

S. Rajaratnam's Writings Before 1959: A Preliminary Annotated Bibliography

Bibliography of Articles and Short Stories

["Malayan Indian's View of Hitler."](#) *Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle*. November 4, 1939. NewspaperSG.

Article critiquing Hitler's "anti-rational philosophy and inferiority complex."

"But for the Stars." *Asia* 41, no. 4 (April 1941): 177-179.

Humorous short story about an uncle's belief in astrology.

"Famine." *Indian Writing* 1, no. 4 (August 1941): 211-216.

Realist short story set in rural South Asia dramatizing social injustice in the context of natural disasters.

"Drought." *Asia* 41, no. 9 (September 1941): 497-498.

Realist short story set in rural South Asia dramatizing social injustice in the context of natural disasters.

"The Locusts." *Life and Letters To-day* 32, no. 55 (March 1942): 211-217.

Realist short story set in rural South Asia dramatizing colonialism and social injustice.

"What Has to Be." *Life and Letters To-day* 32, no. 55 (March 1942): 218-222.

Realist short story set in rural South Asia dramatizing inequality and social injustice.

"The Changing Malay People." *Asia* 42, no. 8 (August 1942): 449-453.

Article explores reasons why many Malays felt that they "did not have a stake" in "their own country" and thus did not resist Japanese military occupation.

"The Tiger." *Modern Reading* 5 (1943): 62-68.

Short story set in a rural Malay kampung; Rajaratnam's only short fiction set in Malaya.

"The Mikado: Myth and Reality." *Tribune* (London). July 20, 1945.

Analysis which advocates the Allied Powers abolishing the Japanese imperial system and fostering democracy.

"Asia on the Eve of Storm." *Asia and the Americas* 45, no. 8 (August 1945): 378-381.

Article that urges Western governments to oppose imperialism and to encourage economic development in Asia to prevent "embittered and frustrated nationalism" turning into Fascism.

"Review of *Britain and the South Seas* by Sir Harry Luke." *Tribune* (London). August 17, 1945.

Critical review of the author's ongoing support for colonialism in the South Pacific.

"Indo-China: The Background." *Tribune* (London). November 2, 1945.

Article which encourages Britain's new Labour government to consider whether it wishes to support ongoing French imperialism in Indochina, or whether it wishes to support the independence movement.

"The New Storm Over Asia." *Reynolds News and Sunday Citizen*. November 4, 1945.

Article criticizing the participation of British troops in Dutch efforts to resist Indonesian independence.

"America's New Banana Republic." *Tribune* (London). 1946, July 19, 1946.

Critique of the newly elected Roxas regime in the Philippines, and its suppression of agrarian reform movements.

“Malaya in Transition.” *Asia and the Americas* 46, no. 9 (September 1946): 396-398.

Critical analysis of the suppression of democracy movements by the British Military Administration in Malaya.

“Malaya’s Three Peoples.” *Asia and the Americas* 46, no. 10 (October 1946): 451-452.

Discussion of how Malayan nationalism might bring different communities together through “economic cooperation.”

“The Terrorist.” In *Modern International Short Stories*, edited by Denys Val Baker, 3-14. London: W.H. Allen, 1947.

Short story told from the point of view of a reluctant and conflicted terrorist who nonetheless carries out an assassination.

“[Siam’s Diplomatic Come Back](#).” *Malaya Tribune*, May 9, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Analysis of political developments in Siam (contemporary Thailand).

“[Asia’s Teeming Millions](#).” *Malaya Tribune*. May 16, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Article suggesting that the threat of overpopulation in Asia may be overcome by governmental policies to encourage “more rational breeding habits.”

“[Labour Problems in Malaya](#).” *Malaya Tribune*. May 20, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Discussion of growing labour unrest, and the need for raised workplace and living standards.

“[French Struggle Against Vietnam](#).” *Malaya Tribune*. May 23, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Critical account of French efforts to suppress Vietnamese independence through military force.

“[Filipino Freedom: Shadow and Substance](#).” *Malaya Tribune*. July 4, 1947.

NewspaperSG.

Article that argues that while the Philippines has achieved formal independence, it remains economically dependent on the United States.

["If a Crisis Comes."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. July 10, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Critical discussion of the Malayan economy's reliance on rubber as a cash crop, suggesting a diversification into light industry and other agricultural crops.

