



lee kuan yew

in his own words

book 1, 1959 - 1970

edited by sj rodriguez

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book one 1959 to 1970

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dedicated to

my loving wife, Shanti
and our two delightful boys, Gavin &
Quinten, all of whom are tremendous
sources of inspiration and motivation in
my life.

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introduction

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in his own words

Lee Kuan Yew - Senior Minister, Prime Minister, Politician, Global Statesman, Visionary the list goes on. There is no end to the numerous accolades that one can shower upon this eminent leader, credited to be one of our century's greatest intellectuals.

By setting for himself the highest standards in everything he does, Lee has become an inspiration to many generations. The bold principles and ideals shaping his political and private life have encouraged many to emulate him.

As the "founding father" of Singapore in the early 1950s', his relentless battles against the communists, the communalists, Malaysia and Indonesia and his struggles to establish metropolitan Singapore are true testimony to a remarkable individual who, by his courage, determination and political vision have made Singaporeans proud of our identity. The international recognition and economic success that we enjoy today must be attributed to Lee and his team.

The world has known Lee Kuan Yew in different lights. Some have agreed to his philosophies and methods while others have not. However, you cannot but respect the man for what he has accomplished. He has deservedly earned a place for himself amongst the distinguished few of our time.

Many books have been written about him; his life was documented in myriad perspectives. Most will agree that his recently released memoirs will go down in history as the definitive text on him.

In this book however, I have chosen not to weave just another tale. Instead I have chosen to present to you "Lee Kuan Yew, In His Own Words". Together with two young research assistants, I set about tracing his speeches dating back from 1959 until the late 1990s. These were gathered from various sources, including the National University of Singapore Library, the National Library of Singapore and numerous other published materials that are readily available to the general public.

After several months of collating and compiling, I decided to present a story about him in the form of quotable quotes. Extracting powerful anecdotes and statements that reflect the sentiments and emotions of the times, this book will take you back into history and retell his remarkable story.

The picture that will unfold before you will speak of his philosophies, extraordinary visions, emotions, sense of humor, fighting spirit, regrets, character and the challenges that he faced and overcame - just about every facet of his life that he has chosen to reveal. These carefully extracted quotes from his speeches will show you the man that we have all come to know, respect and love – or dislike. Additionally, each has a reference that will help you understand and reflect on its temperament.

This book will inspire and motivate you. It will jolt you. It will engage you. It will serve as a grim reminder of the many risks taken and the numerous sacrifices that Lee Kuan Yew made for you and me.

This is the life of "Lee Kuan Yew, In His Own Words".

SJ Rodringuez
Editor

此为试读, 需要完整PDF请访问: www.ertongbook.com page i

‘Now I, Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore, do hereby proclaim and declare on behalf of the people and the Government of Singapore that as from today the ninth day of August in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five Singapore shall be forever a sovereign democratic and independent nation, founded upon the principles of liberty and justice and ever seeking the welfare and happiness of her people in a more just and equal society.’

Proclamation of Singapore,
9th August,
1965

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1959 1960 1961 1962

1959
nineteen fifty nine

Among many things, Lee Kuan Yew spoke on the need for a democratic society based on merit, regardless of a person's race, language or religion. He beckoned for religious tolerance in the name of peace, harmony and progress. He called for the complete eradication of corruption in Government and society. As for the English-educated elite, he discussed their role in carrying the social revolution that they have wrestled from the British to their own masses. He also urged the newspapers to be objective and assist in building a new Malaysian nation, one with its distinct culture.

Concerning education, Lee emphasised the need to craft Nanyang University into a world-class institution and gave reasons for recruiting quality teachers to groom future leaders, who can further contribute towards nation-building.

This was also the year when the Preservation of the Public Security (Amendment) bill was presented to the Legislative Assembly and Inche Yusof bin Ishak was introduced as the Yang di-Pertuan Negara of Singapore (Head of State).

At a Trade Union Rally in the Badminton Hall 1959

"No doubt if we could put the clock back and replay the events of the last four years we would all have avoided the mistakes that had to be paid for bitterly. But that is not to be. It is with the *future that we must concern ourselves*"

sun
28th june

1959

sat
25th july

At a Dinner given by the University of Malaya Society in honour of their graduates elected to the Legislative Assembly

"And if there is one thing the elite can learn from us it's this. That they were ready to discard all positive personal advantage for a cause. And tonight I have come here too with a cause: the cause is to sell you an independent, non-communist, Socialist Malaya."

