ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to look into the role that Chinese organisations played during 1945-1959. The period was particularly chosen because, during this era, the Singapore society went through many changes in terms of the state of government, population structure, national identity, and others.

In this thesis, three organisations are chosen for intensive study. They are the Ann Kway Association, the Teo Chew Poit Ip Huay Kuan and the Nanyang Khek Community Guild. Being very established organisations among their regional dialect groups, they are thus chosen to represent each of their communities. Until today, there has not been any study done specifically about the role that these three organisations have performed during the period under study. Therefore attention is especially paid to the internal structure of these three organisations and their social and political role.

The sources relied on (in this study) are mainly commemorative magazines of the organisations and books relating to this field of study. The study has shown that these organisations, along with others, have led the Chinese community towards a change in their political orientation. They have also continued to place importance on the preservation of Chinese culture. While these organisations are going through changes in this era, it is hoped that this thesis will aid in a deeper understanding of these organisations and serve as a further reminder of their significance to our society.