

BRITISH RULE IN SINGAPORE

Who were the British governing?

Chinese Immigrants

Where They Came From

- There were only a small number of Chinese living in Singapore when Raffles landed in 1819
- Many Chinese came from nearby places such as Melaka and Penang.
- At first, they came to work or marry but later many of them remained as settlers
- News of the new British settlement spread to China and large numbers of Chinese began to come all the way from China
- Almost all of them came from the southern provinces of China, especially from the Fujian province and Guangdong province

Why They Came

- Shortage of Food
- Only 15% of the land area in China was flat, low-lying and fertile enough for farming
- Small proportion of land was divided among a large population of farmers
- Made worse by the Chinese practice of dividing the family land among the sons after the death of the father
- Many farmers had such a small piece of land to work on that they hardly had enough food to feed their families
- This was made even worse by the rapid population increase in China from the 18th to the 19th century
- Increased from 180 000 000 in 1750 to 430 000 000 in 1850
- Farmers tried to increase the area of their farmland by using land that was not suitable for growing crops
- This increase was so small that it still could not match the increasing population
- Shortage of fertile land led to not enough rice being produced and many poor families had to live off sweet potatoes
- Many rich relatives (mostly traders) who had migrated to Southeast Asia often sent money back to them
- As such, many poor people learned that if they wanted a better life, they should migrate to SEA
- Weak Government in China
- Bureaucracy did not increase even though the population did
- Resulted in inefficiency in maintaining the country
- The coming of the Western powers highlighted the incompetency of the government
- Unfair treaties were signed
- China's economy was in shambles and the economic opportunities were limited to the Europeans
- Led to chaos and rebellions
- Due to the overwhelming economic infrastructure built to serve the Europeans' needs, China faced a series of man-made disasters
- The people, being exploited in their homeland, had to leave in search of something else
- Attractiveness of Singapore as a Free Port

- Attracted many Chinese merchants from other parts of Southeast Asia
- They were drawn in by the fact that Singapore was a free port where they could enjoy freedom of trade

THE FALL OF SINGAPORE

Why did Japan Invade South-East Asia?

While Germany was the aggressor that led to the outbreak of WWII in Europe in 1939, Japan was the aggressor that led to the outbreak of WWII in the Asia Pacific. The Japanese had sought to build its own empire in Asia so that it would be seen as an equal by Western powers. In the end, she was the first Asian country to be regarded as a world power by the Western powers. The following are certain factors that fueled Japan's ambition to invade the Asia Pacific.

REASONS FOR JAPANESE INVASION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

Political Reasons

Japanese Politics from the 1910s to 1920s:

Ever since the Meiji Restoration of 1868, Japan had been governed by a parliament and an Emperor. During the Taisho period (1912-1926), democratic movement and political parties arose due to the poor health of Emperor Taisho. The government was made up of different political parties and often change, leading to political instability. Government ministers were often corrupt for their own economic gains and assassinations were common. The Emperor became a mere figurehead without any real authority.

There were 2 main political groups which challenged the democratic parties for political power in Japan during this period. They were the Nationalists and the Militarists.

Nationalists. They did not want to depend on the West for economic support and trade. They had respect for the Emperor as the Head of State. They wanted Japan to be a strong independent country.

Militarists. They enjoyed the support of the people due to Japanese traditions of military rule and respect for the military. They supported an aggressive foreign policy (including taking over other countries for raw materials).

Growth of Military Influence in Japanese Politics

- After the assassination of Prime Minister Tsuyoshi Inukai, the military effectively controlled the government
- A 15-member cabinet was made up of ten military figures and only 5 political party members was formed
- Politicians and the Emperor granted concessions to the military in hope of preventing further political violence

Japanese Expansionist Foreign Policy

- One reason for Japan's embarkment on such a policy was to acquire resources
- Due to the Great Depression, it was more difficult to for Japan to obtain raw materials from markets it did not directly control

- The Japanese developed an expansionist foreign policy of taking control of territories near Japan in order to support their supply of raw materials
- Taiwan was a source of sugar
- Korea was a source of cotton and wool
- Manchuria was a source of minerals and wheat
- Another reason for this is the rise of militarism
- Fueled Japan's desire for equality and recognition amongst the world powers
- The control of territories allowed Japan to build its own empire

