

Introduction

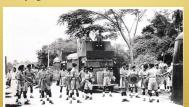
Charismatic leader branded a 'fundamentalist' and later a 'liberal reformer'

"What was politically marginal in the 1970s became mainstream by the end of the 20th century" (Esposito and Voll 2001, p. 177).



13 May 1969 riots

- + Ethnic rioting based on perceived status of Chinese
- Resulted in government making improvements to Malay status
 - Anwar & others see Islam as important moral component for Malay rights



Student Activism

"I grew up in a time of social transformation wherein the interplay of ideas and events coincided with the rise of student activism, religious revivalism and political turmoil. Not content to be a mere bystander, I chose to be an active participant instead. I emerged from all this convinced that, while a life of contemplation and solitude can indeed be invigorating to the mind and the soul, a life of contemplation coupled with action and frate mity can be even more so."

- Anwar Ibrahim, quoted in Esposito and Voll, p. 178

Role of the Student

"In the early 1970s, Anwar's importance and visibility increased as student activism became an important part of the Malaysian political context" (Esposito and Voll 2001, p. 179)

Protesting has a long history in Malaysia



Baling Protests



Opposition to Establishment

"An important part of Anwar's evolution as an activist intellectual has been the shift from the role of the 'charismatic leader of opposition,' whose intellectual positions were presented through specific activities like the Baling demonstrations, to that of the political leader who gave special attention to defining broad policy principles while a member of the cabinet"

(Esposito and Voll 2001, p. 183).

Political ideology

- * Action-oriented intellectual
- * Social justice & equality founded on Islamic fundamentals
- ♦ Gradual transition to Islamic State
 - + "SE Asian Muslim prefer to concentrate on the task of ensuring economic growth and eradicating poverty instead of amputating the limbs of thieves" (p. 193)
- Women, while different from men, have freedoms and duties in society
- * Asian traditions 'philosophy of symbiosis' (p. 194)
 - * "A dialogue of civilizations, not a clash" (p. 197)

Firing and Arrest Fired from Cabinet in 1998 amid allegations of corruption and sexual misconduct Came at a time Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammad being accused of corruption, economy failing in SE Asia

Firing and Arrest * Jailed until overturned in 2004, then charged and arrested on sodomy charges in 2014. * Internationally seen as silencing political opposition



