

VIEWS AND THOUGHTS TUN DR. MAHATHIR AGAINST THE JAPANESE NATIONAL CULTURE AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE NATION OF MALAYSIA 1981-2003

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<https://doi.org/10.54922/IJEHSS.2024.0804>

ABSTRACT

Discussion on Japanese culture against Malaysia during the reign of Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad 1981-2003, especially the adaptation of the work culture of Japan that emphasizes commitment, innovation, and the spirit of the patriotism, as well as to promote Malaysia as a country that is internationally competitive. Tun Dr. Mahathir admire the management system that is efficient in Japan and believe that Malaysia can achieve rapid progress by adopting the same attitude. The discussion also highlights the success of the Japanese in advancing the economy of the neighbors and how Malaysia benefit from such developments. Tun Dr. Mahathir called on Malaysians to replicate the innovation and creativity of the Japanese in the production and technology, as well as emphasize the importance of unity and cooperation in achieving progress. On the whole, the analysis of the discussion shows how the thoughts and actions of Tun Dr. Mahathir influenced by the Japanese culture, and how he sought to form a Malaysian society that is disciplined, innovative, and unite for the sake of achieving the status of developed countries.

Keywords: Tun Dr. Mahathir, thought, culture of Japan.

1. INTRODUCTION

The influence of Japanese culture on the nation of Malaysia in the era of the reign of Tun Mahathir Mohamad very significant, especially through the implementation of the Look East Policy. This policy is an effort of the government of Malaysia for adopts the culture of the Japanese work, especially his focus on commitment to work, ability toward modernizing the country, and the intensification of the spirit of patriotism high after the Second World war.

After becoming the Prime Minister in writing of his memoirs, the visit early to the Japanese convinces Tun Dr. Mahathir that the people of Malaysia can learn a lot from that country (Mahathir Mohamad,2012). Tun Dr. Mahathir has taken inspiration and inspiration from the rise of Japan after the war, which became an important source to develop Malaysia as a developed country and helpless competitiveness. The policy View to the East is also designed to produce Malaysian society who own the work culture and self-identity that is similar to Japan.

2. BACKGROUND TUN MAHATHIR AND THE JAPANESE NATION

After graduation, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has started a job as a doctor at the Clinic MAHA. He helped the local community regardless of race, until nicknamed "Dr. UMNO." Yet, in the midst of a career without a break, He decided to take the day off and planned to travel out of the country.

In the 1960s, Tun traveling to Hong Kong, followed by a visit to Japan the following year. At that moment, He realized that the Japanese society adopt a rule similar to Britain, however they still maintain the culture and their thoughts. At that time, Japan was rapidly developing, and Tun want Malaysians to emulate the persistence of the Japanese people in developing countries.

Although the Japanese in the reconstruction process after kebangkitan Japanese sharply, Japan exporting a variety of items that propel the economic progress of the country. Tun remembered the tyranny of the Japanese when the occupying Malaya, yet at the same time, He began to admire the people of Japan (Lee Ban Chen,2003). The attitude of the work of powerful, innovative, and determined Japanese society cause Tun imagine the attitude of the Malaysian society in the event of the same, then Malaysia will definitely be the country that rose up with a fast pace.

Along the Tun become Prime Minister since 1981, many series of the official visit of the Tun to do to some foreign countries. The observation of sharp while you're in the land of the cause vision Tun to be in the range of forward-thinking. Thinking Tun influenced by the places Tun visit, to Tun once said, "I not only think but also look and study things carefully. When I travel around, I look at things carefully, make comparison of what I see, I don't accept things at face value, you cannot trust what you hear or see, don't jump to conclusions without thinking."(interview with Tun Dr Mahathir).

