

Early development of Malaysia's relations with Saudi Arabia: Historical background

Abstract

The study attempts to analyse the early development of Malaysia's historical relations with Saudi Arabia within the context of Malay-Arabian Peninsula ancient relations. The character of relations will be examined in three major phases of interactions. These are first, the historical interactions between the Malacca Sultanate and Arab traders in the fifteenth century; second, the post-Malacca Sultanate and third, the period of the early 20th century to the Malayan independent era. The main challenge of this study is to link Malaysia's early relations with Saudi Arabia in these phases where both have yet to become a modern state. To rectify this challenge, the study will place emphasis on specific Malay Peninsula political entities, and those Arab traders-preachers who emanate from the territories, that centuries later come under Saudi Arabian influence, or the nearest locations to the kingdom.