At a Dinner given by the University of Malaya Society in honour of their graduates elected to the Legislative Assembly 1959

"I must confess that it is with a certain amount of trepidation that I looked forward to this evening's jubilations. My colleagues and I have been somewhat more occupied with the mundane business of telling blunt truths to simple people and the business of sugar-coating the blunt truths for not so simple people. And therefore you should forgive me for the less desirable and less better parts of the pill this evening.

sat
25th july

First, may I say that it has been a long time since I have been referred to as an honoured guest. For my colleagues and myself are more accustomed to blunt people with blunt thoughts and blunt words. We are anything less but honoured. If we are to be honoured at all, then it is when we are dead and gone and when we have left the world to honour us. I hate to believe that when I am still alive, my colleagues and I should be emulated.

There has been a very good practice in other parts of the Western democracy and that is never to be honoured either by the emoluments or anything that can be raised therefore I and my colleagues ask you not to honour us until we are dead. But do give us at present by all means the courtesy and respect that is due to us as representatives of the people."

At a Dinner given by the University of Malaya Society
in honour of their graduates elected to the Legislative
Assembly

1959
sat
25th july

"Let us never forget, that we, the English-educated elite merit our place in society so long as we are able to do a service to that society."

1959

sun
16th august

At the Singapore Union of journalists
lunch at the Cathay Dragon Room

"The English-educated is somewhat uncertain and hesitant, speaking and thinking in a language he has learnt all his waiting life but which is not part of his own being. The other is supremely confident, speaking and thinking in a language which is part of his being and his cultural world."

At the Singapore Union of journalists
lunch at the Cathay Dragon Room

1959
sun
16th august

"No single factor has so great an influence on the minds of the English-educated in Malaya as the newspaper"

1959

tues
1st september

To the Chinese Union of Journalists

"The term "Singapore Chinese" contains an element of chauvinism. In Singapore today there are still many organisations, guilds and schools using the term "Singapore Chinese" or "Overseas Chinese". The organisations registered under such names imply, that they will protect the interest of the Chinese, and that other races are barred from joining them. Such terms are detrimental to racial unity. If every race adopts this close-door policy and forms small cliques or associations to protect their own racial interests, then it is difficult to talk of establishing a Malayan Nation."

1959

To the Chinese Union of Journalists 1959

"The development of the various cultures should have a common aim though they may take different paths. They should move towards a common target so that eventually they will merge and fuse into a young and vigorous new culture."

1st september

1959

To the Chinese Union of Journalists

1st september

"It goes without saying that a newspaper is an instrument to arouse and educate the masses and awaken them."

To the Chinese Union of Journalists 1959

"Because of my political activities, I have inevitably become a "man-in-the-news". But I am not well-versed in the techniques of journalism. I may be thought of trying to be too clever if I were to speak to you about the newspaper enterprises."

1st september

1959

To the Chinese Union of Journalists

1st september

"For although by what name one call's oneself is a small matter it nevertheless reflects the shape of one's thinking."

To the Chinese Union of Journalists 1959

"In a plural society like Malaya, every race should make its cultural contribution to the national whole. In this process no single race should arrogate to itself a superior status."

1st september

At the Opening of the Exhibition of Indian Art 1959

"The Indian influence in Malaya is part of the great cultural expansion that started out from India and spread over the greater part of South East Asia. Indian civilisation brought to Malaya a way of life and social organisation which deflected the course of indigenous Malay culture."

1959

At the Opening of the Exhibition of Indian Art

sun
6th september

"All living and vigorous cultures are the result of extensive borrowing, adaptation and assimilation from other cultures."

At the Opening of the Exhibition of Indian Art 1959

"There is no such thing as an indigenous culture." 6th september

1959

At the Opening of the Exhibition of Indian Art

sun
6th september

"This exhibition of Indian Art is a reminder to us that the history of Malaya did not begin with Sir Stamford Raffles[†] or the Dutch and Portuguese desperadoes who preceded him."