Japan bounced back into the international arena and Asia. People in Asia have already begun to realize the development of Japan. Tun impressed with the development in Japan and Tun like to emulate Japan. (Mahathir Mohamad,2012). The rest of the trip left a lasting impression and influence the action when Tun become Prime Minister. This is acknowledged by the Tun in the interview with Tun that express the attitude of the Japanese society who work hard and love the country admired by Tun and hope of the people of Malaysia also has such attitude. Therefore, to advance the country's economy, Tun introduces about the Look East Policy which involved Japan and Korea.

This policy also never crossed the minds of the people and the leaders of Malaysia before this. Rational Tun introduces this policy is particularly simple and logical. The ability of the Japanese destroyed as a result of the atomic bomb by the United States on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in the Second World War in 1945 to back up and become a developed country to be able to rival the world economy in a short time should be emulated by Malaysia. Through observation when Tun conducts a tour, every detail is seen to be addressed and investigated thoroughly. Tun also does a comparison to what is seen with the situation and the situation in the country. For example, differences and similarities there are in the country of Japan with the country of Malaysia.

3. THE PRACTICE OF JAPANESE CULTURE

Reviewing the positive side of the Japanese people a lot of the culture and style of life that can be followed by the Malaysian society as they practice the culture of the East. The attitude of respect for older people, carry out the responsibility with effective, diligent and tenacious has become a grass-roots and identity to their (Utusan Malaysia,2000). Commitment the Japanese people against responsibility, hard work, and persistence is not due to stress or protocol, but has become a half from the culture and identity of them. The people of Japan also showed a high value against self-

esteem and the value of does not depend on other people. The attitude that prefers to bear the difficulty of asking for help shows the dignity of the strong in themselves.

Japanese society has a good value that will always be remembered by the community, including Malaysia. They are very friendly and caring (The Daily News, 11 January 1997). This raises the admiration of the community outside because the language be a barrier in communication with them, yet the passion and competitiveness of the cause they can succeed and become experts in a particular field.

In addition, the Japanese society is very high with a value of taking care of hygiene. Tun Dr Mahathir pointed out “the news of the Kuala Lumpur city of dirty is an old thing has been voiced yet not getting appropriate action” (Utusan Malaysia, August 8, 1997). Therefore, Tun suggested that Malaysia to introduce the five criteria of the Japanese society in assessing the level of cleanliness that has become the practice of the nations of Japan which is famous for its cleanliness in the eyes of the world.

With the theme of “5S that is Seiri, Seiton, Seiso, Seiketsu and Shitsuke has become basic sanitation in half the government and private organizations. All Japanese factory in Malaysia including Petronas and Tenaga Nasional transfer the culture of the 5S in the Malaysian society. Although the criteria 5S is the Japanese culture, but for the sake of seeing the country of Malaysia's clean, and it shall not be a mistake to assimilate such practices in the everyday practice of the people of Malaysia, with the hope of aspects of hygiene be the identity of Malaysia.

In addition to the cultural practices of 5S the Japanese national culture shaping society by reducing the broadcast of the external program. The reduction of the post is from 60% to 5% in 1950 (Utusan Malaysia, June 21, 1996). This is because the says the Adviser Foundation Executive Contact International Hoso-Bunka “many Asian countries are now beginning to find the program from Asia more appropriate and valuable to the audience compared to the program from the Western countries turned out differently with the way of life and culture of the community of the East” (Utusan Malaysia, June 21, 1996). This approach can be followed by the government of Malaysia to form the Malaysian nation with a value of oriental high because most of the external resource has the plans do not fit with the culture of Asia.

Between view and point that stole the focus of Tun Dr Mahathir in Japan is technology. When Tun does a tour to explore the technology in Japan Tun running for hours, diligently listen to the briefing, ask technical questions, always give the input and the record between the impression of the visit of Tun and this is expressed admiration of the Japanese people. “He was energetic enough to review all production operations and easy to understand with the description. Ideas and interesting questions” (Utusan Malaysia, 18 June 2000).

