

**UNITED STATES-MALAYSIA RELATIONS UNDER
THE CLINTON AND BUSH ADMINISTRATIONS**

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**THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**

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UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA
BANGI**

2008

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

23 April 2008



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P41783

ABSTRACT

United States and Malaysia relations under the Clinton and Bush Administrations is one of the main pillars of Malaysian foreign policy in this anarchic international system. The objective of this research is to compare United States-Malaysia relations under two different Administrations i.e. Clinton and Bush; and to look at shifts in United States-Malaysia relations as a result of the change of leadership in Malaysia (from Dr. Mahathir to Abdullah Ahmad Badawi). This research will adopt the qualitative approach in order to gather the most relevant data through primary data collection such as elite interviews from face-to-face meeting and questionnaires via email and document analysis. Furthermore, secondary data collection from various scholarly literature on United States and Malaysia relations will complement the primary data. Based on empirical evidences, this research proves that there has been continuity in the foreign policy initiatives that were introduced by both the Clinton and Bush Administrations in order to fulfil the national interests of the sole global super power in terms of maintaining political, economic and military dominance in Southeast Asia vis-a-vis the bilateral relations with Malaysia. However, a slight variation in terms of priority due to the terrorist attacks of September 11 could be seen since the Bush Administration placed concerns on human rights and democratic values below the need to prevent another terrorist attacks from happening unlike the Clinton Administration insistence that Malaysia should follow the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 in order to have good bilateral political ties.

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