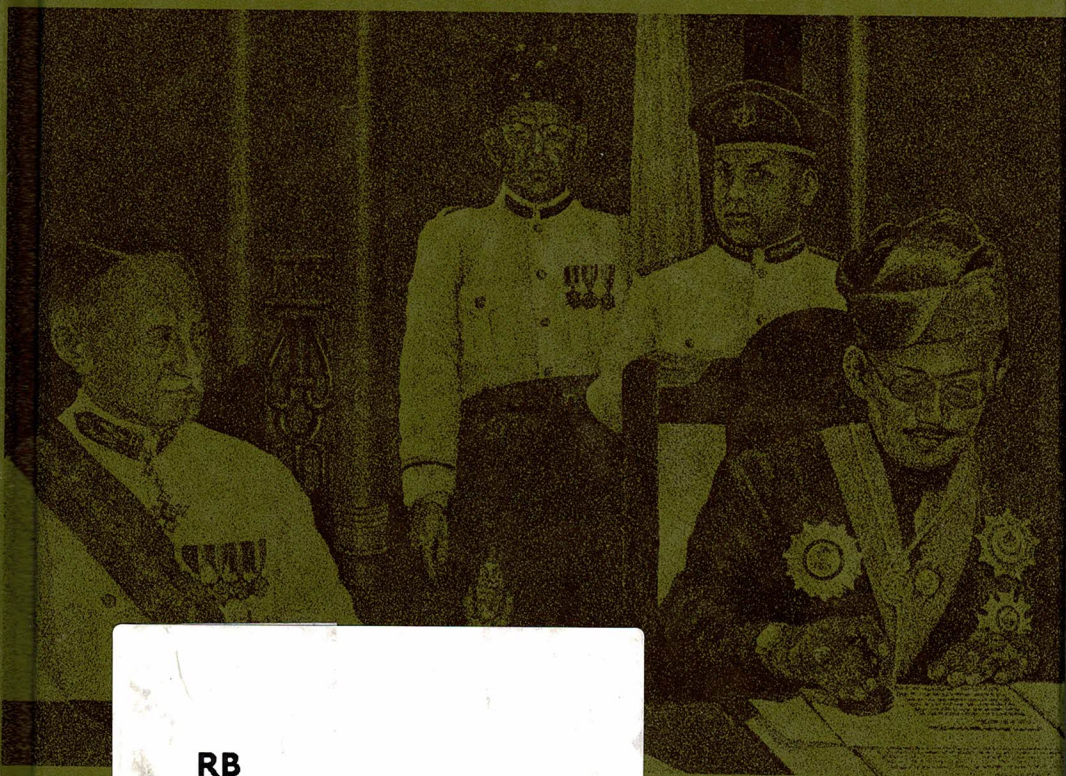


Brunei

1839-1983

The Problems of Political Survival



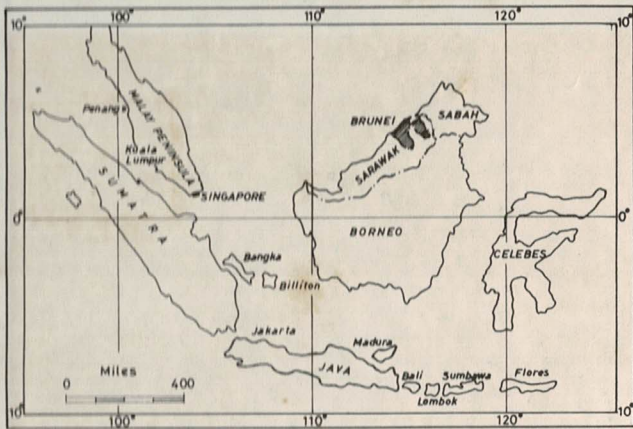
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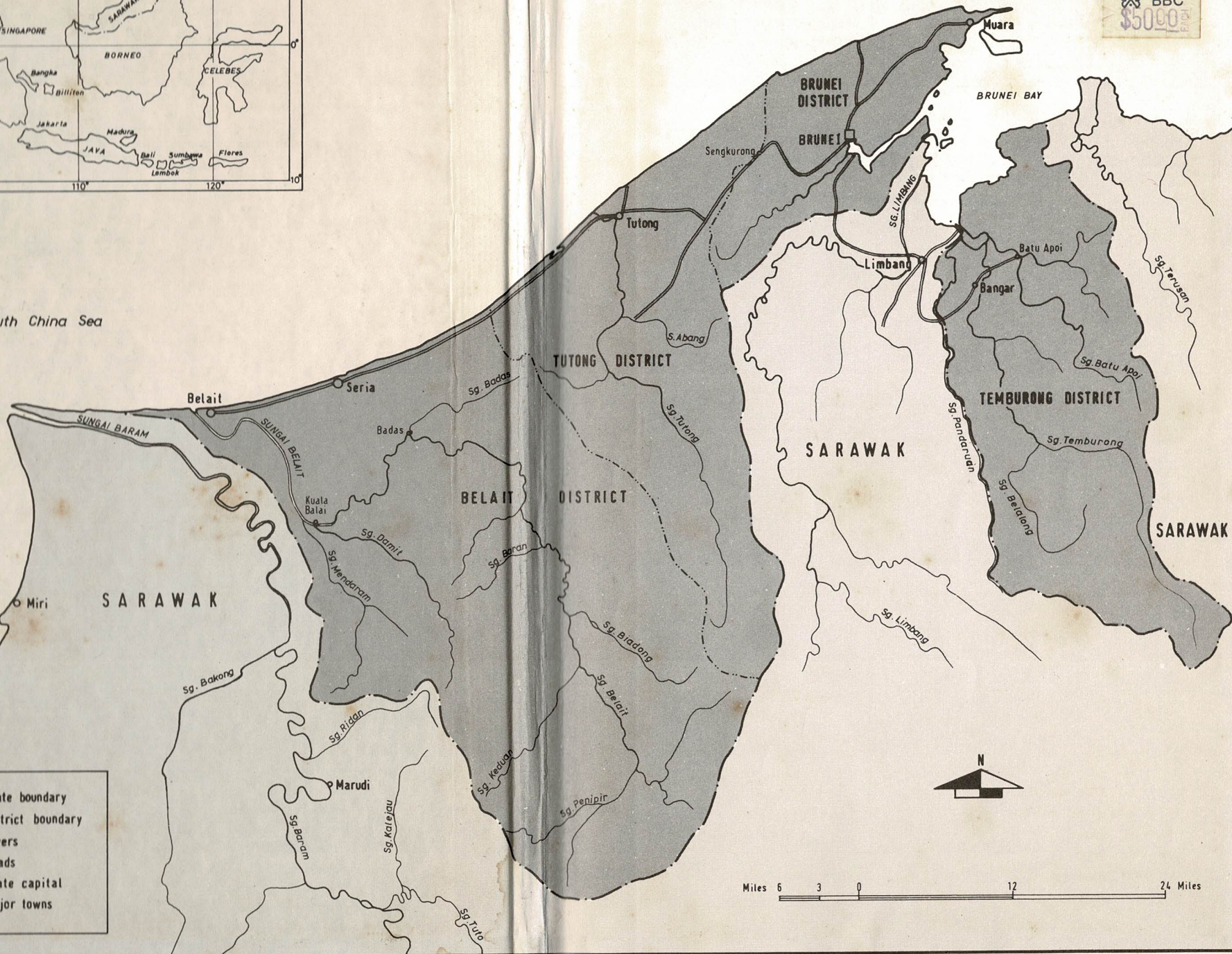
MAP OF BRUNEI

South China Sea

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South China Sea



- State boundary
- - - District boundary
- ~ Rivers
- Roads
- State capital
- Major towns

Miles 6 3 0 12 24

BRUNEI

1839—1983

The Problems
of Political Survival

D.S. Ranjit Singh



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To my parents, wife and children
and to my teachers,
Benedict Wong, Jayaram,
Andrew Luxman, Gilbert Chan,
and Ong Kim Hua of
Stella Maris School, Kangar,
and to B. P. Chopra of
Derma English School, Kangar

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ABBREVIATIONS

BNBC	British North Borneo Company
PRB	Party Rakyat Brunei
CO	Colonial Office
FO	Foreign Office
FMS	Federated Malay States
HCO	High Commissioner's Office
JMBRAS	<i>Journal of the Malayan/Malaysian Branch, Royal Asiatic Society</i>
JSBRAS	<i>Journal of the Straits Branch, Royal Asiatic Society</i>
UFMSAR	<i>Unfederated Malay States, Annual Reports</i>

