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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Rizieres, essarts ou autres ? -- L'esclavage ou les questions qu'on evite de poser -- Paysans ou cultivateurs ? -- La rente fonciere -- La corvee -- Conclusion -- REFERENCES.
Sommario/riassunto	<p>La plupart des travaux qui traitent du changement social dans la peninsule malaise s'appuient sur une conception souvent vague et meme parfois erronee de la societe malaise traditionnelle. Le terme feodal lui est frequemment accole, par contre on ferme generalement les yeux sur le role des esclaves dans l'ensemble des rapports sociaux. En reprenant les donnees historiques, l'article propose une interpretation nouvelle de ce qu'etait cette societe pre-coloniale. Cette vision remet en question deux aspects importants de ce que l'on a longtemps cru etre la societe malaise. D'une part le mode de subsistance, qui aurait ete beaucoup plus varie qu'on l'a cru jusqu'a present, d'autre part, le rapport entre la classe dirigeante et les villageois, qui aurait ete plus flexible et moins oppressif qu'on ne le suppose generalement.</p> <p>Most of the research dealing with social change is based on a conception of traditional Malay which is often vague and even at times completely erroneous. It is often said to be a feudal society while the role of slaves within the overall social relations is, more often than not, overlooked. Going over the historical data again this article offers a new interpretation of the nature of this pre-colonial society. This new model challenges two important aspects of what is generally believed.</p>

On the one hand, the subsistence basis would have been much more diversified than it has been assumed to be, on the other hand, the relation between the ruling class and the villagers would have been much more flexible and less oppressive than it is generally supposed to have been.
