

Historical Dictionary Of Singapore By Mulliner Published By Scarecrow Press Hardcover

A Deep Dive into Mulliner's Historical Dictionary of Singapore

Understanding Singapore's rich and complex history requires delving into its multifaceted past. One invaluable resource for this endeavor is **The Historical Dictionary of Singapore**, meticulously compiled by A.J. Mulliner and published by Scarecrow Press in a durable hardcover edition. This comprehensive work offers a wealth of information, making it an indispensable tool for students, researchers, and anyone fascinated by Singapore's journey. This article will explore the key features, benefits, and uses of this significant publication, focusing on its contribution to the field of **Singaporean history**, its detailed **historical entries**, its utility for **Singaporean studies**, and its overall impact on understanding the island nation's unique development.

Introduction: Unlocking Singapore's Past

Mulliner's **Historical Dictionary of Singapore** isn't simply a list of definitions; it's a carefully curated gateway to understanding the evolution of Singapore from a small trading post to the modern metropolis it is today. The hardcover edition ensures the longevity of this crucial reference work, safeguarding its contents for future generations of scholars and enthusiasts. The book tackles a wide range of topics, from key historical figures and events to significant locations and cultural aspects, providing context and depth to each entry. It stands out for its detailed cross-referencing, encouraging readers to explore interconnected themes and gain a more holistic understanding of Singapore's past.

Benefits and Features: More Than Just a Dictionary

The true value of Mulliner's dictionary lies in its comprehensive approach. It goes beyond simple definitions, providing concise yet informative biographical sketches of influential personalities, detailed accounts of pivotal events, and insightful descriptions of significant places. This depth transforms the book from a mere dictionary into a valuable research tool.

- **Chronological Coverage:** The dictionary covers a vast timespan, encompassing Singapore's history from its early beginnings to the modern era. This chronological scope is crucial for understanding the evolution of the nation's identity and institutions.
- **Detailed Entries:** Each entry is meticulously researched and written, providing substantial information within a concise format. This balanced approach avoids overwhelming the reader while providing sufficient depth for informed comprehension.
- **Cross-Referencing:** The extensive cross-referencing is a standout feature. This interconnectedness allows readers to effortlessly navigate related topics and discover hidden connections within Singapore's historical narrative. For instance, an entry on Sir Stamford Raffles might lead to entries on the founding of Singapore, the British East India Company, and the subsequent treaties that shaped its early development.
- **Comprehensive Coverage:** The book covers a broad spectrum of topics, encompassing political history, economic development, social changes, cultural expressions, and significant milestones. This breadth of coverage ensures a holistic understanding of Singapore's multifaceted past.
- **Scholarly Rigor:** Mulliner's work exhibits a high level of scholarly rigor, relying on credible sources and providing accurate information. This commitment to accuracy makes it a reliable resource for academic research.

Usage and Applications: A Resource for Diverse Needs

The Historical Dictionary of Singapore caters to a wide range of users. It serves as an excellent resource for:

- **Students:** Undergraduates and postgraduate students researching Singapore's history will find it an invaluable tool for gaining a foundational understanding of key concepts and figures.
- **Researchers:** Academics conducting research on various aspects of Singapore's past will appreciate the

dictionary's depth and breadth of coverage, using it as a starting point for more in-depth investigations.

- **General Readers:** Anyone interested in learning more about Singapore's history will find the dictionary engaging and accessible, even without prior knowledge of the subject. Its clear writing style makes it easy to understand, even for those new to the topic of **Southeast Asian history**.
- **Librarians and Educators:** The dictionary is a valuable addition to any library collection, providing a comprehensive overview of Singapore's historical landscape.

Unique Elements and Key Messages

What truly sets Mulliner's work apart is its ability to condense vast amounts of information into a readily accessible format. The book effectively synthesizes complex historical narratives into concise, informative entries. This makes it possible to grasp the essential elements of Singapore's history without needing to sift through countless books and articles. The key message is clear: understanding the present requires understanding the past. By providing a structured and comprehensive overview of Singapore's history, the dictionary empowers readers to develop a nuanced perspective on this dynamic nation.

Conclusion: An Essential Resource for Understanding Singapore

The Historical Dictionary of Singapore by A.J. Mulliner is far more than a simple reference book; it's a vital resource for anyone seeking to comprehend the complexities and richness of Singapore's past. Its comprehensive coverage, detailed entries, and user-friendly format make it an invaluable tool for students, researchers, and anyone intrigued by the history of this remarkable nation. The Scarecrow Press hardcover ensures its accessibility and enduring value for future generations. The dictionary's meticulous research and clear presentation make it an essential contribution to the field of **Singaporean historical studies**.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: What makes this dictionary different from other works on Singaporean history?

A1: While numerous books cover Singaporean history, Mulliner's dictionary offers a unique combination of

comprehensive coverage, concise entries, and extensive cross-referencing. This allows readers to quickly access information on a vast range of topics and navigate their interconnections, creating a holistic understanding. Other books may focus on specific periods or themes, whereas this dictionary provides a broad overview.

Q2: Is this dictionary suitable for beginners?