Economical Reasons

Economic Crisis in Japan

- Rapid population growth in Japan
- 1870: 30 million
- 1937: 70 million
- As the population grew larger, the demand for housing, goods and products also increased
- The overpopulation had also affected the availability of land for farming
- Farmers did not have enough lands to grow their crops and earn a decent profit to support themselves
- The Japanese farmers also practised traditional farming methods where planting and weeding were carried out by hand
- These methods were extremely labour intensive and slow
- This led to a shortage of rice
- Japan was also affected by the Great Depression in 1929
- The USA and Britain began to practise protectionism to shield their own economies
- This meant there was growing opposition to free trade and increasing restrictions and taxation on Japanese exports into these countries
- Demand for Japanese exports fell drastically
- Caused an economic depression in Japan
- It was also more difficult for Japan to obtain raw materials from markets it did not directly control

Quest for Natural Resources

- Japan's major problem in establishing itself as a major industrialised power was that it had no raw materials
- Japanese sought to expand into Southeast Asia due to the availability of important raw materials there
- Japan was especially interested in rubber and oil from Malaya and Indonesia
- These resources were crucial to its military machine and were lacking in Korea, Taiwan and Manchuria
- The answer to Japan's problems was provided by the army
- If more land, more raw materials and alternative markets were needed, they should be taken by force

Overall, these factors fed Japan's growing expansionists' ambitions. Occupation of more territories meant access to more resources as well as space to

relocate its citizens. For example, many Japanese were resettled in Manchuria to resolve the problem of overpopulation.

Social Reasons

Western Prejudice and Racism

- Many Japanese felt that the Western countries were biased against Japan even though she had proven herself to be as modern as the West
- For example, American racism against the Japanese were very prevalent during this time
- Racial segregation and discrimination was very common in American society in the late 19th and 20th century
- Laws were passed to protect American economic interests to exclude the Chinese, Korean and Japanese immigrants to prevent them from competing for jobs.
- In 1882, the USA passed the Chinese Exclusion Act to suspend Chinese immigration.
- This was followed by the establishment of the Japanese and Korean Exclusion League in 1905
- Washington Naval Conference in 1921
- Was organised by the USA.
- Called for a reduction in the naval forces of the major powers (the USA, Britain, Japan, Italy and France).
- The ratio of naval strength between the powers was decided as 5:5:3:1.67:1.67 respectively.
- This meant that Japan had to reduce their naval strength more than the USA and Britain.
- The Japanese nationalists felt that the West wanted to prevent Japan from expanding in the Asia-Pacific region and stop her from becoming as powerful as European powers.
- The Japanese felt that the agreement was unfair and biased against them.

“Liberation” of the Fellow Asians

- Many Southeast Asians were discontented under colonial rule and wanted independence from European rule
- The Japanese promised to ‘liberate’ Southeast Asia from European colonial rule with popular slogans such as “Asia for Asians”
- The Southeast Asians perceived the proposed ‘co-prosperity sphere’ with optimism, in the hope of achieving independence
- However, the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere was really a plan to extend the Japanese Empire into Southeast Asia for economic gains and to further support Japan’s expansionist efforts

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Meiji Restoration

- Took place in 1868
- Failure to resist foreign demands led to unhappiness with the Tokugawa government
- Sense of fear and humiliation at being dominated by Westerners
- Revolt against Tokugawa Shogunate and restoration of imperial rule under Emperor Meiji

- Embarked on drastic reforms that would enable Japan to modernise and regain her independence from foreign powers

Invasion of Manchuria

- Took place in 1931
- Japan wanted coal, iron and other raw materials from the country (necessary for the growing of industries in Japan)

Japan joins the Axis Powers

- Took place in 1940
- Japan shared Germany's ambition of conquering more territories for itself

Attack on Pearl Harbor

- Took place on 7th December 1941
- USA was not involved in the war at the time
- Only the Americans could stand in the way of the Japanese as it had a naval base at Pearl Harbor in the Pacific Ocean
- From there, the USA could send its fleet to stop Japan from invading countries in Southeast Asia
- Thus, Japan decided to destroy the American Fleet at Pearl Harbor
- Meant that the Japanese could now proceed to attack SEA without restraint
- The other European powers were distracted by war in Europe

Invasion of Indo-China

- Took place in 1941
- Japan planned to use Indo-China as a base from which attacks could be made on other countries in Southeast Asia

Why were the British defeated?

