

## LEE KUAN YEW



Born in Singapore, Lee was recognised as the founding father of independent Singapore, with the country being described as transitioning from the "third world to the first world in a single generation" under his leadership. Lee Kuan Yew was the prime minister of Singapore from 1959 to 1990, making him the longest-serving PM in the history. During his long rule, Singapore became the most prosperous nation in Southeast Asia. Lee rose through the ranks of his country's political system before becoming the first prime minister of Singapore on June 5, 1959. In 1962, Lee led Singapore into a merger with Malaysia, but three years later, Singapore left the union for good. With overwhelming parliamentary control, Lee and his cabinet oversaw Singapore's transformation from a relatively underdeveloped colonial outpost with no natural resources to an Asian Tiger economy. In the process, he forged a widely admired system of meritocratic, corruption-free and highly efficient government and civil service. Many of his policies are now taught at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Lee eschewed populist policies in favor of pragmatic long-term social and economic measures. With meritocracy and multi racialism as the governing principles, Lee made English the common language to integrate its immigrant society and to facilitate trade with the West. However, Lee also mandated bilingualism in schools for students to preserve their mother-tongue cultural identity. Lee's rule was criticised, particularly in the West, for curtailing civil liberties (public protests, media control) and bringing libel suits against political opponents. He argued that such disciplinary measures were necessary for political stability, which together with rule of law, were essential for economic progress. Lee resigned as prime minister in 1990, and his son became prime minister in 2004. Lee died on March 23, 2015.

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### **Where & when born**

Lee's English-educated parents named him "Kuan Yew", which stands for "light and brightness", with an alternate meaning "bringing great glory to one's ancestors". His paternal grandfather gave him the English name "Harry". Lee was a fourth-generation Singaporean of Hakka and Chinese Peranakan descent

Lee Kuan Yew, born to the parents of Lee Chin Koon and Chua Jim Neo as their first child, on September 16, 1923, at 92 Kampong Java Road in Singapore. Lee Kuan Yew had three younger brothers: Dennis Lee Kim Yew (1925-2003; lawyer and member of Lee & Lee), Freddy Lee Thiam Yew (1927-2012; former Chairman of stockbroker- J Ballas and Company) and Dr Lee Suan Yew (President of Singapore Medical Council); and one younger sister, Monica Lee Kim Mon.

### **Brief history of the person -personal**

During 1931, Lee Kuan Yew had his primary school education at [Telok Kurau English School](#). He then attended [Raffles Institution](#) in 1935. Lee joined the [Scouts](#) for three years, played [cricket](#), [tennis](#), and [chess](#), and [debated](#) for the school. He obtained several scholarships, and came top in the School Certificate examinations in 1940, gaining the John Anderson scholarship to attend Raffles College (now [National University of Singapore](#)). Lee's future wife, [Kwa Geok Choo](#), was his classmate and the only girl at Raffles Institution at that time. Kwa, who was a brilliant student herself, was the only one to beat his scores in the English and Economics subjects.

Lee's university education was delayed by World War II and the [Japanese occupation of Singapore](#) from 1942–1945. After the war, Lee went on to study in England. He briefly attended [London School of Economics](#) as enrollment at University of Cambridge had already closed. He related that London overwhelmed him and he sought the more pleasant surroundings of Cambridge, where he read law at [Fitzwilliam College](#). A fellow Raffles College student introduced him to the Censor of Fitzwilliam House, W. S. Thatcher, who admitted him for the 1947 Lent term. He matriculated in January 1947.

Lee graduated First Class in both parts of the Tripos with an exceptional Starred-First (perfect score) for Part II Law in 1949; this placed him at the very top of his cohort, and he was awarded the Fitzwilliam's Whitlock Prize.

Lee experienced the toughest years of the Japanese occupation from 1942–1945. During the war, Lee learnt Japanese and first worked as a clerk in his grandfather's friend's company—a textile importer called Shimoda. Lee then found work transcribing Allied wire reports for the Japanese, where he listened to Allied radio stations and wrote down what they were reporting in the *Hodoku* office. Lee also ran his own businesses during the war to



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survive, among which, he manufactured stationery glue under his own brand called "Stikfas".

The occupation had a profound impact on the young Lee, who recalled being slapped and forced to kneel for failing to bow to a Japanese soldier. He and other young Singaporeans "emerged determined that neither one — Japanese or British—had the right to push and kick us around ... (and) that we could govern ourselves." The occupation also drove home lessons about raw power and the effectiveness of harsh punishment in deterring crime.