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Kuala Lumpur
1983

D. S. RANJIT SINGH

INTRODUCTION: BRUNEI'S INTERNATIONAL STATUS

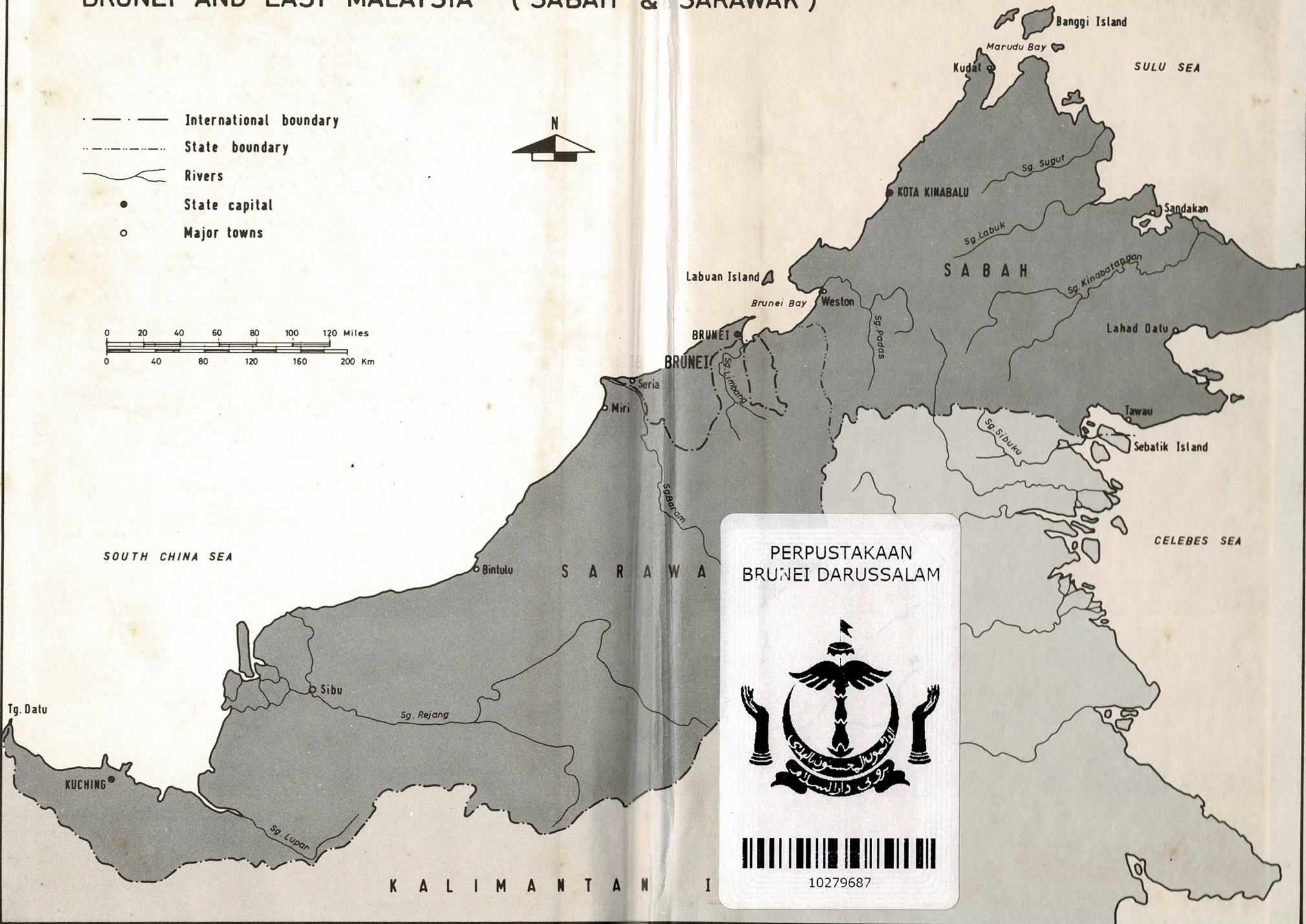
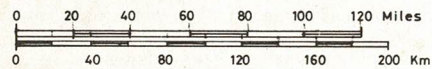
A study of Brunei's struggle for political survival invariably involves a study of her foreign relations as well as domestic policies. The former may present a slight problem because experts on international law may argue that beginning from 1888 Brunei has been a British Protectorate and therefore has had little control over the conduct of her foreign relations since then. This, however, is only partly true, as an examination of Brunei's international status and the development of subsequent events will show. Despite the legal restrictions of the Protectorate Agreement of 1888,¹ Brunei has continued to play an important, sometimes independent, role in the shaping and formulation of foreign policy decisions, especially those affecting her future. In practice, there have been two major makers of foreign policy, one local and the other imperial. It is the local variable that is the main concern of this work. To illustrate the point above it is necessary to examine where Brunei stood in international law in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

BRUNEI'S INTERNATIONAL STATUS BEFORE 1888

Brunei's standing in international law before 1888 may be judged from the point of view of both the 'natural' law of nations and the 'positivist' law of nations. Modern international law, which is a product of these two philosophical standpoints,² may be defined as '... that body of customs, rules, and principles which are recognised as binding upon all states

BRUNEI AND EAST MALAYSIA (SABAH & SARAWAK)

- International boundary
- - - State boundary
- ~ Rivers
- State capital
- Major towns



PERPUSTAKAAN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

10279687

As the ancient sultanate of Brunei enters into a new era of independence, recovered after a loss of eighty years, this timely survey traces the history of the state in modern times — from the early years of the nineteenth century when Brunei was first threatened by the spread of modern Western imperialism up till the present day (1983). Based on up-to-date research the author surveys the evolution of Brunei's tortuous relationship with Britain during this period and shows how, despite the suffocating embrace of British protection, her rulers struggled to maintain the vestiges of autonomy and to control her destinies. The degree of success they achieved and the tumultuous events of the 1950s and 1960s which helped to pave the way for the restoration of Brunei's sovereignty are placed into perspective for the first time. Written by a Malaysian, the book sets out to examine developments from the Brunei as opposed to the British point of view.

The author is currently lecturer in the history of South-East Asia at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur.

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'The signing of the Constitutional Agreement of 29 September 1959 by H. H. the Sultan of Brunei and the representative of the British Crown, Sir Robert Scott' by Abdul Hakim, reproduced by courtesy of the Information Division of the State Secretariat of Brunei.

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