["China's Destiny."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. July 19, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Notes Kuomintang's resistance to agrarian reform, and how this leads Chinese people to favour the Communists.

["Peasants and Workers Unite."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. July 26, 1947.

Celebration of the formation of the All-Malaya Peasant Union.

["Europe Over Asia."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. August 5, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Article in the form of a letter to a European friend, seeking understanding and empathy regarding Asia's struggle for independence from colonialism.

["Japanese Labour Movement"](#) *Malaya Tribune*. August 16, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Analysis arguing that the Japanese labour movement is the "spearhead of democracy" in the country.

["Economic Basis of Malayan Unity."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. August 30, 1947.

Article arguing that economic justice and equality will be the foundation of a harmonious multicultural society.

["When Asia Ruled Europe."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. September 9, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Historical analysis of the rise of the Mongol Empire to show how very different the world was before European colonialism, and to suggest that world history may change again.

["Battle for the Silent Continent."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. September 17, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Discussion of political manoeuvres by various international powers that threaten to inaugurate a new era of "polar imperialism."

["Ferment in the Middle East."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. October 18, 1947. NewspaperSG.

Analysis of changing post-war societies in the Middle East, with the rise of the "Arab Left," and the lack of a clear response to this from the Western powers.

["The Root of Russian Policy."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. January 22, 1948. NewspaperSG.

Discussion of the internal factors and beliefs that drive the foreign policy of the Soviet Union.

["Rising Tide in the Pacific."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. April 5, 1948. NewspaperSG.

Exploration of the implications of the "awakening of Asia" for the growing centrality of the Pacific Ocean in world affairs.

["Deeds, Not Dollars, Will Save China."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. July 16, 1948. NewspaperSG.

Notes the growing disarray of the Nationalist government in China, and that it can only succeed not through American cash subsidies but through agrarian reform.

["All About Your War Claim."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. September 2, 1948. NewspaperSG.

Discusses proposals contained in a memorandum for a Malayan War Damage Compensation Scheme.

["A Dog Discovers Secrets of the Cavemen."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. September 27, 1948.

Account of the Lascaux caves in France, with an appreciation of the sophistication of their ancient paintings.

["The Guides Who Took the Wrong Turning."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. November 6, 1948.

NewspaperSG.

Critique of the recently published Awbery and Dalley Report on Labour and Trade Union Organisation, exploring its lack of consideration of a wider political context.

["Why You Go to Sleep."](#) *Sunday Tribune*. November 7, 1948. NewspaperSG

Humorous discussion of the need for sleep and sleep habits.

["Why the Unions Turn Towards Communism."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. November 8, 1948.

NewspaperSG.

Second article on the Awbery and Dalley Report on Labour and Trade Union Organisation, calling for "the freeing of a colony from the fetters of a colonial economy" as a prelude to improved industrial relations.

["Trade Unions and Democracy."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. November 9, 1948. NewspaperSG.

Third article on the Awbery and Dalley Report on Labour and Trade Union Organisation, stressing the need for a larger democratic political environment.

["The Summing Up."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. July 17, 1949. NewspaperSG.

Article summarizes themes from "the great flood of letters" received by the newspaper when it asked readers their opinions regarding Radio Malaya.

["A Professor Walks Around a Dilemma: A Critical Review of Professor T. H. Silcock's Book 'Dilemma in Malaya.'" Malaya Tribune](#). December 4, 1949. NewspaperSG.

Review critiques Silcock's "paternalism" in his advocating a slow movement towards Malayan independence.

["Dilemma in Malaya: The Reviewer Still Objects."](#) *Malaya Tribune*. December 11, 1949.

NewspaperSG.

Response to Silcock's letter to the *Tribune* suggesting that Rajaratnam's review of his book is misleading.

["I Have Suffered No Discomfort."](#) *Malaya Tribune*, Along the Bookshelves column.

December 25, 1949. NewspaperSG.

Further response to Silcock's new objections.

"Malaya: A Nationalism in the Making." *Asian Horizon* 3, no. 1 (Winter, 1950-1951): 24-43.

Long article that explains the origins of Malayan nationalism, critiques the British for supporting conservative Malay politicians, and notes that "racial harmony in Malaya" can only come from a "drastic change in the political and economic structure which breeds and intensifies race conflict."

["The War that Nobody is Losing."](#) *Sunday Standard*. September 28, 1952.

NewspaperSG.

