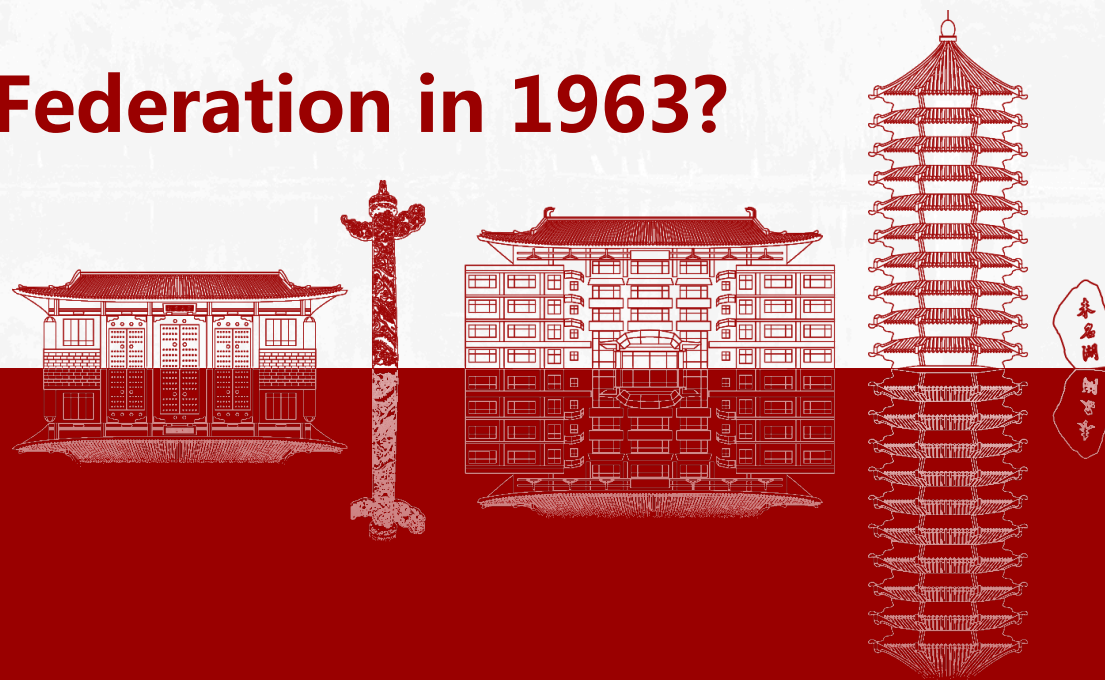




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The Choice of Small State

-Why did Brunei not join Malaysia Federation in 1963?



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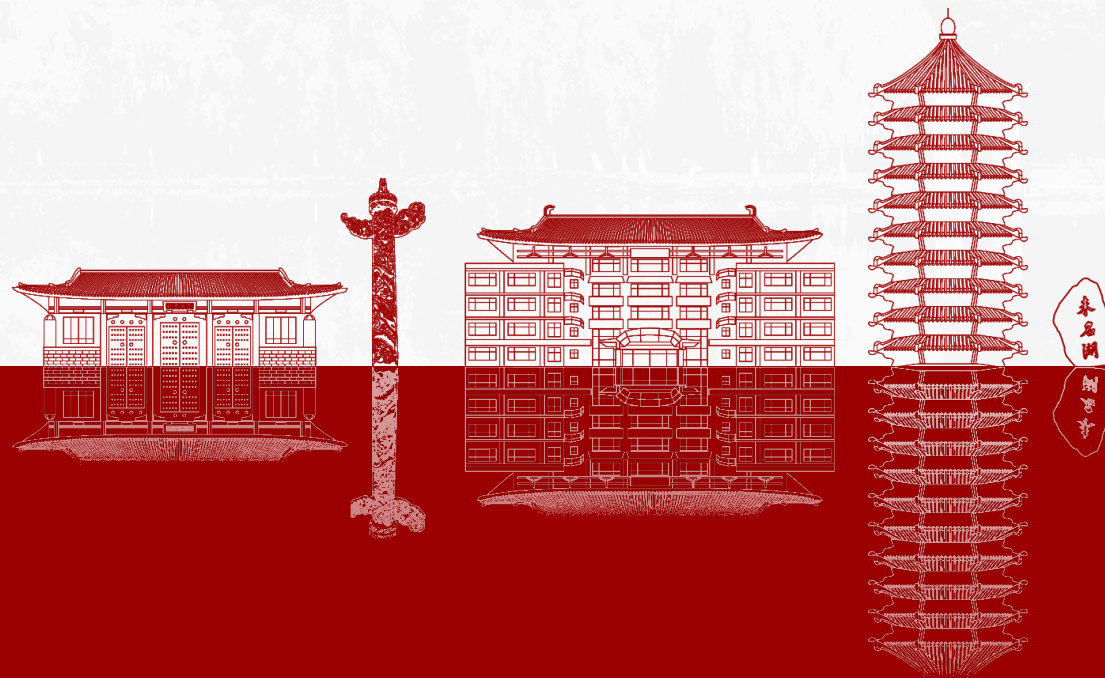
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1 Research Question



