57
   Nurjazilah Habaya

V. Economic Crisis and State-Building in Hadhramaut, 1941–1949: The Impact of the Decline of Southeast Asian Remittances ........ 81
   Christian Lekom

VI. The Decline of Arab Capitalism in Southeast Asia ............... 109
   Rajeswary Ampalavanar Bobox

VII. Entrepreneurial Strategies of Hadhrami Arabs in Southeast Asia, c. 1750s–1950s ........................................ 135
   William Gerace Clarence-Smith
VIII. *Al-Manār* and the Hadhrami Elite in the Malay-Indonesian World: Challenge and Response ............... 159
   Ahmed Ibrahim Abooshouk

IX. The Ins and Outs of Hadhrami Journalism in Malaya, 1900–1941: Assimilation or Identity Maintenance? ..... 191
   William R. Ruff

X. Sayyid Shaykh Ahmad al-Hādi’s Contributions to Islamic Reformism in Malaya .................................. 203
   Hafiz Zakaria

XI. Hadhramis within Malay Activism: The Role of al-Saqāfāt’s in Post-War Singapore (1945–1965) .......... 225
    Syed Muhd Khairuddin Aljunied

XII. In the Name of Fatimah: Staging the Emancipation of the Hadhramis in the Netherlands East Indies .... 245
     Huub de Jonge

Glossary .................................................................................................................................................. 263
Archival Sources and Bibliography ......................................................................................................... 267
List of Contributors .................................................................................................................................. 287
Index ....................................................................................................................................................... 291