First of Rajaratnam's articles from a visit to Vietnam, examining what the author characterises as a military "stalemate" between the Viet Minh and the French colonial forces.

["Will Red China Invade Viet Nam?"](#) *Sunday Standard*. October 5, 1952. NewspaperSG.

Second of Rajaratnam's articles on Vietnam, discussing the likelihood of Chinese intervention in the fight for Vietnamese independence.

["How Independent is Vietnam?"](#) *Sunday Standard*. October 12, 1952. NewspaperSG.

Third article about Vietnam, noting the dependence of the Bao Dai regime on the French.

["The Head that Has No Body."](#) *Sunday Standard*. October 17, 1952. NewspaperSG.

Fourth article about Vietnam, stressing that the Bao Dai regime relies on military power while the Viet Minh gain strength from their vision of social change.

["It's Not the Very Poor Who Revolt."](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

February 8, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Drawing on a recent book by Eric Hoffer, Rajaratnam notes that revolutions are often not driven by those at the bottom of the social order, but rather by groups with greater social power who have been dispossessed.

["The Second Coming of Chiang."](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. February

15, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Discussion of Taiwan's new role in Asia given that Chiang Kai-shek's ambition of retaking the mainland is now militarily impossible.

["When Asia Ruled Europe."](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. February 22,

1953. NewspaperSG.

Gives historical perspective on the many Asian invasions of parts of Europe, and the contribution of Asia to developments in medicine, science, and mathematics that Europeans consider their own.

["The Decline, Fall, And Rise of Europe."](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

March 1, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Advocates European cooperation and unity as a way of adapting to a post-imperial world.

["Some Thoughts on Exploitation."](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. March

8, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Critique of the practice of British colonies being forced to maintain large Sterling balances in London which might better be used for welfare for their populations.

["Stalin Has Left a Mark on History."](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. March 15, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Article critiques Stalin's despotism but praises him for developing a system of economic planning.

["Can the Leopard Change its Spots?"](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. March 22, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Argues against attempts to create a Malay capitalism as a step towards social equality, but rather suggests a "search for new economic forms."

["Has Capitalism a Future in Asia?"](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. March 29, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Argues that orthodox capitalism "as we know it" will not work in Asian because of the need for "social and economic justice."

["The Freedom of Whipsnade Zoo."](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. April 5, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Critiques the lack of a "mass following" for current Malayan politicians, who represent "leadership from above" and are fearful of full independence.

["Parliamentary Govt. is not Democratic Govt."](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. April 12, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Notes that while parliamentary institutions are being introduced in Malaya this is not the same as fostering a more deeply rooted democratic society.

["The Hoax of Community Solidarity."](#) *Sunday Standard*. I Write as I Please column. April 19, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Attacks communal politics and leaders that amplify such an approach.

[“Free Asia Must Betray Nationalism!”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

April 26, 1953.

Argues that free Asia must “at the hour of victory, deny and reject the force that liberated it” by rejecting nationalist chauvinism and embracing cosmopolitanism.

[“They Dare Not Awake the Sleeping Beast!”](#) *Sunday Standard* I Write as I Please

column. May 3, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Reports on the largely conservative politicians attending the National Conference in Kuala Lumpur. Notes that such putative national leaders are uneasy about the social revolution that the masses will demand on independence.

[“Why Colonial Leaders Become Hostile Elements.”](#) *Sunday Standard*. I Write as I Please

column. May 10, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Draws on the imprisonment of Jomo Kenyatta in Kenya to ask why the colonial authorities often make enemies of “natural leaders” who initially seek to work with them to realise decolonisation.

[“Asia’s Three Revolutions.”](#) *Sunday Standard*. I Write as I Please column. May 17, 1953.

NewspaperSG.

Notes how the Western powers introduced capitalism into Asia, but then played a “counter-revolutionary role” in making Asia a de-industrialised source of raw materials, with “well developed coastal areas vanishing into undeveloped hinterlands.”

[“Asia’s Ideological Battlefield.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. (1953, May

24). NewspaperSG.

Discusses an ongoing capitalist revolution in Asia, and its being opposed by “a social revolution with a largely anti-capitalist bias.”

[“Skeleton in the Cupboard.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. May 31, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Exploration of the violence of the invasion of the Americas, the slave trade, and other forms of colonial exploitation that underlie the development of Western capitalism.

[“The Birds of Prey and Passage.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. June 7, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Notes how the growth of European capitalism was enabled by the exploitation of colonies.

