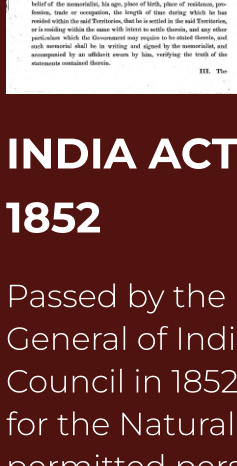


CITIZENSHIP ORDINANCE

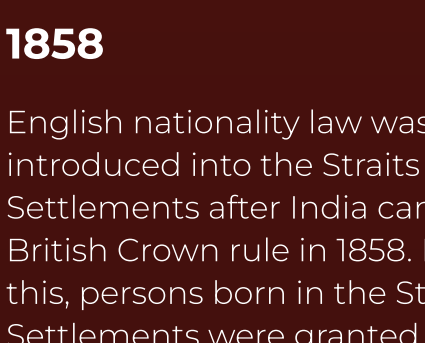
1852



INDIA ACT NO. XXX OF 1852

Passed by the British Governor-General of India, Lord Dalhousie, in Council in 1852, this act titled 'An Act for the Naturalization of Aliens', permitted persons living in territories administered by the British East India Company, like the Straits Settlements, to be naturalised as British subjects.

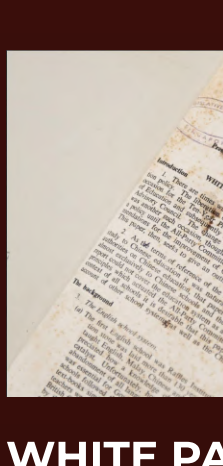
1858



ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFER OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS TO THE INDIA OFFICE IN 1858

English nationality law was introduced into the Straits Settlements after India came under British Crown rule in 1858. Following this, persons born in the Straits Settlements were granted the status of British subjects.

1948



SINGAPORE COLONY (AMENDMENT) ORDER-IN-COUNCIL, 1948

After the Straits Settlements was dissolved in 1946, Singapore became a standalone Crown Colony. This 1948 order issued by the British Crown amended Singapore's constitution, permitting for democratic elections of Legislative Council seats for the first time.

1956



WHITE PAPER ON EDUCATION POLICY, 1956

This report marked the culmination of a decade-long debate on Singapore's education policy. Through it, the colonial government dropped assimilation as a means to forge a common local identity, and accepted multiculturalism. Education policy informed what it meant to be a Singapore citizen, and played a vital role in establishing cultural pluralism as a defining aspect of Singapore citizenship.

1957



SINGAPORE CITIZENSHIP ORDINANCE, 1957

The Singapore Citizenship Ordinance introduced the legal status of Singapore citizens, and marked the first time that Singapore's people pledged allegiance to the country. It permitted virtually all of Singapore's large settled migrant population to become citizens and granted them democratic voting rights. The Ordinance is a landmark legislation in Singapore's nation-building history that paved the way for Singapore to become a self-governing state and later an independent nation-state.

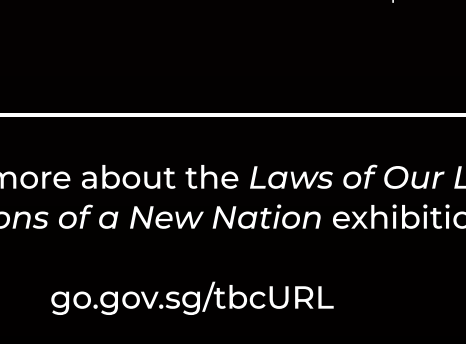
1959



GENERAL ELECTION OF 1959

Singapore's people voted as citizens for the first time in the 1959 general election. Held on 30 May, this election gave Singapore its first fully elected legislature without colonial officials. The People's Action Party (PAP) won by a landslide and formed the government. Its secretary-general, Lee Kuan Yew, was appointed Singapore's first prime minister. Following the election, Singapore was reconstituted as a self-governing state within the British Commonwealth.

1962



THE MERGER REFERENDUM, 1 SEPTEMBER 1962

At this referendum, Singapore's citizens voted in favour of the government's plan of merger with the Federation of Malaya. The merger took place on 16 September 1963, and Singapore became a state within Malaysia.

1965

PROCLAMATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 9 AUGUST 1965

The proclamation marked Singapore's separation from Malaysia and its beginnings as a sovereign, independent Republic.

1967

NATIONAL SERVICE (AMENDMENT ACT), 1967

This act made military service mandatory for all 18-year-old male Singapore citizens and permanent residents, who would be trained as soldiers to defend the republic.

Find out more about the *Laws of Our Land: Foundations of a New Nation* exhibition at:

go.gov.sg/tbcURL