
Preface

This book presents essays on Singapore's foreign and national security policy that were written in two different periods: early 1990s and early 2000s — an interval of 8–10 years. Readers will notice that this is not a systematic or comprehensive survey of Singapore's foreign policy; nor does it have strict historic continuity between the above two periods. Nevertheless, I decided to put these essays together mainly because, taken together, they highlight the need for moving beyond the traditional realist perspective on Singapore's foreign policy. Moreover, Chapter 1, entitled “The Evolution of Singapore's Foreign Policy”, had remained unpublished after being presented at a conference at the University of Windsor in Canada in 1992, and I felt the argument of this essay deserved to be brought to the attention of contemporary students and observers of Singapore's foreign policy.

Professor Garry Rodan invited me to speak at a conference on Singapore at Murdoch University in Perth in 1992, and thus got me started on the essay on Singapore's foreign and national security policy. But without M. Ramesh's help and involvement as co-author, this essay could not have been completed.

The idea of bringing all these essays into a book actually owes its inspiration to the several invitations I received from the annual *Singapore Perspectives* conference organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). Chapters 3, 4 and 5 were thus written for the IPS Conferences in 2002, 2004 and 2006. I am indebted to IPS' chairman, Professor Tommy Koh, and its Deputy and Acting Director,

Arun Mahizhnan, for inviting an outsider to analyze Singapore's foreign policy for a largely domestic audience.

Herbert Lin, now pursuing his doctorate at the University of Chicago, helped to arrange the chapters in some order and created the bibliography. My publisher, World Scientific, deserves special thanks for accepting the manuscript, and Yvonne Tan for editorial work on the book. June Abad of the ASEAN Secretariat dug up the cover photo from the ASEAN archives.

Although this is a book about foreign policy, it is closely woven around Singapore's national security concerns and approach as well. I have not changed the tense or the language of the chapters, except for minor editorial purposes. The documentary appendices have been selected for their relevance to the main arguments of the book; they do not represent a comprehensive list of documents on Singapore's foreign policy.