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Sommario/riassunto	This book, a reprint project of the Malaysia Study Programme of ISEAS, covers the duration from the time when data are available up to the early eighties. The book presents a comprehensive study of the multiracial population of the region for the period under consideration. The strength of the book lies in the author's deep familiarity with the country where he was educated up to secondary level, and even taught for some years in the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, in the sixties.