A2: Absolutely. The clear writing style and concise entries make it accessible even to those with limited prior knowledge of Singaporean history. The comprehensive nature of the book allows beginners to build a solid foundational understanding.

Q3: What kind of sources did Mulliner use for this work?

A3: Mulliner's work relies on a wide range of primary and secondary sources, including government records, historical accounts, scholarly articles, and other relevant publications. The specific sources are not explicitly listed in the book itself, but the author's scholarly reputation and the quality of the information suggest rigorous research practices.

Q4: How can I use this dictionary for research purposes?

A4: The dictionary serves as an excellent starting point for research. Its entries provide concise overviews of various topics, enabling you to identify key concepts, figures, and events for further investigation. The cross-referencing allows you to explore related themes and build a broader understanding of the chosen research area.

Q5: Is the hardcover edition worth the price compared to potentially cheaper alternatives?

A5: The hardcover edition offers durability and longevity, making it a worthwhile investment, particularly for researchers and institutions. While electronic versions might be available, the hardcover edition ensures continued access to the information regardless of technological changes.

Q6: Are there any limitations to this dictionary?

A6: As with any historical work, perspectives can be influenced by the author's interpretation of events. Although Mulliner strives for objectivity, readers should be aware of potential biases inherent in historical accounts. The concise

nature of the entries means that some topics may not be explored in as much depth as in dedicated monographs.

Q7: Where can I purchase this book?

A7: The book is available through various online retailers such as Amazon, and academic booksellers. You may also find it at major libraries.

Q8: What future research could be inspired by this dictionary?

A8: Mulliner's work can inspire research in several areas, including a deeper examination of specific events or individuals mentioned in the entries, comparative studies with other Southeast Asian nations, and explorations of the evolving historiography of Singapore. The dictionary itself could be expanded and updated in future editions to reflect the continued evolution of Singapore's story.

Delving into the Depths of Singapore's Past: A Comprehensive Look at Mulliner's Historical Dictionary

Singapore, a thriving island nation with a rich history, has captivated scholars and students alike for decades. Understanding its evolution requires exploring a tapestry of factors – ethnic, political, and climatic. This intricate narrative is expertly compiled in the *Historical Dictionary of Singapore*, authored by respected scholar Dr. Mulliner and published by Scarecrow Press in a heavy hardcover edition. This article aims to explore the significance and scope of this essential resource for anyone wishing to comprehend Singapore's remarkable journey.

The dictionary itself is not merely a compilation of words; it's an exhaustive exploration of Singapore's history, displayed through the lens of its important vocabulary. Mulliner's skillful organization ensures that readers can easily find the details they need, whether they are researching a specific event, individual, or notion. Each entry is not simply an explanation; it is a concise overview, providing history and analysis, often relating various temporal threads together. This interconnectedness is a virtue of the work, allowing readers to build a holistic understanding of the subject.

The dictionary's breadth is extensive. It encompasses centuries, from the primitive settlements to the current day,

incorporating aspects of political history, economic development, communal transformations, and environmental shifts. Key occurrences, such as the emergence of Sir Stamford Raffles, the Japanese occupation, and the nation's independent journey, are analyzed in depth, providing invaluable insights into their significance. Furthermore, the dictionary incorporates biographies of influential figures, from political officials to intellectual icons, giving life to the historical narrative.

One of the extremely valuable aspects of Mulliner's work is its incorporation of diverse perspectives. It does not shy away from controversial subjects or conflicting accounts. This frankness and objectivity are vital for fostering a subtle and precise understanding of Singapore's past. This makes it an necessary resource for researchers seeking to engage with the complexities of Singaporean history.

The style is clear, succinct, and accessible to a extensive audience. Even readers without a prior background of Singaporean history will find the dictionary easy to consult. The book's tangible qualities, including the sturdy hardcover binding and legible typography, moreover enhance its practicality.

In closing, the *Historical Dictionary of Singapore* by Mulliner is more than just a resource; it's a portal to a richer understanding of Singapore's fascinating and complex history. Its extensive scope, accessible style, and impartial approach make it an essential resource for scholars, instructors, and anyone fascinated in exploring about this outstanding nation. Its worth lies not only in its factual information, but also in its ability to encourage further inquiry and considered reflection.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

- 1. Who is this dictionary best suited for?** The dictionary is suitable for a broad audience, including students, scholars, researchers, educators, and anyone interested in Singaporean history, regardless of their prior knowledge.
- 2. What makes this dictionary different from others on Singaporean history?** Mulliner's dictionary distinguishes itself through its comprehensive scope, objective approach, inclusion of diverse perspectives, and concise yet insightful entries that go beyond simple definitions.
- 3. Is the dictionary only useful for academic purposes?** While valuable for academic research, the dictionary's

accessible style and broad coverage make it useful for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Singapore's history, whether for personal enrichment or professional purposes.

4. How is the dictionary organized? The dictionary is alphabetically organized, making it easy to locate specific terms, events, people, or concepts. The cross-referencing within the entries further enhances its usability.

5. Where can I purchase a copy of the dictionary? The *Historical Dictionary of Singapore* can typically be purchased from online booksellers like Amazon, or from academic bookstores specializing in history and area studies. It's also worth checking libraries and university collections.

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