SINGAPORE CHRONICLES

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Singapore’s Independence, the Institute of Policy Studies and Straits Times Press are jointly launching the Singapore Chronicles series in 2015. This 50-volume series seeks to record, explain and offer insights into what makes Singapore, Singapore. Covering a wide range of subjects, from the philosophical to the mundane, the fundamental to the practical, these Singapore Chronicles titles include Constitution, Presidency, Housing, Transport, Demography, CPF, Sports and Food. Each volume in this series will serve as a primer on the subject. Written by leading experts, they will focus on key aspects of the subject, providing analysis as well as an historical account. Readers will gain an insight into what makes Singapore tick and also why it has chosen certain “paths un-trodden”.

COLONIAL SINGAPORE

This book is a history of Singapore from the founding of a settlement by Raffles in 1819, to the post-imperial phase inaugurated by World War II and the Japanese invasion. It shows how colonial Singapore matured as an economy and developed as a society even as it grew into a commercial centre that was also a centre for the movement of people and ideas. The book captures the essence of the island-city’s place in the Asian economic and political scheme of things as European imperialism reached its zenith before giving way to Japan’s military advance. The fall of Singapore to the Japanese in February 1942 embodied the new times. The return of the British after the Japanese defeat in 1945 set the stage for a fresh phase of Singapore’s political development as the anti-colonial movement grew in strength.

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Nicholas Tarling did his PhD in Cambridge under Victor Purcell. He took up a lectureship in Southeast Asian history at the University of Queensland in 1957, and moved to the History Department at the University of Auckland in 1965. Professor of History there from 1968 to 1996, he was also much of the time Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Assistant or Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Since retirement he has been Fellow of the New Zealand Asia Institute at the University. He was the first President of the New Zealand Asian Studies Society. Author of some 45 books, he is editor of some 15 more, including the Cambridge History of Southeast Asia. His latest publications include Britain and Sihanouk’s Cambodia, published by NUS Press in 2014, and Orientalism and the Operatic World, published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2015. He was awarded the LittD at Cambridge in 1974. He first visited Singapore in 1960.