After seeing how the British had failed to defend Singapore from the Japanese, and after his stay in England, Lee decided that Singapore had to govern itself. He returned to Singapore in 1949.

Upon his return, Lee worked in John Laycock's law firm for \$500 per month. He also worked as a legal advisor to the trade and students' unions.

After his political entry, he roused quickly to a prominent figure in Singapore and became the first Prime Minister of Independent Singapore. He struggled hard in bringing Singapore from a third world to the first world in a single generation even though his plan of joining with Federation of Malaysia failed within a year.

Nevertheless, he succeeded in bringing his country to top-level, in economic growth with enhanced national security. His measures on anti -corruption, over population, and corporal punishment and recycling of water brought a discipline inside the nation. He maintained good relationship with his neighbourhood countries especially with Malaysian counterparts.

When Goh Chok Tong became head of government, Lee remained in the cabinet with a non-executive position of Senior Minister and played a role he described as advisory. In public, Lee would refer to Goh as "my Prime Minister", in deference to Goh's authority.

Lee subsequently stepped down as Secretary-General of the PAP and was succeeded by Goh Chok Tong in November 1992. In December 2004, Lee step down to another level, becoming a minister mentor. After the 2011 general elections in which the Workers' Party, a major opposition political party in Singapore, made unprecedented gains by winning a Group Representation Constituency (GRC), Lee announced that he decided to leave the Cabinet for the Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Loong, and his team to have a clean slate.

On 23 March 2015, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced his father's death at the age of 91.

### **Career in political**

His first experience with politics in Singapore was his role as election agent for Laycock under the banner of the pro-British Progressive Party in the 1951 legislative council elections

On 12 November 1954, Lee, together with a group of fellow English-educated middle-class men formed the "socialist" People's Action Party (PAP) in an expedient alliance with the pro-communist trade unionists. This alliance was described by Lee as a marriage of convenience, since his English-speaking group needed the Chinese-speaking populace's mass support base. Their common aim was to agitate for self-government and put an end to British colonial rule. An inaugural conference was held at the Victoria Memorial Hall, attended by over 1,500



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supporters and trade unionists. Lee became secretary-general, a post he held until 1992, save for a brief period in 1957

Lee won the Tanjong Pagar seat in the 1955 elections. He became the opposition leader against David Saul Marshall's Labour Front-led coalition government. He was also one of PAP's representatives to the two constitutional discussions held in London over the future status of Singapore, the first led by Marshall and the second by Lim Yew Hock, Marshall's hardline successor. It was during this period that Lee had to contend with rivals from both within and outside the PAP.

But with his party represented on the council, in 1956 Lee headed to London as part of the delegation seeking self-rule for Singapore. After the negotiations failed, Singapore experienced a year of civil unrest, but in 1957, Lee returned to London yet again as talks resumed.

The next year, Lee helped negotiate what Singapore's status would be as a self-governing state, and a new constitution was formed.

In the national elections held on 30 May 1959, the PAP won 43 of the 51 seats in the legislative assembly. Singapore gained self-government with autonomy in all state matters except defence and foreign affairs, and Lee became the first Prime Minister of Singapore on 3 June 1959, taking over from Chief Minister Lim Yew Hock.

A key event was the motion of confidence in the government, in which 13 PAP assemblymen crossed party lines and abstained from voting on 21 July 1961. Together with six prominent left-leaning leaders from trade unions, the breakaway members established a new party, the Barisan Sosialis

After Malayan Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman proposed the formation of a federation which would include Malaya, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak in 1961, Lee began to campaign for a merger to end British colonial rule. He used the results of a referendum held on 1 September 1962, in which 70% of the votes were cast in support of his proposal, to demonstrate that the people supported his plan; most of the other votes were blank, as Lee had not allowed a "No" option. On 16 September 1963, Singapore became part of the new Federation of Malaysia. However, the union was short-lived. The Malaysian central government, ruled by the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), became worried by the inclusion of Singapore's Chinese majority and the political challenge of the PAP in Malaysia. More riots broke out in 1964 followed by separation of Singapore from the federation of Malaysia.

The failure of the merger with federation of Malaysia was a heavy blow to Lee, who believed that it was crucial for Singapore's survival. On 9 August 1965, just as the press conference ended, the Malaysian parliament passed the required resolution that would sever Singapore's ties to Malaysia as a state, and thus the Republic of Singapore was created.