"Human beings love to hear of the strange, the exotic and the sensational."

16th september

1959

Speech for Foreign Correspondents Association

wed

16th september

"I have no headline material to offer you tonight. In fact, I believe that the art of Government is, in part, the art of not creating headlines in the world press."

Speech for Foreign Correspondents Association 1959

"Put briefly it means this – that the pace of the social revolution in Malaya is as fast or as slow as the Malays in the kampongs want it, not as the Chinese in towns desire it. The towns can act as the catalyst on the kampongs, but it is the kampongs that decide the pace."

wed
16th september

1959

Speech for Foreign Correspondents Association

wed

16th september

"Unlike communism whose dialects have to be taught and learned before loyalties to it can develop, communalism makes a direct primitive appeal to emotional loyalties whose response can be immediate and spontaneous."

Speech for Foreign Correspondents Association 1959

"I have always thought it strange that a country figures prominently in the world press mainly when it is in trouble...

...Nobody in the rest of the world heard much about Singapore until it was captured by the Japanese in 1942 or again until there were riots in 1955 – and 1956 in the course of one of which two members of your fraternity were killed. I have come to believe that, so far as the foreign press is concerned, no news is good news."

16th september

1959

Speech for Foreign Correspondents Association

wed

16th september

"Our Social revolution is complicated by the lack of national solidarity. If the period ahead is not made into one of national consolidation, then we are in for a troublesome future."

Speech for Foreign Correspondents Association 1959

"If we succeed then there will be no headlines for the foreign press. But these are headlines we can well afford to miss."

wed
16th september

1959

At a meeting given by the Muslim Community of Singapore to celebrate Prophet Mohamed's birthday at Raffles Hotel

thur

17th september

"The true men of religion will, on the other hand, stress the essential principle underlying all religions – that mankind is one and that whatever the doctrinal differences all religions teach that all men are brothers and should live peacefully together."

At a meeting given by the Muslim Community of Singapore to celebrate Prophet Mohamed's birthday at Raffles Hotel

1959

"All religions strive to bring out all that is best in man – love, decency, charity and understanding. These are the qualities necessary not only for spiritual advancement of the individual but also for the well-being of society."

17th september

1959

At a meeting given by the Muslim Community of Singapore to celebrate Prophet Mohamed's birthday at Raffles Hotel

thur

17th september

"We can maintain this spirit of tolerance provided religious and secular leaders do not commit the tragic error of dragging religion into the political arena or using it as a cloak for political ambitions.

For once a religious creed is identified with a particular political movement, then every normal and legitimate political conflict is immediately transformed into a religious conflict as well.

We should guard against this danger because there are politicians who see in the exploitation of religious sentiments a short cut to political popularity."

On the preservation of Public Security (Amendment) Bill in the Legislative Assembly

1959

"We in the People's Action Party would prefer to lose an election rather than win it on false premises and promises."

wed

14th october

1959

To Members of the Nanyang University

wed

28th october

"The past are lessons from which we learn to avoid pitfalls in the future."

On the preservation of Public Security
(Amendment Bill) in the Legislative
Assembly—Wednesday, 14th October 1959

lee kuan yew • in his own words >>

“We in the People’s Action Party
would prefer to lose an election
rather than win it on false premises
and promises.”

To Members of the Nanyang University 1959

".. for the acid test of the value of their degrees was what those graduates who held degrees made of themselves after graduation, either as captains in trade or industry, or by becoming leaders of men in other fields of human endeavour.

28th october

The other major yardstick of the worth of a university is the contribution to human knowledge that research workers in the university in pursuit of knowledge and truth have made to mankind. The bigger the contribution, the higher the reputation of the university."

1959

To Members of the Nanyang University

"A man is as good as he is, and the degrees and titles he has after his name does not make him a better or a lesser man. In the last analysis, it is what a man is worth – his innate ability, his intellectual discipline and his drive – which determines his effectiveness and usefulness in society."

28th october

At the end of the 1st Course for Assemblymen on the work of Government Ministries & Departments at the Staff Training School 1959

"It is one thing setting out revolutionary principles.

It is another thing having to use the administrative machinery that exists and despite the problems of organisation and finance which limits any revolutionary programme, to make the best of it."

29th october