Visit Tun Dr Mahathir has caused Tun Dr Mahathir urged Malaysians to take a Japanese concept that is imitation goods made in other countries because it is the most effective and convenient in the process of technology transfer. Tun in a speech at the launching Ceremony of the Week of Science and Technology National 1989 at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) stated “the way of the known reverse engineering” can give success faster because the people of Malaysia has

proven to have a tube of learning high” (Utusan Malaysia, August 15, 1989). This is actually the approach that bring a lot of success on the country-other developed countries.

One way to create creative ideas is by way of imitation (Utusan Malaysia, 5 April 1996). This is the strategy of the Japanese people and they become rich by way of imitating other people's ideas. Yet they didn't come to imitate round-round but imitate creatively. When the Western countries created the innovation of large-scale and pioneered its level with technology, then the product was first released have a lot of lack of then Japanese people improve the lack of it and create products better.

Although it is considered not noble. Yet to replicate and according to the way Japanese people in Malaysia requires ingenuity and creative flair high. The strategy can be imitated by Malaysia of the Japanese people is choosing a popular product, taking into account the customer's grievances and subsequent repair of what created the others by giving good features. This strategy is seen to be able to focus on the aspects of the market.

Among the other technologies that focus is the success of the Japanese advance rail project quiver up to be among the most advanced in the world. The success of Jepun be the impetus for the countries of Southeast Asia especially Malaysia to learn the experience of the country of the rising sun in the modernization of the methods of regional rail service. Tun in a speech while visiting Japan stated “the convenience of good relationships, such as highways, railways, contact sea and air should be established in advance in order to move the process of the development of the regional countries” (Utusan Malaysia, 22 April 1997).

In addition to the technology steal the focus of Tun Dr Mahathir is the success of the Japanese advance neighbors. Tun Dr Mahathir pointed out “the policy of advancing the neighbors continued to maintain progress and economic prosperity in the region”. (Daily News, March 27, 1997). The attitude and the spirit of helping others make Japan as a center of growth of the world with its economy a vibrant and dynamic. The approach is done is when the Japanese developed and become economic giants of the world, poor countries are slowly becoming prosperous and now be a good market of Japanese goods. Malaysia is one of the countries that benefit from the development of the economy outside of Japan and enjoy the investment of large as well as be a market for goods and services Japan.

4. INFLUENCE OF JAPANESE SOCIETY AGAINST THE NATIONS OF MALAYSIA ACCORDING TO THE THOUGHT OF TUN DR. MAHATHIR

Malaysia gained inspiration from the success and achievements of the Japanese. The sentiment and the thought of Tun Dr Mahathir is very deep because the relationship of Malaysia so friendly and closely related to the development again and the success of the Japanese of the Japanese economy. Although in principle see some of the actions and thoughts of the Tun according to the mold of the Japanese, but Tun Dr Mahathir fixed want people to make a strainer in emulating the etiquette of the Japanese people where people just need to emulate the good and a side culture negative (Daily News, June 9, 2001).

The attitude of the Japanese society which causes the thought of Tun Dr Mahathir imagine the attitude of the Malaysian society in the event of the same with Japan involving some of the value of the key that is persistence and dedication. Tun states “Malaysia should emulate the work ethic shown by the generation of Japanese earnest” (News in the State, 9 June 2001). This is because of the work culture that persistent will lead Malaysia towards a developed nation. Tun Dr Mahathir admires the attitude of hard work and dedication of Japanese society. Tun witness how the people of Japan earnest in their work, both in the business sector, industry, incipient even various fields of the other. This attitude shows a strong commitment to quality and productivity, Tun Dr Mahathir believes could lead to economic progress rapidly.

Tun Dr. Mahathir also admire the innovation and creativity shown by the Japanese society. Tun witness how the Japanese are able to produce innovative products and cutting-edge technology, which make them competitive in the global market. This shows that with the innovation, the country is able to improve people's living standards and strengthen its economy. By that, Tun calling on entrepreneurs Malay imitate the Japanese concept (Utusan Malaysia, August 15, 1989). In addition, He also urged Small and Medium Industries (SMI) increase innovation and creativity in the production by increasing the use of information technology and multimedia. “Collaboration can be done in between SMI Malaysia and Japanese IT company through a strategic partnership or the establishment of a joint venture for encouraging investment in Malaysia” (Daily News, March 13, 1997).

