

Recent Books from Singapore – Sept 2022

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Art

Nothing Is Forever : Rethinking Sculpture in Singapore / (Ed) Cheng Jia Yun (et al.)
Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2022
276p.
9789811821523
1. Sculpture – Singapore.
2. Sculpture – Singaporean.
\$ 50.00 / PB
958gm.

Tracing its history since the 19th century, the exhibition presents over 70 surprising works spanning religious, participative, installative, and even performative forms. The exhibition reveals the ever-changing nature of sculpture and how ideas around making and thinking about this medium have shifted. Nothing is Forever entrenches sculpture as an essential practice as it highlights how sculpture drove new ways of thinking about art in Singapore, and the lasting impacts it has made on our artistic landscape. An exhibition organised by National Gallery of Singapore (29 July 2022 to February 2023).
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=816883>

Biography / Memoirs

Malaysian Son : A Progressive's Political Journey in the Heart of Southeast Asia / Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022
xiv, 278p.
9789815017724
\$ 27.90 / PB
318gm.

Malaysian Son is the story of Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, the Member of Parliament (MP) for Setiawangsa. Growing up privileged under the authoritarian regime of Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the imprisonment of Anwar Ibrahim led him to join the Reformasi movement. As a member of the multiracial People's Justice Party (KEADILAN), he later became the youngest elected state representative in the 2008 General Elections. In 2018, as Youth Leader of the Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition, he participated in the 2018 campaign against Prime Minister Najib Razak, spending time in jail and the courts. PH achieved a historic victory but, in spite of warnings from Nik who was a backbench MP, failed to achieve a cohesive and stable government. It eventually collapsed in 2020, leading to years of political instability that has yet to abate. Malaysian Son is a must read for all who want to understand the country's tumultuous recent history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831899>

Brave 10 : Inspiring Southeast Asia Tech Journeys / Jeremy Au & Adriel Yong
Singapore: Candid Creation Publishing LLP, 2022
Singapore Edition
x, 142p.
9789811849466
\$ 65.00 / HB
386gm.

The BRAVE 10: The Singapore Edition anthology showcases the top 10 journeys of Singapore's technology leaders. We aim to inspire the next generation of leaders to tackle our region's challenge

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831942>

Roar : Football Legends of Singapore / A Thiyaga Raju
Singapore : Pagesetters Pte Ltd., 2022
272p.
9789811850738
1. Soccer-Singapore-History-20th Century
2. Soccer Players – Singapore—History—20th Century
3. Soccer Coaches – Singapore – History – 20th Century
\$ 25.00 / PB
400gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831951>

Cinema/Film Studies

Movies to Save Our World : Imagining Poverty, Inequality and Environmental Destruction in the 21st Century / Kenneth Paul Tan
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022
xiv, 222p.
9789815058314
\$ 26.90 / PB
258gm.

Through a close analysis of more than seventy popular documentaries and feature movies from around the world, produced in the twenty-first century, this book explores the theme of poverty, inequality, ecological degradation and revolutionary change, all associated with a contemporary crisis of neoliberal globalization in a world where it has become so pervasive. Profit rules, while poverty and inequality make the political ground fertile for populist manipulation. By returning power to the people, healthier forms of populism can lead the way to progressive revolutionary change that enriches democracy and corrects for social injustice. However, through ideological and political manipulation, populism can also take more debased authoritarian forms, promoting conformism, domination, exploitation, marginalization and degradation of humanity and its habitat.

The book urges progressive moviemakers to take advantage of advancements in digital technologies and to collaborate, in post-pandemic times, with educators to develop public deliberation skills and inspire a new generation of informed and compassionate change-makers.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831952>

History

The Blue Mosque of Singapore : And a Peek into the Migrant Muslim Community from Kerala / Mohamed Nasim s/o Abdul Rahim (Ed) Noorunnisa d/o PK Ibrahim Kutty

Singapore: Mohamed Nasim s/o Abdul Rahim, 2022

204p.

Includes Index

9789811835339

\$ 50.00 / PB

632gm.

