

The British Hand In Destabilization

by Mike Billington

Malaysia, the most stable and prosperous nation of Southeast Asia, has not escaped the devastating impact of the global financial collapse and the hyperinflation being fed by the Western central banks. Nor has it escaped the prying hand of British intelligence, as the former colonial masters are still plying their trade as the “invisible hand” behind the current political destabilization.

Barison Nasional (BN), the coalition of parties which has governed Malaysia (in various forms) since independence in 1957, was handed a severe setback in national elections on March 8, dropping from 90% of the seats in the Parliament to less than two-thirds—the percentage needed to make changes in the Constitution on its own. Five of the 13 states were taken by the opposition—a highly unstable coalition pasted together for this election—made up of the Islamist party PAS, the Chinese Party DAP, and the Keadilan party formed by former finance minister and deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, after he was dumped by former Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad in 1998.

The race was heavily shaped by racial tension, stirred up by the British and their prime asset, Anwar, whose closest friends in the West are the neoconservative Paul Wolfowitz and green-fascist Al Gore, who is notorious in Malaysia for his colonial stunt at the 1998 APEC meeting in Malaysia, where he offered his support for the ongoing riots in Kuala Lumpur, led by Anwar, against then-Prime Minister Mahathir.

However, the reason racial divisiveness was effective in the elections, was that the government of Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi has been unable to defend the population against soaring fuel and food prices. It is not that the prime minister is not committed to the development of the nation, but that he has refused to acknowledge the reality of the collapse of the international banking system. In fact, days before the election, he published an op-ed in a business newspaper titled, “Why Malaysia Won’t Catch America’s Cold,” imagining that Malaysia is immune to the greatest collapse of the world financial system in modern history. This false optimism in the face of danger, the elections showed, discouraged the population, and left them prey to racial profiling.

By contrast, as prime minister, Mahathir asserted global leadership against the International Monetary Fund and the

speculators during the 1997-98 “Asian” crisis, by imposing currency controls, winning the enmity of the Anglo-Dutch financier oligarchs, but successfully protecting his nation’s population through that crisis. Mahathir, following the recent election, was brutal in his condemnation of Prime Minister Badawi for failing to protect the nation. “My view is that he has destroyed UMNO [the majority party in the ruling coalition], destroyed the BN, and he is responsible for this election result,” said Dr. Mahathir, calling for Badawi’s resignation. “I’m sorry,” he concluded, “but I apparently made the wrong choice,” by choosing Badawi as his successor when he retired in 2003.

British Manipulation

The racial tension was provoked by British assets on both sides. Badawi is highly influenced by his son-in-law Khairy Jamaluddin, a Cambridge-trained asset of British financial circles (he cut his teeth as an intern at the *London Economist*). Khairy has opposed several large development projects sponsored by Dr. Mahathir, and has promoted the establishment of free-trade zones and free-trade agreements with the West, opening the nation to the speculators. He also famously appealed to racial prejudice in his leadership of the UMNO Youth, provoking an angry response from the Chinese within the government coalition, while his associate in the UMNO Youth leadership even raised a dagger (*keris*) while railing against the Chinese minority. This, in turn, provided Wolfowitz-asset Anwar Ibrahim, who had earlier founded a movement tied to the extremist Muslim Brotherhood, to portray himself as a defender of the minority ethnic groups, by accusing the government of “brandishing the *keris* towards minority groups.”

Anwar also helped stir up Indian minority rage earlier this year, by flying off to India and London to denounce the Malaysian government’s oppression of the Indians, after a militant Indian faction organized demonstrations against the government for tearing down Hindu shrines to make way for development projects.

While the opposition parties which represent Chinese and Indian minorities fared well in the election, the Indian and Chinese parties which support cooperation among the groups, and participate in the BN coalition lost badly, including their leaders, who lost their own races.

The last time the BN fell short of a two-thirds majority in Parliament was in 1969, an event that precipitated riots and many deaths—with a heavy British hand. There is serious concern that the racial tensions, enflamed by the economic crisis, could return the nation to those dark days. With the British provoking political chaos in every possible global venue, to create instability in the face of the financial breakdown crisis, Malaysia must pull together around real economic development and the defense of the general welfare, or become another victim of this British imperial drive.