

# CONTEMPORARY STUDIES AND METHODOLOGY IN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING IN MALAYSIA



MARIANA MOHAMED OSMAN  
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# CHAPTER 7

## THE POLITICAL ECONOMY CHANGES AND STRUCTURE OF HOUSING PROVISION IN MALAYSIA

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### INTRODUCTION

Malaysia has experienced rapid economic development with rising per capita income and urbanisation, since the country's independence in 1957. Thus, the pressure on housing is enormous, particularly among the low income groups. More people are demanding a better quality of housing in line with rising income, but at the same time thousands still live in poor conditions in squatter settlements throughout the country. The social and economic changes experienced by the people necessitate improvements in housing conditions. As a multiracial country, housing provision has played an important role in nation building and political stability in Malaysia. The changes in the global political economy towards neo-liberalism and a market economy over the last 30 years have clearly directly influenced Malaysia's housing policy.

The purpose of this chapter is to discuss the impact of the changes to the political economy and housing provision in Malaysia from the late British Colonial period until 2005. The discussion will begin with an understanding of Malaysia's changing political economy before exploring an in-depth analysis of the role of the state and market in housing provision using the Structure of Housing Provision (SHP) framework.

### THE STRUCTURE OF HOUSING PROVISION FRAMEWORK