The story of Malabar Mosque is a brief peek into the history of the pioneer Muslim community from Kerala, a minority within a minority. The sheer determination and vision of a few men from the Malabar Muslim Jamaath enabled the completion of the iconic mosque at Victoria Street (recognized as a heritage building) for the community long before the Mosque Building fund came into existence. The colourful personalities linked to the mosque have contributed to the political history of Singapore as well, but their stories have not been told in larger circles. This book provides original information gleaned from hundreds of newspaper articles, photographs and official records, but the story is told in an easy-to-read manner with many photographs on each page.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825976>

Dislocations: Memory and Meaning of the Fall of Singapore, 1942 / Rachel Eng, Syafiqah

Jaafar & Iskander Mydin (Ed) Stephanie Yeo

Singapore: National Museum of Singapore, 2022

108p.

9789811836138

1. World War, 1939-1945 – Campaigns – Singapore – Exhibitions.

2. Singapore – History – Siege, 1942 – Exhibitions.

\$ 35.00 / PB

388gm.

On 5th February 1943, the Allied armies in Singapore surrendered to the Imperial Japanese Army after a desperate week-long battle. The British surrender, or the Fall of Singapore as it became known, was the beginning of three and a half years of Japanese occupation of the island.

Since then, how have we continued to remember this historic event that changed the course of Singapore's history?

In conjunction with the 80th anniversary of the event, Dislocations: Memory and Meaning of the Fall of Singapore, 1942 draws upon personal memories and artefacts to examine how the Battle of Singapore, the surrender, and its aftermath have become "war memories" remembered and retold in different ways.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831974>

Law

60 Years at the Singapore Bar : Reflections and Ruminations / TPB Menon

Singapore: Talisman Publishing Pte Ltd, 2022

464p.

9789811840982

\$ 60.00 / HB

1034gm.

On 26 January 1962, TPB Menon became the first local graduate of the then Faculty of Law of the University of Malaya in Singapore to be called to the Singapore Bar. In the ensuing years, he was to rise to the very top of his profession. Not only was Menon to become Singapore's leading chancery lawyer, he was also elected President of the Law Society of Singapore in 1980 and President of the ASEAN Law Association in 1984. This book celebrates Menon's 60 years at the Singapore Bar. Part personal chronicle, part family and professional biography, this volume also includes Menon's thoughts on cases he has handled and also those that grabbed the local headlines.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831975>

Literature

Only Connect / Andrew Leci

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

vi, 246p.

9789815017120

\$ 24.90 / PB

336gm.

As the good ship McCarthy wends its way from the UK to China across troubled waters, Susan and Howard – two employees in a shipping and logistics company – establish an extraordinary friendship in cyberspace. Entrusted with ensuring the timely delivery of a valuable cargo, they discuss everything under the sun (and then some) as their relationship develops with each passing port of call.

Only Connect examines the very nature of human interaction and the desperate need for connection in an increasingly fraught world in which things are not always what they might seem. The Asian leg of the ship's journey leads to a potentially catastrophic geopolitical flashpoint, as revelations are made that result in dramatic and fascinating consequences.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831976>

My American Sister / Judy Tham

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

vi, 238p.

9789815017953

\$ 24.90 / PB

338gm.

What price does a family pay for an unapproved birth?

Li Fu and Mei, farmers from a far-flung province seeking a livelihood in the capital, Beijing, flout the country's One-Child Policy by giving birth to a second daughter, Ying. Unable to pay the hefty penalty, their baby is forcefully taken by corrupted officials and sold to an orphanage, and is eventually put up for adoption. Stricken by grief, the family falls apart. Li, obsessed with finding his missing daughter, leads a dysfunctional and chaotic life with his eldest daughter Yan after his wife walks out of the family. Seventeen years passed before he eventually locates Ying in San Francisco.

However, his dream of a reunited family is quickly crushed when Ying, now an all-American girl, cannot accept her biological family's un-American way of life. Intolerant of their behavior and illegal immigrant status, Ying does the unthinkable – calling the immigration department to deport her family back to China.

Overcome with guilt and remorse, Ying decides to go to China to face her father and tell him the truth about their arrest and deportation.

Told from the perspectives of the two sisters, this novel reveals the dark side of cross-cultural adoption and love between father and daughter. The story is inspired by actual accounts of missing children in China, some of whom were abducted by corrupted officials for profiteering.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831977>

Joy : A Novel / Angelo R. Lacuesta

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

196p.

9789814882903

\$ 22.90 / PB

266gm.

