
“GETTING BY”

“Getting By”

Class and State Formation among
Chinese in Malaysia

Donald M. Nonini

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS ITHACA AND LONDON

Cornell University Press gratefully acknowledges receipt of grants from the Department of Anthropology and the University Research Council of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which aided in the publication of this book.

Cornell University Press gratefully acknowledges receipt of a Subsidy for Publication grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (USA), which generously assisted in the publication of this book.

Copyright © 2015 by Cornell University

All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations in a review, this book, or parts thereof, must not be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publisher. For information, address Cornell University Press, Sage House, 512 East State Street, Ithaca, New York 14850.

First published 2015 by Cornell University Press

First printing, Cornell Paperbacks, 2015

Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Nonini, Donald Macon, author.

Getting by : class and state formation among Chinese in
Malaysia / Donald M. Nonini.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-8014-5247-5 (cloth : alk. paper)

ISBN 978-0-8014-7908-3 (pbk. : alk. paper)

1. Chinese—Malaysia—Bukit Mertajam (Pulau Pinang)—Politics and government. 2. Chinese—Malaysia—Bukit Mertajam (Pulau Pinang)—Ethnic identity. 3. Social classes—Malaysia—Bukit Mertajam (Pulau Pinang) 4. Nationalism—Malaysia—Bukit Mertajam (Pulau Pinang) 5. Ethnology—Malaysia—Bukit Mertajam (Pulau Pinang) 6. Bukit Mertajam (Pulau Pinang, Malaysia)—History. I. Title.

DS595.2.C5N66 2015

305.8951'05951—dc23 2014038677

Cornell University Press strives to use environmentally responsible suppliers and materials to the fullest extent possible in the publishing of its books. Such materials include vegetable-based, low-VOC inks and acid-free papers that are recycled, totally chlorine-free, or partly composed of nonwood fibers. For further information, visit our website at www.cornellpress.cornell.edu.

Cloth printing 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Paperback printing 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Cover design: Richanna Patrick.

Cover photograph: Street Scene, Jalan Pasar, Bukit Mertajam, 1979. Photograph by Donald M. Nonini.