Discussions of political change have come to revolve largely around the place of Islam in party platforms and state institutions. The relative position of Muslim and non-Muslim citizens in the polity has altered with the incremental Islamization of state and society, and observing religious rituals has become a matter as much of state law as of personal choice for Muslims.  

The politicisation of Islam has become a key feature of the Malaysian political terrain in recent years, and has found dominant expression in the so-called “Islamisation race” between UMNO and PAS. The politicisation of Islam has become a key feature of the Malaysian political terrain in recent years, and has found dominant expression in the so-c