[“Facts That Matter ... and Facts That Don't.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. June 14, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Contrasts American understandings of China as a Soviet tool with European and Asian analyses that see the success of Mao Zedong as a response to social realities.

[“The Mask that Grins and Lies.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. June 21, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Examines the psychological effect of colonialism and its erosion of the “innate dignity” of colonised peoples.

[“Let Them Break These Barriers.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. June 28, 1953.

Examines the psychological effect of colonialism on the rulers, and the defensiveness and resistance to decolonisation in which it results.

["America Embalms a Revolution."](#) *Sunday Standard, I Write as I Please* column. July 5, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Describes the American revolution in anti-colonial terms, with its "slogans about liberty, freedom, equality and the rights of man" continuing to promote social revolution, but noting that, sadly, this spirit has become exhausted in the contemporary United States.

["Are We Losing Our Grip on Unreality?"](#) *Sunday Standard, I Write as I Please* column. July 12, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Notes that the Malayan Federation in fact has very little independence and is still governed from Whitehall.

["Europe's Prophets of Doom."](#) *Sunday Standard, I Write as I Please* column. July 19, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Examines contemporary anxieties about Europe's future, concluding that Europe will continue to be important in the world but will need to go through a transformation.

["Golden Chalice of the Western World."](#) *Sunday Standard, I Write as I Please* column. July 26, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Continues discussion from previous week, noting that the "crisis facing Western civilization is to a great extent the crisis of empires."

["For God's Sake...Call for the Undertaker!"](#) *Sunday Standard, I Write as I Please* column. August 2, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Critiques the Singapore Labour Party, and the fact that it appears to have no ideological commitment and has become a "kind of auction room for aspiring politicians."

[“When Colonialism was in Bad Odour.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

August 9, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Examines critiques of colonialism in the early Nineteenth Century.

[“A Good Man Fallen Among Labourites.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

August 16, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Responds to criticism of his previous article on the Singapore Labour Party from C. R. Dasaratha Raj, the SLP member for Rochor Canal.

[“Philanthropy +5 Per Cent Built Empires.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

August 23, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Examines the economic motivation for imperialism from the late Nineteenth Century onwards.

[“From National Leader to National Flop.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

August 30, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Critique of Dato' Sir Onn bin Jaafar.

[“They Bear the Black Man’s Burden.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

1953, September 6, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Continued critique of the report of the Working Committee on the Malayan National Conference, which represents “that group of people which is willing to become the new instrument of indirect rule.”

[“The Anti-colonialist is Britain’s Best Friend.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. September 13, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Argues that to be truly pro-British is to be pro-democracy, since “the spread of democracy and not colonialism is the true mission of Britain.”

["Counter-Attack Against Democracy."](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

September 20, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Critical examination of James Burnham's *The Managerial Class*, arguing against its attack on "traditional concepts of democracy."

["Is Rule by Minority Inevitable?"](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

September 27, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Second discussion of Burnham's book, criticizing how its focus on a rising managerial class represents the thoughts of a "man who fears the approach of democracy."

["Dictators Can Be Even More Incompetent"](#). *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. October 4, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Third critique of Burnham, reiterating Rajaratnam's faith in the "mass of mankind" and its opposition to oligarchy and dictatorship.

["Our Parties Have No Sense of Direction!"](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. October 11, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Critique of the lack of ideological consistency of current parties in Malayan politics.

["A Hundred Cabinets are Not Worth It!"](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column.

October 18, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Critique of demands for communal representation by Malayan politicians.

"We Would Have Cheered Dr. Jagan . . . if It had Been Russian Guiana." *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. October 25, 1953.

Critiques the British Government's report on British Guiana presented to parliament this week to justify the actions of the British Government in suspending the constitution and removing Dr. Jagan from power.

[“Will Foreign Capital Flow into Free Asia?”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. November 1, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Argues that foreign capital is important in Asia's development, but that such investment needs to harmonise with the larger social and economic interests of Asian countries.

[“There Are Limits to Foreign Capital.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. November 8, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Stresses that foreign capital should not be accepted if the investment is made in return for political concessions or to perpetuate colonial economic structures.

[“Everybody's Doing it Except Us.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. November 15, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Notes that while Malaya is maintaining a ban on rubber exports to China, many other countries are now trading directly or circumventing the ban; Malaya's continued colonial status gives it no control over this policy.