Background

- Emerges as British "protectorate" till 1984
- Once had the chance to join the federation of Malaysia and break away from the British colonial rule
- Withdrew at the last minute, opting instead to remain itself as a British "protectorate"

Research Question

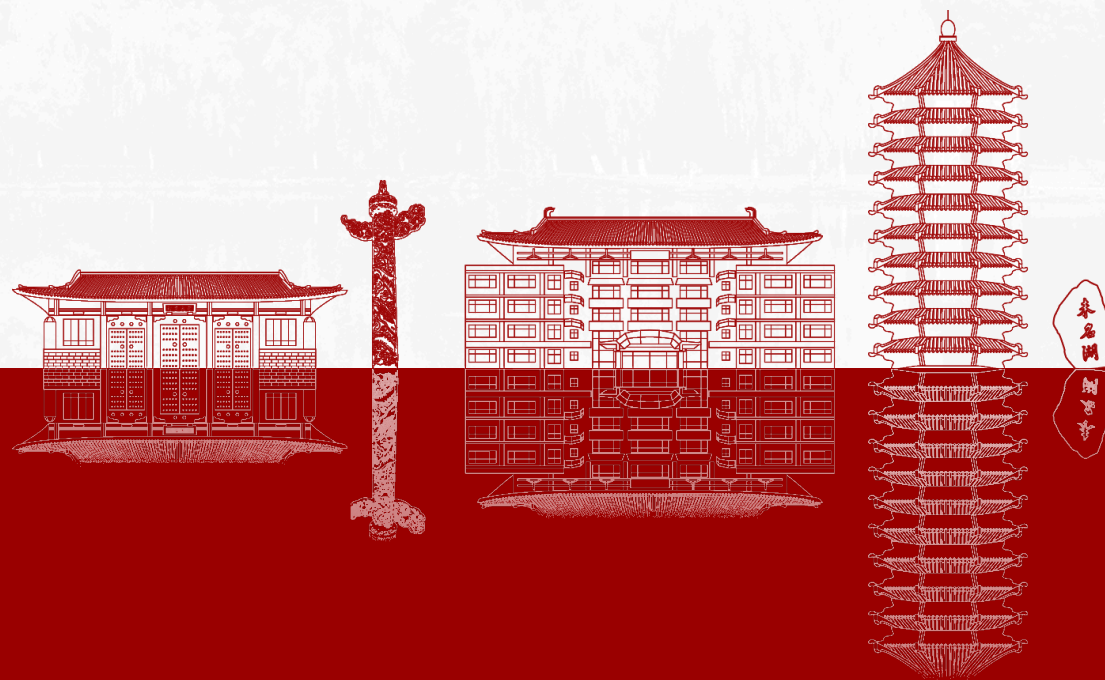
- Why did Brunei give up to become a member of the federation of Malaysia, but choose to seek asylum in the UK instead?
- What is the reason for Brunei's decision?



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Literature Review



Literature Review

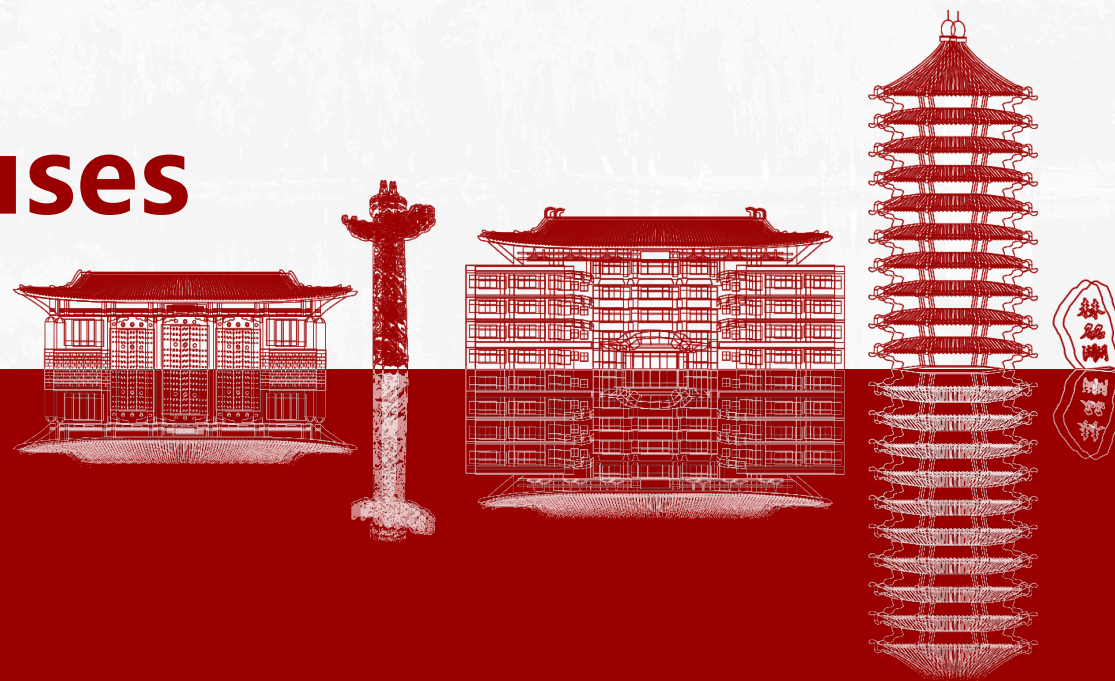
- At present, there are few studies that pay attention to the issue why did brunei not join Malaysia in 1963
- More macro analysis is made based on Britain's decolonization policy in Southeast Asia after World War II or the process of national liberation and independence in the colony
- At the same time, even in this research perspective, most of the studies also focus on the British colonial government, rarely jumping out of previous view and attempt to analyze the issue from the colonial perspective and the details of the colonial behavior in the process of decolonization



