



Conversations with Lee Kuan Yew: Citizen Singapore: How to Build a Nation (Giants of Asia)

By Tom Plate

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Political genius is never without controversy, or without mystery. This is what makes it so interesting and so rare. Is Lee Kuan Yew the feral, authoritarian figure that Western critics claim? Or a stoic pioneer in new approaches to developing a nation? uncorrupt, modern, almost scientific? American journalist Tom Plate first interviewed the founder of modern Singapore in 1996 in a continuing back-and-forth with LKY that led to the summer of 2009, when the former prime minister agreed to sit down for two days of unprecedentedly informal but intense conversations that led to this special book. This new edition includes fascinating excerpts from prior interviews, as well as the author's assessment of the man who goes down in history as the world's longest-serving prime minister? and as one of the most unforgettable political figures of modern times. "You have done a superb job of capturing the many facets of this extraordinary man..." – Dr Henry A. Kissinger on Conversations with Lee Kuan Yew

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Editorial Review

Review

I don't agree with all of it, but that is to be expected the Western journalist's exaggeration of eccentricity. But on the whole, he got my point of view across. --Lee Kuan Yew on Conversations with Lee Kuan Yew (Giants of Asia Series)

A scintillating insight into the private - and brutally candid - beliefs and thoughts of the 86-year-old Minister Mentor on a wide range of topics, from his temper and children to various countries and his 'authoritarian' ways. These are captured in a writing style that is fast-paced and conversational over 24 chapters that are peppered with Mr Plate's views --Zakir Hussain IN The Straits Times (of Singapore)

There are two types of courage among journalists. Some might risk their lives crossing paths with an IED on an arid back road in Afghanistan. Many fewer risk their reputation by going against the herd of conventional opinion. Tom Plate, America's only syndicated columnist who focuses on Asia, has taken the second risk in his Conversations with Lee Kuan Yew. And it has been a risk well worth taking. His book could not be more relevant at a moment when recession, debt and dysfunction are plaguing the West while Asia strides boldly into the future. Much to the credit of Plate's talent, this book reads breezily, despite its heavy themes. It is broken into many easily digestible chapters with titles mimicking movies or television shows. Overall this was the right choice to make what could easily have been a wonkish drudge into an enjoyable read. Lee Kuan Yew's wisdom makes sense. Tom Plate has done a fine job of conveying it for a Western audience that ought to be paying attention --Columnist Nathan Gardels in The Huffington Post

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About the Author

Tom Plate is an experienced writer, journalist and syndicated columnist. He is currently Distinguished Scholar of Asian and Pacific Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where he founded The New ASIA MEDIA website.

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