Ariston Letrero is a renaissance man: audio producer, insurance salesman, musician, composer, part-time fast food mascot, and a philanderer who quickly and quietly abandons his wife and son, Lucas, at the peak of his mottled career, for a new life in America with his lover Odette.

Years and years later, he sends an email to his son, Lucas Letrero, an advertising man who has been brought up on super robot cartoons, Catholic school truisms, and a diet of fast food and loneliness, and who has reconnected with his childhood sweetheart Dedes, who has made a post-annulment life for herself in America.

In the 30-odd years in between is a story that sings songs and anthems of identity, relations, loneliness, and loss, and how they figure in the lives of contemporary Filipinos who are not scattered across space and time, but who are also connected and separated at the same time.

Joy is a story of joy-lived forward, backward, sideways, and upside down, in lives and loves that are fragmented, separated, gathered, made virtual, and made real.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831978>

Duxton Hill : A Romantic Comedy / Mark Powell

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

x, 190p.

9789815017144

\$ 25.90 / PB

270gm.

Set against the backdrop of an aging boutique hotel, once a jewel of elegance in the heart of Singapore's Duxton Hill, a tropical rain storm brings together two unlikely singles, Clara Tan and Nicholas Tate. Their personalities and cultural backgrounds at first seem at complete odds. Unbeknown to them, their futures are very much aligned. Through the twists and turns of a potential relationship, and the trials and tribulations of sorrow, love, friendship, courage and the Duxton Hotel's fight for survival, Clara discovers that her tendency to fall in love too fast for every single male she encounters, needs some adjustment.

Her life is about to completely turn upside down when she inherits the hotel from its billionaire owner Mr Chan, but through having to lead and re-brand the hotel towards its new beginning, she inadvertently overcomes a sensitive and socially difficult medical condition. In the meantime, her love for Nicholas develops, deepens and blossoms as a result of her new found confidence, on which a new life and hotel empire begins.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831979>

Emman, Time Traveller : The Redhill Tragedy / Josephine Chia

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

viii, 72p.
9789814954839
\$ 10.90 / PB
100gm.

Emmanuel was in school when he received a strange visitor. It seems that no one but Emman could see the boy who was dressed in an old-fashioned Malay outfit. When Emman approached him, the boy 'spoke' to Emman telepathically to tell him that he was The One. When Emman asked him The One what? The boy said, The One to save him. The boy made an urgent plea to Emman to help him, then dashed away hastily. A magic portal opened up and the boy stepped through it and disappeared.

Before he left, the boy had told Emman to attend a talk called The Redhill Tragedy. Curious, Emman searched online and found the talk to be at the National Museum. He asked his Peranakan, paternal grandmother to attend with him. The talk was about a boy Nadim, who was killed in the Redhill Tragedy. Suddenly, the boy Emman saw before, appeared again, telling Emman he was Nadim. He persuaded Emman to save him.

But what could Emman do? Nadim had lived and died in the 14th century Singapura. How could he undo history? And how would he be able to get back to the 14th Century to prevent Nadim's murder? When he posed his dilemma to his Grandmother, Grandma surprised him by telling him that she can show him a way. But first he must have the courage to accept the quest.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831980>

The Invisible / Fredrik Haren
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022
xii, 400p.
9789814954556
\$ 25.90 / PB
398gm.

Alex, a struggling journalism student, begins a school project about children's stories of invisible friends.

Because of her project, Alex gets invited to a secret society-Carte Blanche-that studies the existence of an invisible human race.

The more she learns, the more she starts to be intrigued by the possibility of these stories actually being real.

Alex learns that anyone who reveals the existence of The Invisible will be killed, because The Invisible know that humans will kill them if they found out about The Invisible.

Humans kill everything that we perceive to be a threat to our existence.

As Alex gets drawn into the alluring world of The Invisible, she also needs to fight with the trauma of having her world view turned upside down, and the profound loneliness that comes from not being allowed to share humanity's biggest secret. With feelings of inferiority and doubt she struggles to take the lead to save herself, her family-and humanity.

Life is Beautiful. Death is Imminent.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831981>

The Widening of Tolo Highway: A Hong Kong Story of Paranoia and Protest / Lucy Hamilton
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022
x, 238p.
9789814954136
\$ 20.90 / PB
238gm.

ANNA RETURNS TO FACE A PAST SHE NEVER TRULY LEFT BEHIND.