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Singapore's lack of natural resources, a water supply that was derived primarily from Malaysia and a very limited defensive capability were the major challenges which Lee and the nascent Singaporean government faced

Singapore has never had a dominant culture to which immigrants could assimilate even though Malay was the dominant language at that time. Together with efforts from the government and ruling party, Lee tried to create a unique Singaporean identity in the 1970s and 1980s—one which heavily recognised racial consciousness within the umbrella of [multiculturalism](#).

Lee and his government stressed the importance of maintaining religious tolerance and racial harmony, and they were ready to use the law to counter any threat that might incite ethnic and religious violence. For example, Lee warned against "insensitive evangelisation", by which he referred to instances of Christian proselytising directed at Malays. In 1974 the government advised the Bible Society of Singapore to stop publishing religious material in Malay

Lee quickly sought international recognition of Singapore's independence. He appointed [Goh Keng Swee](#) as [Minister for the Interior and Defence](#) to build up the [Singapore Armed Forces](#) (SAF) and requested help from other countries, particularly [Israel](#), for advice, training and facilities.<sup>[42]</sup> In 1967, Lee introduced conscription whereby all able-bodied male Singaporean citizens age 18 and above are required to serve National Service (NS) either in the Singapore Armed Forces, [Singapore Police Force](#) or the [Singapore Civil Defence Force](#). By 1971, Singapore had 17 national service battalions (16,000 men) with 14 battalions (11,000 men) in the reserves. In 1975, Lee managed to convince [Chiang Ching-kuo](#) to permit Singaporean troops to train in [Taiwan](#), under the codename "Exercise Starlight

One of Lee's most urgent tasks upon Singapore's independence was to provide stable jobs for its people, as unemployment was high. [Tourism](#) helped but did not completely resolve the unemployment problem. Together with his economic aide, [Economic Development Board](#) chairman [Hon Sui Sen](#), and in consultation with Dutch economist [Albert Winsemius](#), Lee set up factories and initially focused on the manufacturing industry. Before the British completely withdrew from Singapore in 1971, Lee also persuaded the British not to destroy their dock and had the British naval dockyard later converted for civilian use.

After years of trial and error, Lee and his cabinet decided the best way to boost Singapore's economy was to attract foreign investments from the [multinational corporations](#) (MNCs). By establishing a First World infrastructure and standards in Singapore, the new nation could woo American, Japanese and European entrepreneurs and professionals to set up base here. By the 1970s, the arrival of MNCs like [Texas Instruments](#), [Hewlett-Packard](#) and [General Electric](#) laid the foundations, turning Singapore into a major [electronics](#) exporter the following decade.<sup>[45]</sup> Workers were frequently retrained to familiarise themselves with the work systems and cultures of foreign MNCs. The government also started several new industries, such as steel mills under [National Iron and Steel Mills](#), service industries like [Neptune Orient Lines](#), and the [Singapore Airlines](#).<sup>[46]</sup>

Lee and his cabinet also worked to establish Singapore as an international financial centre. Foreign bankers were assured of the reliability of Singapore's social conditions, with top-class infrastructure and skilled professionals,



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and investors were made to understand that the Singapore government would pursue sound [macroeconomic](#) policies, with [budget surpluses](#), leading to a strong, stable Singapore dollar.<sup>[47]</sup>

Throughout the tenure of his office, Lee always placed great importance on developing the economy, and his attention to detail on this aspect went even to the extent of connecting it with other facets of Singapore, including the country's extensive and meticulous tending of its international image of being a "Garden City",<sup>[48]</sup> something that has been sustained to this day

Like many countries, Singapore had problems with [political corruption](#). Lee introduced legislation giving the [Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau](#) (CPIB) greater power to conduct arrests, search, call up witnesses, and investigate bank accounts and income-tax returns of suspected persons and their families.<sup>[49]</sup> Lee believed that ministers should be well paid in order to maintain a clean and honest government. In 1994, he proposed to link the salaries of ministers, judges, and top civil servants to the salaries of top professionals in the private sector, arguing that this would help recruit and retain talent to serve in the public sector

Lee started a vigorous "[Stop at Two](#)" [family planning](#) campaign. Couples were urged to undergo [sterilisation](#) after their second child. In 1983, Lee sparked the "Great Marriage Debate" when he encouraged Singapore men to choose highly educated women as wives. He was concerned that a large number of graduate women were unmarried. In the Graduate Mothers Scheme, Lee also introduced incentives such as [tax rebates](#), schooling, and housing priorities for graduate mothers who had three or four children, in a reversal of the over-successful "Stop at Two" family planning campaign in the 1960s and 1970s. By the late 1990s, the birth rate had fallen so low that Lee's successor [Goh Chok Tong](#) extended these incentives to all married women, and gave even more incentives, such as the "baby bonus" scheme.

