Introduction
Colonialism helped integrate capitalist agriculture and mining with world markets. Malaysia’s incorporation into the capitalist world economy until the advent of Tun Abdul Razak’s administration resulted in the creation of a two-tier dualistic structure in which the Bumiputera peasantry largely coexisted alongside the booming mining and agricultural sectors that were fuelled by a trend growth in demand in Europe and the United States. Repressive labour regimes kept immigrant labour stationed at estates and mines not only poor, but their employment fortunes fluctuated with the sharp swings in global demand for commodities (Ungku Aziz 1956; Jomo 1986). The peasantry was largely glued to rural locations with little integration with global demand. While the absence of global integration insulated the peasants from the sharp swings in demand, they had remained peripheralized owing to limited scale, scope and access to modern technology. This dualistic structure began to exacerbate rural-urban disparities as the British began to build infrastructure, including power, water, hospitals and road networks in urban locations.

Attempts to connect the peasantry with urban locations during the nascent Alliance government from 1957 until 1970 (led by Tunku Abdul Rahman) only opened them up to exploitative price relations. Boeke (1953) had claimed that rural-urban disparities were a consequence