It wasn't the middle but the very edge of nowhere.

It was always just a little too still.

It is 2017. Typhoon Hato has ripped through the streets of Hong Kong. National Day is looming. The momentum of the 2014 Umbrella Revolution has faded. British woman, Anna, has returned to her old village in the New Territories to search for Kallum, a disillusioned local activist, from whom she has heard nothing since her departure two years ago.

Suspecting he was targeted for his involvement in the protests, Anna widens her search, scouring the streets of Kowloon and the Island for signs he is alive. Alone in her tiny, rented room in the notorious Chungking Mansions, gruesome flashbacks disturb her sleep. Paranoia swells. Memory, delusion, and reality begin to blur.

Against a backdrop of construction works, storm damage and scaffolding, Anna is confronted by a daunting panorama. She may know more about the past than she's let herself believe.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831982>

Rejection : A Sumatran Odyssey / Ashadi Siregar (Translator) Jennifer Lindsay

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

viii, 328p.

9789815017069

\$ 26.90 / PB

446gm

Rejection: A Sumatran Odyssey is an epic family drama by Ashadi Siregar set against the turbulent years following Indonesia's independence.

The story follows Tondi who as a young man joins the separatist rebellion of the late 1950s and early 1960s in North Sumatra. Later he moves to Java and finds his way in the murky Jakarta underworld. Tondi's story is interwoven with the magical world of his paternal grandfather, a shaman traditional priest living in the old pre-Islam, pre-Christian world of Batak belief. Tondi's father deserts the family when Tondi is a child, moves to Jakarta, and joins the Indonesian national army. Tondi's mother stays in Sumatra and forges a life of her own, for a while working at a hospital with Dutch personnel who return to the former Dutch colony after Indonesian independence.

A central section of the novel describes Tondi's journey alone through the primeval jungle of North Sumatra, on a mission for the rebel army. His grandfather has given him directions to pass through this rarely-traversed realm where his ancestors used to roam.

In rich and poetic storytelling, Ashadi Siregar portrays the Batak culture of North Sumatra: its language, beliefs, ceremonies, and intricate kinship system. He also vividly depicts a critical period in history when Indonesia was struggling to find its place internationally against the backdrop of the Cold War, while fighting internally to keep the new nation together.

The main characters all have choices to make in this time of love and war and conflicts between the old ways and the new. All reject something, just as the time itself is one of rejection; rejection of past ways; rejection of nationalist ideals; and the Sumatran rebels' rejection of the centralist Indonesian government.

This English translation of Ashadi Siregar's ground-breaking historical novel brings a non-Indonesian readership into a fascinating, vast and little known part of Indonesia's history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831983>

A Paradise of Illusions / Laurie Hashim

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

306p.

9789815017366

\$ 25.90 / PB
334gm.

Anna, the pampered daughter of a maverick Englishman and his local Muslim wife, has been promised the unprecedented freedom to marry for love. Her young life, like the island she inhabits, is perched at the crossroads of eastern and western cultures in the waning days of the British Empire in Asia. The first man she falls for, the son of a prominent Chinese family in Penang, breaks her heart when he submits to an arranged marriage with a 'backward' but ambitious mainland Chinese bride. Anna's next choice seems to be more suitable, a second-cousin on her mother's side, an earnest self-made man whom her family adores. The newlyweds struggle to reconcile their individual aspirations with the expectations of their sprawling, extended families. The rumblings of the Second World War and the brutal Japanese Occupation transform their individual plights into a matter of life and death when they are thrust together in a desperate struggle to survive. This epic story of love and loss is illuminated by the richly painted backdrop of a multicultural society in flux on a vibrant island that is both breathtakingly beautiful and heartbreakingly suffocating.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831984>

The Zero Season / Justin T. Clark
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022
212p.
9789814954440
\$ 22.90 / PB
236gm.

It is 1949, and young Etienne Legast is in trouble. Estranged from his pious Catholic family, having fled a messy love affair with an older man at the end of the war, he returns home to Paris for a funeral, only to find himself quick drawn into a deadly debt to a neighborhood gangster and an unexpected romance with Samphan, an orphaned Cambodian student radical. Though the two young men come from different worlds, they soon develop a bond that helps them transcend their respective tragedies – until revolutionary political intrigues and the Parisian underworld threaten to pull them under once more.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831985>

A Flutter in the Colony / Sandeep Ray
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022
viii, 288p.
9789815017083
\$ 27.90 / PB
326gm.