Singapore has traditionally relied on water from Malaysia. However, this reliance has made Singapore subject to the possibility of price increases and allowed Malaysian officials to use the water reliance as a political leverage by [threatening to cut off supply](#). In 1998, the Public Utilities Board (PUB) and the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) initiated the Singapore Water Reclamation Study (NEWater Study).

In June 1988, Lee and Mahathir reached an agreement in [Kuala Lumpur](#) to build the Linggi dam on the [Johor River](#)

After leading the [PAP](#) to victory in seven elections, Lee stepped down on 28 November 1990, handing over the [prime ministership](#) to [Goh Chok Tong](#)

From the decade of the 2000s, Lee expressed concern about the declining proficiency of [Mandarin](#) among younger [Chinese Singaporeans](#). In one of his parliamentary speeches, he said: "Singaporeans must learn to juggle English and Mandarin". Subsequently, in December 2004, Lee stepped down to another level, becoming a minister mentor and a year-long campaign called [华语 Cool!](#) (Huayu Cool!) was launched, in an attempt to attract young viewers to learn and speak Mandarin.



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### Leadership qualities

#### **1. His clear vision. He planned and led with deep conviction.**

Since Singapore separated from Malaysia in 1965 — an event Mr. Lee called his “moment of anguish” — he had seen himself in a never-ending struggle to overcome the nation’s lack of natural resources, a potentially hostile international environment and a volatile ethnic mix of Chinese, Malays and Indians

#### **2. His resilience and tenacity. This helped him persist through some of the toughest days.**

Lee had gone through his toughest period when Malaysia chose to separate itself from Singapore, Him shedding tears on public television marked one of the most historic moments in Singapore history. However, he never gave up, strengthened his resolve and continued to believe that he could develop Singapore into what he envisioned it to be.

#### **3. His innovative approach. It transformed Singapore into a first world country which it is today.**

Zainuddin pays tribute to Lee’s strength of character, saying he did not waste his time moping over the separation but instead drew strength from it to create his vision of a Singapore that is “better and stronger” than Malaysia. He says Lee realised that vision by making sure that Singapore achieved developed-nation status before Malaysia would. He credits this to Lee’s creativity and innovative spirit.

#### **4. His strict "iron first" governing. It earned him the position of a feared but respected leader.**

Lee led Singapore from a colonial backwater under British control to one of the world’s most thriving financial centers, and he did so with a tight grip on power.

Lee was both admired for Singapore’s efficient government, economic growth and safe streets — and feared for having jailed political rivals for decades without trial and for cracking down on protests and the press.

#### **5. His incorrupt nature. This played a big part in shaping Singapore into one of the least corrupt countries in the world.**

He presented to the world a Singapore that is bersih, cekap dan amanah (clean, efficient and trustworthy) under an administration that is tough against corruption and scandal.” In a policy intended to remove the temptation for corruption, Singapore linked the salaries of ministers, judges and top civil servants to those of leading professionals in the private sector, making them some of the highest-paid government officials in the world.

#### **6. His ability to continuously fight the noble cause, even if it meant doing difficult things for the greater good**

“I’m not saying that everything I did was right, but everything I did was for an honorable purpose,” he said. “I had to do some nasty things, locking fellows up without trial.”

#### **7. His unbiased nature. It lent a hand in integrating racial harmony in a multi-racial nation.**

“Lee succeeded in developing a strong new nation that transcends the divisions of race and religion. Not only did he suppress Malay communalism, but he killed the racial institutions of the Chinese, including Chinese schools and colleges, and he wiped out their secret societies.



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### **8. His honesty. He was known for a sharp tongue and he was fearless when speaking his mind.**

This was one of his key strengths, in Kausikan's view: "The disciplined clarity of his thought and expression was one of the primary sources of the influence Lee wielded, disproportionate for the leader of a small country like Singapore. His views were valued because they were unvarnished and gave a fresh and unique perspective. He said things that leaders of much larger and more powerful countries may well have thought and may have liked to say, but for one reason or another, could not themselves prudently say. And so he made Singapore relevant.

### **9. His sense of humour and quick wit**

Lee Kuan Yew on chewing gum ban:- "If you can't think because you can't chew, try a banana."

