

## **These \$16 books by experts will help you pass your GP and history exams**

**The books are endorsed by the former Education Minister.**

***Martino Tan***

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“How does one learn a complicated subject in a short time? By reading a short book written by experts”.

No, this is not written by someone trying to sell more assessments books at Popular bookstores, but by our former Education Minister Heng Swee Keat.

How does one learn a complicated subject in a short time? By reading a short book written by experts. I am delighted that over 50 authors who are experts on different aspects of our nation’s history have come together to produce 50 primers, as part of our SG50 celebrations. Each book in the Singapore Chronicles series is about 100 pages. The first batch of 10 books were launched today. You can sense a certain Singapore spirit of resilience, resourcefulness, integrity, openness, diversity in these books. Let us learn from our past as we plan for our future. Special thanks to IPS and the authors for this labour of love!

Heng, who is the Finance Minister and SG50 Steering Committee Chairman, launched the first 10 titles of a 50-volume series — *Singapore Chronicles* — on the evolution of Singapore on Dec 10.

The first 10 books, which are between 100 and 150 pages each, are:

1. ***Colonial Singapore* by historian Nicholas Tarling**

It looks at the history of Singapore from its founding by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1819 until just after World War II.

2. ***Constitution* by Kevin Tan, an adjunct law professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS)**

It traces the development of the Singapore Constitution. It looks at the roles of the Executive and the Judiciary and examines issues such as citizenship, equality, fairness and the minority groups in the constitutional framework.

3. ***Defence* by Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) researcher Ho Shu Huang, and Australian Defence Force Academy adjunct lecturer Samuel Chan**

It studies Singapore’s defence policy and examines the wide-ranging role played by the SAF in Singapore’s defence.

4. ***Diplomacy* by IDSS researcher Daniel Chua and Australian National University Professor Evelyn Goh**

It examines how Singapore’s diplomacy has combined various characteristics in its relationship with the world including linking national security with economic development; and emphasising cooperation with multiple partners.

**5. *Education* by Professor S Gopinathan, an Adjunct Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS**

It studies the impact of education on Singapore's transformation by looking at the social, political and economic contexts where policies are formed.

**6. *Eurasians* by Alexius Pereira, deputy director at Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**

A Eurasian himself, the author explores the social history of Singaporean Eurasians, focusing on the past 50 years.

**7. *Heritage* by Kennie Ting, group director for museums and development at the National Heritage Board**

This provides a guide to Singapore's heritage, as well as what's been done to preserve and promote it, since 1959. It concludes with a reflection on the future of heritage.

**8. *Indians* by Professor Vineeta Sinha, Head of the South Asian Studies Programme and the Department of Sociology, NUS**

The book discusses the story of Singapore's Indians within the larger context of Indian displacement and placement globally, and attempts to contextualise the Indian presence in Malaya and Singapore historically.

**9. *Law* by Goh Yihan, Associate Professor who teaches law at Singapore Management University**

This covers the history of Singapore's legal system: from the British years to the post-independence period.

**10. *Presidency* by Professor Thio Li-Ann, Provost Chair Professor at the Faculty of Law, NUS, and former Nominated Member of Parliament**

This book traces the twists and turns of the relatively short history of the Elected Presidency in Singapore.

The 50 volumes commemorate the 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence in 2015, and is published by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and the Straits Times Press.

The remaining 40 books will be published next year.

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<sup>i</sup> This quote was extracted from Minister Heng Swee Keat's Facebook page.