In 1956, the Senguptas travel from Calcutta to rural Malaya to start afresh. In their new hamlet of anonymity – a small settlement on the edge of a British rubber plantation – the couple gradually forget their troubled pasts and form new ties. But this second home is not entirely free and gentle. A complex, racially charged society, it is on the brink of independence even as communist insurgents hover on the periphery. How much can a newcomer meddle before it starts to destroy him?

Shuttling in time and temper between the politics of a small Malayan town and the anguished years of pre-Partition Bengal, between the Malayan Emergency and Direct Action Day, between indifference and lust, A Flutter in the Colony is a tender, resonant chronicle of a family struggling to remain together in the twilight of Empire in Asia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831986>

After Time / Fahd Razy

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

viii, 132p.

9789815017793

\$ 17.90 / PB

162gm.

After civilization as we know it ends in a nuclear war, triggered by pursuit of black gold, mankind is given a fresh start. The thrones of power are void and unclaimed. Survivors crawl out from the darkness where they hid to wait out the aftermath of the disaster, grasping at all the hopes and opportunities above the ruins of the corrupted world. A second chance for humanity to prove itself.

From semi-primitive settlements to architectural marvels, the homo-civilis sure is a master at survival. But as they breathe their new lives, greed pulses in their heartbeats. Their inner demons never cease to feed on power and riches, and this was the same curse that befell their ancestors.

After Time witnesses the dawn of this new stronghold of humanity in fragments of tales, like a folklore. An ambitious commoner and a greedy royalty. A blind seer and a prodigal young genius. A murderous advisor, cunning princes, and kings who fall for their own machinations. A warrior blinded by love, and warlord who wields greed as his sword. Rulers so fearful of knowledge, they doom their people to illiteracy.

Trails of blood, lust and intrigue trickle through each chapter, building up to a massive tidal wave that will eventually drag the empire to its knees, paving the way for a better generation to carry the torch of human civilization.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831987>

All Our Brave, Earthly Scars / Danielle Lim

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

viii, 238p.

9789815017106

\$ 22.90 / PB

236gm.

Lee Yang searches desperately for Snow amid the carnage of the 2002 Bali bombings. From Singapore's worst fire in 1961, their lives, and later their love, have woven through years of struggle and separation. When a secret that has lain hidden for over 30 years comes to light and the truth unfolds, they are pulled apart. Now, in the face of Indonesia's worst terror attack in its history, they risk losing one another yet again.

In this novel spanning over four decades, the five elements of fire, water, earth, air and spirit display their power in the lives of Yang, Snow and those around them—an intimate and heart-rending exploration of love and loss, loneliness and courage, scarring and healing.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831988>

The House of Little Sisters / Eva Wong Nava

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

xvi, 216p.

9789814882279

\$ 22.90 / PB

224gm.

It's August of 1931 in Singapore, sixteen-year-old Lim Mei Mei (Ah Mei) arrives at the home of Eminent Mister Lee on the eve of the Hungry Ghost Month. She has been sold to the

family as a mui tsai, an indentured servant girl. At the Lee household, Lim Mei Mei's life education begins. There she encounters the spirit of Ah Lian, a mui tsai, who paid the ultimate price for her mistake. Through Ah Lian, Ah Mei discovers the plight of mui tsai, who are both helpless and powerful, and uncovers a shameful secret lurking in the shadows in the Lee house. Ah Mei also meets and falls in love with Hassan Mohamed, an Indian-Muslim and an aspiring poet, breaking every clause in the rule book of love in 1930s British Malaya. She becomes Hassan's Polar Star, and the young lovers must find a way to stay together. Through a twist of fate, Ah Mei finds a solution that will keep her and Hassan together, at the same time gaining agency that will secure her own future as an uneducated servant girl in British Malaya.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831989>

Born and Bred in Myanmar : A Book Of Five Short Stories / Moe Moe Inya (Mra Hninzi)
Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2022

160p.

9789815017113

\$ 18.90 / PB

162gm.

Book Details:

Born and Bred in Myanmar is about the life and struggles of rural dwelling youths in Myanmar who, at an early age, have to work to supplement the household income or work alongside their parents to support the family.