MARCH THROUGH MALAYA

Landing of Japanese Troops: 8th December 1941

- Japanese forces landed on the east coast of South Thailand and at Kota Bharu in North-eastern Malaya
- Thailand was the only country that was not ruled by a colonial master
- Japanese signed a treaty of friendship Thailand so that it could set up military bases in Thailand

Sinking of British Battleships: 10th December 1941

- 2 British battleships, the Repulse and the Prince of Wales, were sunk by Japanese fighter planes off Kuantan on the east coasts of Malaya
- Was the worst British naval disaster of the war
- They no longer had any battleships to stop the Japanese from landing along the coast of Malaya

Battle of Jitra: 11-12th December 1941

- British forces > Japanese forces
- Japanese tanks fought with British forces in heavy rain
- British did not have tanks because they had thought that tanks were unsuitable for jungle warfare, but they were wrong
- Japanese tanks moved at such speeds that caused the British forces to be taken by surprise
- Japanese soldiers were also well-trained in jungle warfare
- British were very disorganised due to miscommunication
- As the British troops withdrew, they left behind weapons, ammunition, vehicles and food which the Japanese put into good use

The Fall of Penang: 19th December 1941

- Days before the Fall of Penang, Japanese planes dropped bombs on the island
- The Japanese occupied its airfield and other airfields in North-Western Malaya
- Many ships and boats in the harbour were seized by the Japanese
- The Japanese later used them to make coastal landings on the west coast of Malaya

The Battle of Slim River: 7th January 1942

- At Slim River, the British were fighting a losing battle against the Japanese
- Tried to use anti-tank guns to destroy the Japanese tanks but their weapons did not work
- British troops were unable to check the advance of the Japanese
- The Japanese captured large quantities of food, ammunition and equipment

Japanese Troops Entered Kuala Lumpur: 11th January 1942

- Japanese troops entered KL without serious resistance from the British
- The Japanese found train-loads of food and ammunition in the railway-yards of KL
- Military maps of Singapore which were printed for the British troops were seized by the Japanese

The Battle of Gemas: 17th January 1942

- At Gemas, the Australian and Indian soldiers who were part of the Allied forces tried to stop the Japanese from reaching Singapore by putting explosives on a wooden bridge
- They blew the bridge up just as most of the Japanese soldiers were on it
- Many of the Japanese soldiers were killed
- Success did not last long
- Japanese began to make coastal landings on the west coast of Johor
- Australian and Indian troops were defeated

The Destruction of the Causeway: 31st January 1942

- British, Indian and Australian units from various parts of Johor withdrew to Singapore
- Realising that Malaya was lost, the British troops blew up the Causeway which linked Malaya and Singapore
- They did this in hope of slowing down the Japanese advance towards Singapore

FALL OF SINGAPORE

Japanese Headquarters in Johor

- Lt. Yamashita set up his headquarters at the Sultan of Johor's palace
- This was a strategic location because:
- The palace had a five-storey high tower
- Yamashita could see every key target in northern Singapore
- The British would not have fired at the home of their old friend, Sultan Ibrahim

Attack on Pulau Ubin

- After the midnight of 7-8 February, the Japanese landed on Pulau Ubin

- Hardly any resistance from the British
- Gained an important observation post

Landings from the North West

- On 8th February, Japanese troops crossed the Johor Strait on rubber boats and rafts
- Headed for the north-western part of Singapore
- Australian troops stationed there fought bravely
- Managed to hold the enemy off for a while
- However, the Japanese troops kept coming in large numbers
- Australian troops could not contain them and were forced to withdraw

A Costly Mistake

- The Japanese ferried tanks, supplies and ammunition across the Causeway
- They also repaired the causeway so that both men and equipment could be moved easily into Singapore
- To prepare for the worst, Lt. Percival made plans for his soldiers to withdraw to protect the town centre only if the situation called for it
- Mistaken as a command to withdraw *immediately*
- Many of the soldiers withdrew, leaving the north-western part of the island open to the Japanese
- Order were given to counter-attack
- However, these were carried out half-heartedly
- By then, the Japanese had gained control of the area

