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Singapore in the New Millennium
Challenges Facing the City-State

Edited by Derek da Cunha

INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES
Singapore
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The volume of literature on Singapore society, politics, and economics continues to grow at a steady rate. Few other countries of similar size have been so extensively written on. The reason why Singapore continues to come under the microscope of intellectual analysis is that it is unique in many ways. From the way it is governed to the way it conducts its commerce, Singapore has generally charted its own course different from what is generally pursued by most other countries.

Another book on Singapore can only be justified if there are new things to say. In that respect, if this book does reveal to the reader something new, it is a consequence of the impact on Singapore of the significant changes taking place in an increasingly interdependent world, and the equally significant geopolitical changes that have taken place in Singapore’s own neighbourhood — Southeast Asia. These changes have occasioned economic, political, intellectual, and societal responses from both the Singaporean state and people, whose defining feature is to keep pace and anticipate change.

This book grew out of a one-day conference of the same name organized by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in August 1999. Eight papers were presented at that conference, of which seven were selected, revised in 2001, and now appear as chapters in this book. The editor then commissioned three more chapters, so as to make the book more rounded. The conclusion draws together some of the major themes in the various chapters, highlighting some key challenges that Singapore is likely to face in the years ahead and also reflecting on the significance of the 2001 general election.

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