### **10. His open mind and enlightened view. He accepted differences.**

In 2011 in his book *Hard Truths*, [Lee Kuan Yew] said on LGBT: "No, it's not a lifestyle. You can read the books you want, all the articles. There's a genetic difference so it is not a matter of choice. They are born that way and that's that. So if two men or two women are that way, just leave them alone."

### **Critical moments of independence, struggle, war etc.**

On one occasion during the Japanese Occupation, Lee was asked by a Japanese guard to join a group of segregated Chinese men. Sensing that something was amiss, he asked for permission to go back home to collect his clothes first, and the Japanese guard agreed. It turned out that those who were segregated were taken to the beach to be shot as part of the [Sook Ching massacre](#). And later Japanese lost the war to British.

At the time, Singapore was a British colony and held Britain's main naval base in the Far East. The country was ruled by a governor and a legislative council, mostly comprising wealthy Chinese businessmen who were appointed rather than elected by the people.

Lee's position in the PAP was seriously under threat in 1957 when pro-Communists took over the leadership posts, following a party conference which the party's left wing had stacked with fake members. Fortunately for Lee and the party's moderate faction, Chief Minister of State Lim Yew Hock under colonial rule ordered a mass arrest of the pro-Communists and Lee was reinstated as secretary-general in the party. After the communist "scare", Lee subsequently received a new, stronger mandate from his Tanjong Pagar constituents in a by-election in 1957.

The 1964 race riots in Singapore followed by the merger of Singapore with Federation of Malaysia, on 21 July 1964, near Kallang Gasworks, in which 23 people were killed and hundreds injured as Chinese and Malays attacked each other. More riots broke out in September 1964, as rioters looted cars and shops, forcing both Tunku Abdul Rahman and Lee to make public appearances to calm the situation. Unable to resolve the crisis, Tunku Abdul Rahman decided to expel Singapore from Malaysia, choosing to "sever all ties with a State Government that showed no measure of loyalty to its Central Government". Lee was adamant and tried to work out a compromise, but without success. He was later convinced by Goh Keng Swee that the secession was inevitable. Lee signed a separation agreement on 7 August 1965, which discussed Singapore's post-separation





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relations with Malaysia in order to continue co-operation in areas such as trade and mutual defence. In a televised press conference that day, he fought back tears and briefly stopped to regain his composure as he formally announced the separation and the full independence of Singapore to an anxious population "every time we look back on this moment when we signed this agreement which severed Singapore from Malaysia, it will be a moment of anguish. For me it is a moment of anguish because all my life ... you see, the whole of my adult life ... I have believed in Merger and the unity of these two territories. You know, it's a people connected by geography, economics, and ties of kinship..."

### **Principles & Practices**

1. **Clear vision.**
2. **Resilience and tenacity.**
3. **Innovative approach.**
4. **"Iron first" governing.**
5. **Incorrupt nature.**
6. **Ability to continuously fight the noble cause.**
7. **Unbiased nature.**
8. **Honesty & sense of humour and quick wit**
9. **Open minded**
10. **Allowed Multi racism exists together**
11. **Women Development**
12. **Lee was identified as an agnostic on several occasions, notably during an interview with Goh Keng Swee in 1983 when the latter identified S. Rajaratnam and Lee as agnostics.**
13. **Lee often stated that Singapore's only natural resources are its people and their strong work ethic.**

### **Awards and Achievements**

As Singapore's Prime Minister from 1959 to 1990, Lee presided over many of Singapore's advancements.

Singapore's [Gross National Product per capita](#) rose from \$1,240 in 1959 to \$18,437 in 1990.

The [unemployment](#) rate in Singapore dropped from 13.5% in 1959 to 1.7% in 1990.

[External trade](#) increased from \$7.3 billion in 1959 to \$205 billion in 1990.

In other areas, the [life expectancy](#) at birth for Singaporeans rose from 65 years at 1960 to 74 years in 1990.

The [population of Singapore](#) increased from 1.6 million in 1959 to 3 million in 1990.

The number of [public flats in Singapore](#) rose from 22,975 in 1959 (then under the [Singapore Improvement Trust](#))



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to 667,575 in 1990.

The Singaporean [literacy](#) rate increased from 52% in 1957 to 90% in 1990.

Visitor arrivals to Singapore rose from 0.1 million in 1960 to 5.3 million in 1990.