The Battle of Bukit Timah

- On 11th February, the Japanese entered the Bukit Timah area
- This was an important place because:
- If they had broken through here, the southern part of Singapore including the town centre would have been open to them
- It was where the British had stocked up food and ammunition, as well as vehicle and machine parts
- Some local Chinese volunteered to fight the Japanese (Dalforce)
- Armed only with swords, grenades, rifles and guns that they used for hunting birds and animals
- These Chinese fought bravely with the British forces
- The Japanese took their revenge by killing all the Chinese men, women and children found in a village in Bukit Timah

The Battle of Pasir Panjang

- By 13th February, the Japanese had already reached Pasir Panjang Ridge
- It was close to the Alexandra area, where the main ammunition stores and British military hospital was located
- Some men of the Malay Regiment, led by Lt. Adnan Said, fought bravely
- Most of the Japanese soldiers were killed or wounded
- The next day, some Japanese soldiers were disguised as Indian soldiers in the British army
- Lt. Adnan realised that they were marching in fours instead of threes
- Ordered his men to open fire

- Forced the rest of the Japanese to flee down the hill
- However, the Japanese soon surrounded the hill
- Malays were outnumbered
- Engaged in fierce hand-to-hand bayonet fighting
- Many soldiers on both sides were killed

The Massacre at Alexandra Hospital

- Japanese marched into Alexandra Hospital, which was a British military hospital
- They massacred doctors, hospital staff, patients and many others

Decision at Fort Canning

- A meeting was held in the underground bunker at Fort Canning
- Percival wanted to discuss ways to counter-attack
- However, his commanders were against the idea, because:
- The soldiers were tired
- More men would be killed if they were to engage the Japanese in street fighting
- Their supplies and food were running out

The British Surrender

- On 15th February 1942, at the Ford Motor Factory in Bukit Timah, the British decided to surrender to the Japanese to prevent further bloodshed

REASONS FOR THE DEFEAT OF THE BRITISH

	JAPANESE	BRITISH
Britain was alone against the Axis Powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on conquering countries in Southeast Asia • Had no other distractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had to fight a war in Europe and North Africa • The British were alone to fight Germany and Italy in Europe, Middle East and Far East as the other allied powers had either fallen to Germany, or were not involved in the war yet (USA) • Only Britain stood in

		<p>the way of Hitler and total control of Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thus, Britain's main pre-occupation at the time was repelling the expected invasion of its shores by Germany • Allocated all their resources to these countries • Regarded the war there as more important than that in Asia
Superiority of the Japanese Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troops were masters in jungle warfare • Were experienced in recent warfare in China and Manchuria • Soldiers were taught to take precautions from malaria and heatstroke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not trained and inexperienced in jungle warfare • Not prepared for the hardships of war • Defenders of Malaya: 130 000 men • Japanese Army: 60 000 men • British Army outnumbered Japanese Army, but due to haphazard organisation and lack of experience and equipment, British were defeated
Excellent Tactics and Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used bicycles to move through the dense jungles and catch the British unaware • Coordination of land, sea and air forces • Stores and equipment saved for their own use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defence forces were taken by surprise, not knowing which direction and means the Japanese would advance • Defence forces destroyed bridges but left behind valuable supplies, such as weapons and ammunition to be used by the Japanese
Military Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had tanks which 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly equipped

	<p>were able to move at high speeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had achieved air and naval superiority with the attack on Pearl Harbour and the sinking of the two battleships • Had a modern air force (zero fighters), giving the troops efficient air cover 	<p>Malayan forces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No tanks • Used old and outdated fighter planes • Did not have enough fighter planes and battleships • No anti-aircraft guns to protect troops attacked by zeroes
Psychological Warfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High morale, winning battle after battle • Sure of their strength and confidence to win the war • Prepared for war and hardship • Committed, motivated and loyal to the Emperor (believed they were fighting for the glory of the Emperor; nationalistic) • Willing to die for their cause 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young and inexperienced soldiers • Lacked spirit and morale • Morale worsened by the outdated equipment given • Inadequate air support, no naval defence, constant losses • Loss of will to fight
Effects of Japanese Propaganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won the people's support with slogans such as "Asia for Asians" and "Greater East Prosperity Scheme" • Had the support of Indian troops who were fighting for independence from the British • Indian leaders from Britain formed the Indian Independence League (INA) and came and tried to break the loyalty of Indian troops to 	-NIL-