They often find it difficult to even complete their basic formal education and thus find it hard to break the poverty cycle that their parents have been trapped in. The book portrays the lack of a support system from the government or even support from the family for young people who dream of pursuing a good education in life.

Some of the youths whose stories are told in this collection are: Khin Soe from Mon State, who drops out of primary school due to his father's deteriorating health and has to work as a carrier transporting the cargo of pilgrims making the trip to the top of the mountain to visit the famous holy pagoda; Moe Kyaw from Kyaukpadaung town, who volunteers to help his father who became ill working as a long distance bus driver, yet is never recognized for his help which is instead dismissed as a mere excuse for not wanting to go to school; Ma Nyo Pyar from Baw Lel village, who quits her studies to help her struggling mother in the paddy fields as well as look after her newborn sister, after turning down an offer from her mother's friend to put her through school.

Although these are stories of youths who lived in Myanmar in the 1980s, these stories still reflect the lives of youths in rural Myanmar today.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831990>

Politics/Current Affairs

A Nation's Disgrace : Singapore's Shocking Scandals / Balvinder Sandhu

Singapore: Penguin Books (Penguin Random House SEA), 2021

vi, 254p.

9789814954716

\$ 22.90 / PB

248gm.

Singapore is often known as a 'clean' country and its citizens 'law-abiding'. However, every once in a while, the island has been shocked by an incident or a crime so unexpected and shocking, it grabs headlines and piques the interest of locals and international press alike.

Spanning across all kinds of crimes, this collection has one thing in common – shock value. Cases covered in the book include high-profile ones like the NKF scandal, the City Harvest Church debacle, Singapore’s most-wanted terrorist, Mas Selamat, and how one man in Singapore – Nick Leeson – brought down one of the UK’s oldest financial institutions, Barings Bank. Plus, there are a few shocking murders thrown in too.

This book is a collection for anyone interested in Singapore society, law and history, to find out more about how these cases were discovered, the law-enforcement processes that followed and what happened to the offenders after the cases ended.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831991>

Small States in a Big World : Size is Not Destiny / (Ed) Tommy Koh

Singapore: Straits Times Press, 2022

264p.

9789815081015

\$ 28.00 / PB

406gm.

At the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in Japan, more than a quarter of the 93 winning states were small ones.

The 25 countries and territories bagged 113 medals — about a third of the total tally of 340 medals awarded at the games, which had been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic until 2021.

The disproportionately large haul of medals signifies that small states punch above their weight. This is just one of the achievements by small states highlighted in *Small States in a Big World: Size Is Not Destiny*.

The collection of 40 essays shows that despite their sizes, small states can play to their strengths and be successful in many aspects, including contributions to the world order and global security, economics, innovation, aviation, as well as sustainable and human development.

The essays are penned by 46 writers from 29 countries, all of which are members of the Forum of Small States (FOSS), each with a population of below 10 million. Its membership has grown from only 16 in 1992, when it was established by Singapore, to 108 in 2022, which marks its 30th anniversary. Its members make up more than half the United Nations membership, gaining strength in numbers.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831992>

Sociology

Emerging Civic Urbanisms in Asia : Hong Kong, Seoul, Singapore, and Taipei Beyond Developmental Urbanization / (Eds) Im Sik Cho, Blaz Kriznik & Jeffrey Hou

Asian Ciites Series

Amsterdam, Netherlands: Amsterdam University Press, 2022

324p. ; 15.6x23.4cm.

Includes Index

9789463728546

\$ 135.00 / HB

618gm.

In parts of Asia, citizens are increasingly involved in shaping their neighbourhoods and cities, representing a significant departure from earlier state-led or market-driven urban development. These emerging civic urbanisms are a result of an evolving relationship between the state and civil society. The contributions in this volume provide critical insights into how the changing state–civil society relationship affects the recent surge of civic

urbanism in Hong Kong, Seoul, Singapore, and Taipei, and the authors present eighteen cases of grassroots activism and resistance, collaboration and placemaking, neighbourhood community building, and self-organization and commoning in these cities. Exploring how citizen participation and state–civil society partnerships contribute to more resilient and participatory neighbourhoods and cities, the authors use the concept of civic urbanisms not only as a conceptual framework to understand the ongoing social and urban change but as an aspirational model of urban governance for cities in Asia and beyond.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=831993>