The value of the determination and the spirit of nationalism which is high and strong in among the Japanese society also became one of the factors that attract the attention of Tun Dr Mahathir. Tun have seen how the Japanese people love their country and seek to develop it. “They are very work hard and love their country”. (Interview with Tun Dr Mahathir at Foundation Prime, 21 May 2024). This attitude shows that with a strong spirit, the country is able to overcome the challenges and achieve substantial progress. This is what Tun Dr Mahathir wants to nurture among the nations of Malaysia so that the love of country and pride in the country. The value is able to bring progress in the development efforts of Malaysia towards a developed nation.

In addition, Tun Dr. Mahathir admire the unity and solidarity that have nature among the Japanese society. Tun witness how the Japanese people work together to achieve the common purpose, regardless of ethnic differences or social. This attitude showed that with unity, the country is able to achieve social stability and the economy strong. In the presentation of the budget 2004 on 12 September 2003 Tun calling on Malaysians to build a strong unity “we can't be complacent, we can't tarry. Notwithstanding the obstacles that lie ahead, we must face together, we need to be united”. This is explained in detail in the Vision 2020 which is “emerge country Malaysia knit that has a shared goal where Malaysia must be a peaceful country, integrate at the level of region and race, living in harmony, fully cooperate in a fair, and consists of a nation that has political loyalty and dedication to the country”. (The way Forward, Mahathir Mohamad, 1991).

Tun Dr. Mahathir also admire the management system that is efficient in Japan. Tun witnessed how the government and the corporate sector to work well to advance the country. This attitude shows that with good management, then the country is able to achieve rapid progress and extension. The ability of the Japanese destroyed as a result of the atomic bomb by the United States

on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in the Second World War in 1945 to back up and be a developed country and able to rival the world economy in a short time should be emulated. Consequently, Tun introduces the Look East Policy. “By using the culture of the East, we will be able to achieve the status of developed countries” (Mahathir Mohamad, August 28, 2002).

By observing attitude-the attitude of this, Tun Dr. Mahathir imagine how Malaysia will be in the event of its citizens have identical attitudes. He believes that with persistence, innovation, purposeful, union, and management of efficient, Malaysia is able to achieve rapid progress and sustainable, as well as being a developed country in the international arena. In spite of admire and emulate Japan Tun expressed the opinion when interviewed on the occasion of 20 years of being Prime Minister “You can also learn from the mistakes of others, what we see in Japan today is there are a lot of mistakes and Malaysia will avoid do the same mistake” (Daily News, July 27, 2001). The mistake meant is too according to the said foreign critics. Japan seems to lose confidence in the system they own. (Mahathir Mohamad,2012). Even so the Japanese are facing the problem of, Malaysia decided to remain with the Look East Policy and practice work ethic of the Japanese people in Malaysia.

5. CONCLUSION

For in conclusion in a country that adopts democracy, rule that will determine the fate of nations is the culture of the common people because this is the culture of a nation should be given emphasis by the leader of a country. Japanese culture plays a role in the development of Malaysia during the reign of Tun Dr. Mahathir. He was inspired by the success of Japan in the recovery after the Second World War and use it as an example to Malaysia. Through the Look East Policy, Tun pushed hard work, innovation, and unity in achieving national progress.

The practice of Japanese culture such as the methodology of the 5S and the spirit of nationalism is also discussed as examples that can be adaption by Malaysia. Tun Dr. Mahathir also urged the recruitment of Japanese technology and the use of engineering techniques of the Japanese to advance the industry of Malaysia. The unity of social and cooperation in a society of Malaysia also need to achieve economic stability. Expected value of Japanese culture will help form a Malaysian society that is more innovative and unified.

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