	Malaya	
Well-planned Invasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior plans before invading Malaya • Local spies and Japanese spies gathered information on Malaya (eg: defence position, size of force, weapons, ammunition and other equipment) • Knew Singapore's sea defences were strong but the northern defences were weak • Planned to invade the northern part of Malaya first • Captured British airfields in Kota Bahru, Alor Star and Tarping to gain control of the air 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underestimated the power of the Japanese • Knew the Japanese was attacking but did not make prior plans • Did not expect them to attack from the North but expected them to attack from the sea • Cannons in Singapore were pointed towards the sea

THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION

How did the Japanese Military Administration govern Singapore?

KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Occupation:

- A situation where a territory is effectively under control of a foreign armed force
- Military occupation is effective provisional control of a certain ruling power over a territory which is not under the formal sovereignty of that entity without the volition (approval) of the actual sovereign
- An occupation would inadvertently lead to the creation of administration to govern the territory

Why would an occupation occur?

- It is an extension of an armed confrontation
- A territory is occupied because of the following reasons:
- Political: Aggressor's desire to extend their sovereignty to other territories
- Economic: Availability of resources, assets, population, markets or any other valuables that could enrich the aggressor
- Social: Historical, cultural and/or ethnic affiliation
- Security: Territorial extension to prevent aggression, for instance, creation of buffers

What is the nature of administration?

- Benign Administration
- Pleasant and beneficial in nature or influence
- Characterised by kindness and warmth, especially for a king towards his subjects
- Reasons:
- Sustainability: to administer effectively and efficiently
- To prevent hostile reaction by showing goodwill
- Reactions:
- Hostile: the victims could not reconcile with foreign occupation no matter how humane and kind the aggressors show themselves to be
- Acceptance: the victims do not mind the aggression
- Harsh Administration
- Permits suffering of the civilians; devoid of care and concern
- Use of force and violence; in extreme cases it could lead to inhumane persecution
- Reasons:
- To administer efficiently and effectively
- To prevent hostile reaction by creating fear
- Reactions:
- Hostile: victims cannot bear with the persecution or inhumane rule
- Acceptance: victims mind but cannot do anything about it

What were the impacts of the Japanese Occupation?

Japan viewed Malaya as military conquest which was to be exploited to help win the war. Therefore, if the local people did not cooperate, they could be expected to be treated very harshly. The following are some of the impacts that the Japanese had on life in Singapore.

LIFE UNDER THE JAPANESE

Political Impacts

Military Government

- Singapore was renamed “Syonan-to”, meaning “Light of the South”
- The head of the government was a Governor based in Singapore
- The other nine states and Sumatra each had a President responsible to the Governor
- In 1943, Siam was given the 4 northern Malay states of Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu and Perlis as a reward for signing the 1941 alliance
- In the same year, the rest of Malaya was divided into eight provinces, each having its own Governor and with an Advisory Council of State to help the Governor
- The local Sultans were made Vice-presidents of the Councils, but they had little influence, except in matters relating to religion or local Malay customs
- In reality, these councils were not able to oppose the Japanese and did little more than sign their approval for the decisions made by the Japanese
- As for the Europeans, they were sent to prison and the Japanese took over the heads of the various departments
- The POWs were kept in various prison camps such as Changi Prison and Selerang Barracks

Propaganda

- Promote Japanese culture and values
- Learn Japanese language
- Radio stations were controlled by the Japanese
- People only listened to local broadcasts
- Japanese movies and propaganda videos
- Local newspapers were controlled by the Japanese
- This was done so as to promote loyalty to Japan
- It is classified under the term “Nipponisation”

Social Impacts

Treatment of the Different Racial Groups

- The Chinese
- Were treated the most severely by the Japanese. Those who were considered to be anti-Japanese were wiped out (Operation Sook Ching). This was so because:
 - They were traditional rivals of the Japanese
 - China had been at war with Japan since 1937
 - The Chinese were leaders of the resistance against Japanese rule
 - However, the Japanese did recognise the economic value of the Chinese community and allowed them to continue their business activities if they cooperated with them