[“Keeping in Step with a Revolution.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. November 22, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Questions whether nationalism in Southeast Asia can accommodate demands for large scale social and economic change.

[“Who Are Those Wicked Men of Hatred!”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. November 29, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Critique of High Commissioner Gerald Templer's *ad hominem* attack on unspecified political opponents in a speech given to the Legislative Council. "[Divided they Stand United They Fall](#)." *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. December 6, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Critique of the fact that politicians in Singapore and Malaya "are acquiring a vested interest in the political division of the two territories" rather than working towards unification. "[The Age of the Masses](#)." *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. December 13, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Notes the growing power of the masses, and their threat to traditional ruling classes, arguing that "mass influences" should not be resisted but channelled into a democratic political and economic order. "[The Age of The Masses 2: The Way the Mob-Mind Works](#)." *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. December 20, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Draws on Gustav Le Bon's *The Crowd* to consider mass psychology, expressing optimism that the "mind of the masses is not the cesspool of barbarity and stupidity which some social scientists claim it to be" but rather contains positive qualities that can be nurtured. "[The Masses in Chains](#)." *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. December 27, 1953. NewspaperSG.

Discusses the rise of "mass man," and the danger of human beings becoming "dehumanised automaton[s]" in capitalist society. "[The Conspiracy of Power](#)." *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. January 3, 1954. NewspaperSG.

Examines totalitarian leadership and the way in which it channels the energy of the “mob” despite its contempt for the masses.

[“Not to Defend But to Create Democracy.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. January 10, 1954. NewspaperSG.

Suggests that new democratic institutions are necessary to express the “democratic spirit of this Age of the Masses,” and to counter totalitarian impulses.

[“The Nechayev Monster.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. January 17, 1954. NewspaperSG.

First article on Sergei Nechayev, whose total commitment to revolutionary politics resulted in his conviction that revolutionary ends were justified by any means.

[“The Nechayev Monster 2: The Man Who Talked Too Much.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column. January 24, 1954. NewspaperSG.

Second article on Sergei Nechayev, leading up to his detention by Russian authorities in 1872.

[“The Nechayev Monster 3: Prisoner in Cell Number Five.”](#) *Sunday Standard*, I Write as I Please column, January 31, 1954. NewspaperSG.

Third article on Sergei Nechayev, recounting his trial, imprisonment, and eventual death.

[“How to Be Happy Though Servile.”](#) *Straits Times*, Letter. May 5, 1954. NewspaperSG.

Waspish reply to an article criticizing a talk given by Rajaratnam.

“Our Rice-Eating Nationalists.” [Raayat](#) 1, no. 1 (December 13, 1954): 3-4.

Notes that many of the colonial elite who formerly collaborated with the British now call themselves nationalists, despite being apprehensive about independence.

“Talking Through the Hatocracy.” [Raayat](#) 1, no. 2 (December 20, 1954): 6-7.

Mentioning the inaugural meeting of the PAP, Rajaratnam discusses how current local elites are disturbed by the notion of the “people” and the trajectory of social change it suggests.

“Gandhis of Malaya.” [Raayat](#) 1, no. 3 (December 27, 1954): 3-5.

Critique of the Progressive Party and its lukewarm interest in independence.

“When Malaya Ruled Britain.” [Raayat](#) 1, no. 7 (February 1955): 7-8.

Satirical article that posits what a Malayan Secretary of State for the Colonies would say if Britain were a colony of Malaya, emphasising how social, religious, and national divisions make the United Kingdom unfit for self-rule.

“Malaya Must Free Britain.” [Raayat](#) 1, no. 8 (March 1955): 11-20.

Second satirical article which purports to be an article by “the President of the British National Congress, Winston Ah Tee Lee,” protesting against Malayan colonisation of Britain.

“[The Big Men Who Came to My Door: The Elections Through Other Eyes.](#)” *Straits Times*. March 20, 1955. NewspaperSG.

Article that satirises the promises made by various political parties while canvassing voters for the 1955 General Election.

“[Points Which Pleased the “Old Apple Tree Crowds” may now Embarrass Labour Front.](#)” *Straits Times*. April 11, 1955. NewspaperSG.

Discusses the difficulties in policy choices facing the new Labour Front government, given the party's unanticipated electoral success.

[“Martyrdom of Man: A Story Without End.”](#) *Straits Times*. April 17, 1955.

NewspaperSG.