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Analysis of Causes



Previous Research

The reason why did Brunei not join Malaysia?

- Politically: Malaysia federal political system design
- Economically: distribution of economic benefits

Research hypothesis

From the macro research perspective, based on the collected materials and detailed analysis, I will make the following research hypothesis for this research problem

- Under the influence of the British decolonization policy characterized by "cooperation", the Sultan of Brunei gave full play to his subjectivity in the process of British decolonization.
- Through the 1959 Constitution and the suppression of an uprising in 1962, the Sultan gradually restored the sultanate and turned Brunei into an absolute monarchy. Thus, the Sultan has the sole right to decide all matters of Brunei over its elected parliamentary body.
- After Malaya and Britain offered the option of joining the federation, the Sultan of Brunei has always expressed reservations about this proposal
- Faced with the possibility that his political rights and economic interests might be divided up after joining the federation of Malaysia, the Sultan of Brunei eventually chose to maximize his rights and step aside joining the federation of Malaysia.

Research hypothesis

However, if we re-analyze the above hypothesis from the **perspective of "smallness"**, which is the biggest characteristic of "small state", it can be found that **"smallness" is actually the core variable that determines Brunei has not joined the federation of Malaysia**

Analysis of Causes

Small state and the vulnerability of nationalism party

- In general, the smaller the state, the smaller the number of political parties, and the weaker its nationalist power, the easier it is to eliminate

Parti Rakyat Brunei

- 1956 founded by A.M.Azahar
- A typical left-wing nationalist party that not only does the party want fully autonomy for Brunei, but it also wants to limit Sultan's power and allow Brunei to democratically elect its legislative assembly
- After a resounding victory in the 1962 general election, it demanded constitutional changes and a reshuffle of the government, which the sultan rejected.
- Choose to stage an armed uprising to defend its policies of democracy and independence
- Due to its power too small and too vulnerable, the British colonial government quickly put down the uprising, which lasted only a week or so

Analysis of Causes

Small state and the choice of its regime

- In general, the smaller the state, the bigger the chance of being controlled by cliques and form extreme

The restore of Sultan Monarchy

- History of absolute monarchy
- British colonial approach - Indirect rule, hiring the sultan to run local affairs
- The cultural power of Islam
- Colonial time

Analysis of Causes

Small state and the objective material condition of gaining independence

- In general, the smaller the state, the fewer limitation of the objective conditions to obtain independence

The objective material condition of gaining independence

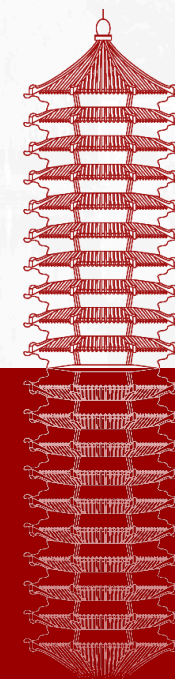
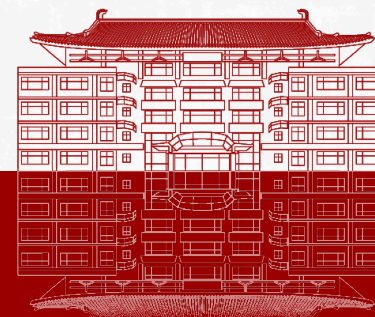
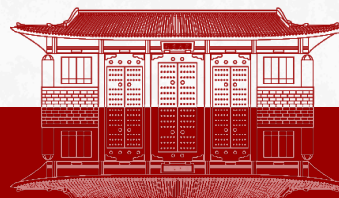
- Economically: Oil revenue and abundant natural resources
- Militarily: protection from British
- Suitable geographical location



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Conclusion



Conclusion

- Weak and controllable nationalist forces
- British colonial strategy and its mutual use with the Sudanese royal family
- Remote geographical location and good economic security

=> The smallness of Brunei



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THANKS FOR LISTENING