- The Malays
- The Japanese did not regard them as a threat to their rule
- Tried to win the support of the Malays by convincing them that they would be free from British rule
- This was an attempt by the Japanese to overcome the opposition that the Malays showed towards their conquerors
- Was generally unsuccessful and the Malays gave little cooperation to the Japanese
- The Indians
- The Japanese tried to use the idea of Indian Nationalism to undermine the resistance of the Indian Troops fighting against them
- During the occupation, they treated the Indians better than the Chinese
- Encouraged the idea of Indian independence
- Supported the setting up of the Indian Independence League and Indian National Army to campaign for India to break free from British rule
- The Eurasians
- Suffered as they were related to the Europeans
- Those suspected were shot and many others were put in prison camp
- Many local people of different races were sent to Thailand to construct the Burmese Railway

Restricted Freedom of Movement

- Introduction of the Peace-living Certificate
- This made the head of the household responsible for the behaviour of all members in the family
- Restricted people's movement within Malaya
- Anyone caught acting against the Japanese rulers would be dealt with very harshly
- Arrest and torture were common and there were many public executions

Living in Fear

- Those who were caught looting were beheaded and their heads were displayed in public places as a form of punishment
- Those who did not bow to the Japanese would be slapped, kicked or punished

Standard of Healthcare Decline

- The Japanese needed all the medicines that Malaya had for their army
- Little medicine left for the native population
- Since many Malaysians were under-nourished as a result of food shortages, they were susceptible to illness
- Diseases such as dysentery and malaria caused many deaths
- After the war, there was a serious epidemic of tuberculosis

Japanese Military Police

- Known as the Kempeitai
- Were used to remove people who were suspected of being anti-Japanese
- Had informers all over the island
- Rewards and privileges were given to the informers
- Used food and money to encourage anyone who was expected to be involved
- Leading to suspicion and fear amongst the people
- Kempeitai used all sorts of brutal torture to make the people confess

Japanese Education

- All education was to be based on the system in Japan

- Pupils learnt to speak Japanese (Nihongo) and to appreciate the culture of Japan
- The singing of the Japanese national anthem was made necessary

Economic Impacts

Shortage of Food and other Goods

- Economy was to be run for the benefit of the Japanese conquerors
- Malayan men and money were used to help the Japanese war efforts and all available foodstuffs and resources were taken for use by the army
- As a result, the Malaysians were forced to carry out a self-sufficiency campaign to try to solve the problems of food shortage
- Mass plantings of crops such as tapioca and yam
- Still did not alleviate the food shortages
- This resulted in the deaths of thousands of Malaysians due to starvation

Widespread Poverty

- The rubber and tin industries were destroyed as the British, in their retreat, destroyed the equipment
- This had a devastating effects on the Malayan people
- Unemployment rose dramatically
- Widespread poverty
- Trade with the outside world came to a near standstill and the business communities of Singapore and Penang in particular were badly hit

Massive Inflation

- The Japanese printed large numbers of Japanese notes as currency (Banana notes)
- Caused widespread inflation in Singapore

How did the locals react to Japanese rule in Singapore?

Under the oppression of the Japanese, many resistance movements were set up to counter them. This was possible despite the Japanese's efforts to stamp out opposition. The following are some examples of the resistance movements that were set up.

RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS

The Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA)

- Consisted of a scattered collection of individual groups which were led by the Communist Party of Malaya
- Gained most of its support from the Chinese
- By the end of the war, its numbers had risen to nearly 7000
- They hid in the jungle and carried out sudden attacks on the Japanese
- Sabotage attacks on railways, bridges and roads made it difficult for the Japanese even though they had the upper hand
- Although the British were strongly opposed to communism, they were prepared to give support to the MPAJA on condition that it would surrender its weapons at the end of the war
- The British sent officers to work undercover with the MPAJA in the jungle
- Dropped supplies and weapons by air
- Main task of the MPAJA was to prepare for the time when it could assist an Allied landing to liberate Malaya from Japanese rule

Force 136

- A secret organisation set up by the British
- Local men were recruited into the force
- Comprised mainly of Malayan Chinese
- Trained in India and secretly sent to Malaya to help MPAJA
- One of the leaders was Lim Bo Seng