Lee's achievements in Singapore had a profound effect on the Communist leadership in China, who made a major effort, especially under [Deng Xiaoping](#), to emulate his policies of economic growth, entrepreneurship and subtle suppression of dissent. Over 22,000 Chinese officials were sent to Singapore to study its methods. He also had a major influence on thinking in Russia in recent years.

Other world leaders also praised Lee. [Henry Kissinger](#) once said that Lee was "One of the asymmetries of history". Former British Prime Minister [Margaret Thatcher](#) praised "his way of penetrating the fog of propaganda and expressing with unique clarity the issues of our time and the way to tackle them". A later British Prime Minister, [Tony Blair](#), called Lee "the smartest leader I ever met"

Lee was a member of the [Fondation Chirac](#)'s honour committee, from the time that the foundation was launched in 2008 by the former French President [Jacques Chirac](#) to promote world peace.

Lee was also a member of [David Rockefeller's](#) "International Council", along with [Henry Kissinger](#), [Riley P. Bechtel](#), [George Shultz](#) and others. Additionally he was one of the "Forbes' Brain Trust", along with [Paul Johnson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

- Lee received a number of state decorations, including the Order of the Companions of Honour (1970), Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George (1972), the Freedom of the City of London (1982), the Seri Paduka Mahkota Johor (1984), the Order of Great Leader (1988) and the Order of the Rising Sun (1967).
- In 1999, Lee was named one of Time's Most Influential People of the 20th Century. He was cited as a Master Planner
- In 2002, Lee was formally admitted to the Fellowship of [Imperial College London](#) in recognition of his promotion of international trade and industry, and development of science and engineering study initiatives with the UK
- In 2006, Lee was presented with the [Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service](#) by the [Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars](#).
- In 2007, Lee was conferred an honorary Doctorate in Law at the [Australian National University](#) in [Canberra](#), albeit amid protest from students and staff.
- In October 2009, Lee was conferred the first Lifetime Achievement award by the US-Asian Business Council at its 25th anniversary gala dinner in Washington, DC.
- On 15 November 2009, Lee was awarded the Russian Order of Friendship by President Dmitry Medvedev on the sidelines of APEC Singapore 2009.
- On 29 April 2010, Lee was named in the TIME 100 list as one of the people who most affect our world. He was profiled as a Thinker.



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- On 14 January 2011, Lee received the inaugural Gryphon Award from his alma mater, Raffles Institution, given to illustrious Rafflesians who have made exceptional contributions to the nation.
- On 19 October 2011, Lee received the Lincoln Medal in Washington DC — an honour reserved for people who have exemplified the legacy and character embodied by Abraham Lincoln.
- On 21 February 2012, Lee was conferred the Kazakhstan Order of Friendship by Ambassador Yerlan Baudarbek-Kozhatayev, at the Istana.
- On 10 September 2013, Lee was conferred Russia's Order of Honour by Ambassador Leonid Moiseev for his contributions for forging friendship and cooperation with the Russian Federal and scientific and cultural relations development.
- On 22 May 2014, the title of Honorary Doctor of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was presented by the Russian government to Lee

### Literary Works

Between 1998 and 2000, Lee Kuan Yew published a two-volume set of memoirs. *The Singapore Story* (1998) covers his view of [Singapore's history](#) until its separation from [Malaysia](#) in 1965, and *From Third World to First: The Singapore Story* (2000) gives his account of Singapore's subsequent transformation into a developed nation.

In 2005, Lee published *Keeping My Mandarin Alive: Lee Kuan Yew Language Learning Experience*, which documents his challenge learning Mandarin in his thirties and why it is important for overseas Chinese to learn and speak Chinese.

In 2011, Lee published *My Lifelong Challenge Singapore's Bilingual Journey* which chronicles his struggle adopting Singapore bilingual policy in a multiracial society.

Also in 2011, Lee published *Hard Truths to Keep Singapore Going*, a 458-page questions-and-answers book, in which he is interviewed by journalists from [Singapore Press Holdings](#) on issues which include the challenges he faced when Singapore first gained independence, the future political landscape, opportunities for youth in Singapore and also his personal views on homosexuality and family.

In 2013, Lee published two new books, *The Wit and Wisdom of Lee Kuan Yew* and *One Man's View of the World*. *The Wit and Wisdom of Lee Kuan Yew* contains almost 600 quotations which provides a summary of his views on a wide range of topics on Singapore and the world. In *One Man's View of the World*, Lee draws on his experience and insight to offer his views on today's world and what it might look like in 20 years.

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