ABSTRACT

This Academic Exercise is a study of the mass movements in Singapore between 1945 and 1955. It seeks to gain more insight into the different features of Singapore society — politics, economics and racial relationship, during the first decade after the Second World War, through the analysis of these mass movements.

Some scholars and academicians like Yeo Kim-Wah, have focused on studying the political development in Singapore, while others have looked into the topics of trade unionism and education during the post-war period. But none has attempted in analysing the events of mass movements during the period under study, which not only have great implications for the development of Singapore but are also highly reflective of the state of affairs then. It is precisely this that prompted the author to write this paper. Through this analysis, we can get to know more about this period of Singapore through a different perspective.

The aim of this Academic Exercise is therefore to provide an exploratory and descriptive insight into the state of affairs in Singapore between 1945 and 1955, through the study of trade movements, students movements and riots. It is hoped that those interested in this period of mass movements in Singapore will find this Honours Thesis useful.