

Preface

It has been several years since I posted my first blog not long after the May 2006 Singapore General Election. Now, almost 400 articles later, I have decided to compile some of my “better” blog posts in this book.

Blogging provides two-way communication with readers. Through the comments feature on my blog, I have engaged in some stimulating exchanges of ideas with my readers. It is from these exchanges that I was often made aware of new angles of looking at issues. Blogging has also opened up a whole new circle of friends and contacts, including fellow bloggers, journalists, activists, academics and researchers that I met as a result of them reading my blog and contacting me—or vice versa.

I chose the title *Singapore version 2.0* for this book because I believe that our country needs a new release of ideas to face the challenges of the 21st century. Version 1.0 represents the status quo, while version 2.0 represents the next step in the future of our nation.

I chose for this book the articles which I feel are still relevant to the current context. They are edited versions of my original blog posts. I have taken the liberty to update them for accuracy and language, and in some cases to reflect my updated stand on some issues. The articles are not arranged in chronological order, but are grouped by topic under each chapter. Their original publication dates appear at the beginning of each article. Unless otherwise indicated, all articles were first published on my blog or on *The Online Citizen*.

All opinions expressed in this book are my personal views. They are not necessarily representative of the views of any political party or organisation that I am affiliated with.

I hope readers will find this a worthwhile read. I welcome feedback and suggestions for improvement, or just a good discussion about issues concerning Singapore's future. I can be contacted by email at *gerald@geraldgiam.sg*.

Gerald Giam

Singapore

May 2010