Reflective article exploring the fact that visionary politicians and philosophers are often not recognised and indeed persecuted.

[“The Big Men Who Came to My Door: The Magic of the Sacred Tree.”](#) *Straits Times*.

May 1, 1955. NewspaperSG.

Second satirical article: this time regarding the behaviour of politicians when elected.

“A Malayan in the Making.” *Truth* (London). May 13, 1955.

Discusses his identity as a Malayan who feels loyalty to the new country, and little attachment to his ancestral roots.

[“Old and New Both Struggle to Survive in China.”](#) *Straits Times*, Review of *Mandarin*

Red by James Cameron. July 4, 1955. NewspaperSG.

Appreciation of Cameron's journalistic personal account of his travels, which explores the contradictions of contemporary China.

[“New Outline of India's History Breaks No Fresh Ground.”](#) *Straits Times*, Review of

History of India by J.C. Powell-Price. September 5, 1955. NewspaperSG.

Critiques the book's lack of a central theme, and its relative neglect of recent politics and the Indian independence movement under colonial rule.

[“Industrial Turbulence in Singapore is Now Entering a Third Phase.”](#) *Straits Times*.

October 20, 1955. NewspaperSG.

Articles give history of the labour movement in Malaya, and then analyses recent developments after 1951.

["Truculence is Used to Hold Workers' Loyalty"](#). *Straits Times*. October 21, 1955.

NewspaperSG.

Notes that while trade unions have become politicized the biggest factor in industrial unrest continues to be economic issues.

["Parasitic Economy is an Unreal Basis for Prosperity in Singapore."](#) *Straits Times*.

October 24, 1955. NewspaperSG.

Notes that the fact that the Singapore economy is unproductive arises partly from low pay given to manual workers, who need to support their families.

["Is the Craftsman's High Wage a Threat to Singapore's Economy?"](#) *Straits Times*.

October 25, 1955. NewspaperSG.

Notes that a problem in the Singapore economy is the wide wage gap between semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

["Economic Health Demands the Workers' Appreciation of the Requirements of Industry."](#) *Straits Times*. October 27, 1955. NewspaperSG.

Argues that both workers and employers must act with concern towards the enterprise they are part of so that industrial disputes do not lead to "economic chaos."

["Colombo Plan Gives Hope to 600 Millions Facing a Dark Future."](#) *Straits Times*.

November 22, 1955. NewspaperSG.

Notes economic progress made by Colombo Plan countries.

["Tenants Who Rent Living Space the Size of a Coffin."](#) *Straits Times*. February 14, 1956.

NewspaperSG.

First of two articles drawing on Goh Keng Swee's report on urban incomes and housing, focusing on housing and in particular the situation of cubicle dwellers.

["Workers are Willing, But 25 Per Cent Live Near the Poverty Line."](#) *Straits Times*.

February 15, 1956. NewspaperSG.

Second article on Goh Keng Swee's report, focusing on Singaporeans living in poverty.

["The Last Call of Westernised Asia."](#) *Straits Times*, Review of Richard Wright's *The Colour Curtain*. July 16, 1956. NewspaperSG.

Reviews Wright's account of the Bandung Conference, noting that the "emotions derived from feelings of race and religion" he describes should be confronted, not ignored.

["Solomon Come to Judgement."](#) *Straits Times*. May 13, 1957. NewspaperSG.

First of two articles looking at nationalism in Ceylon, and the way in which politicians navigate tensions between Sinhalese, Burgher, and Tamil communities.

["Aug. 20: It's D-Day for the Tamils of Ceylon—Or is it a Big Bluff?"](#) *Straits Times*. May 14, 1957. NewspaperSG.

Second article on Ceylon, analysing the politics of proposed federalism in the run-up to the general election in August.

["The By-Elections that attracted Red-Herringism."](#) *Straits Times*. June 27, 1957.

NewspaperSG.

Analysis of party campaigns in the upcoming Tanjong Pagar and Cairnhill by-elections.

["A New Age in Politics Has Dawned."](#) *Straits Times*. December 20, 1957.

NewspaperSG.

Discussion of forthcoming City Council elections, in which English-educated candidates may find it more difficult to represent the aspirations of a greatly enlarged electorate.

["The State of the Unions: Quiet All Year."](#) *Straits Times*. August 30, 1958.

NewspaperSG.

Explores various reasons for the decline of industrial action in Malaya in the last year.