ABSTRACT

Sun Yat-sen's anti-Manchu revolutionary movement covered a period from 1894, when he founded Xingzhong Hui, the earliest revolutionary party, in Honolulu, to 1911-1912, when the revolution succeeded eventually. Within this span of seventeen years, Sun visited overseas Chinese communities in Asia, Europe and America, aiming to establish an ideological platform, to enlist revolutionary members and especially to ensure a large financial support from overseas Chinese for the cause of toppling the Qing dynasty.

Sun's contacts with Singapore began in July 1900, when he arrived to rescue his two Japanese friends who were here mistakenly charged by Kang Youwei, as assassins and were arrested by the British authorities at his request. Because of this incident, Sun was deported from Singapore for five years.

After this first visit, Sun made seven other visits before the end of 1911, staying here for a total of ten months. During the eight visits of varying lengths, with the assistance of a small group of enthusiastic supporters, Sun established the Tongmeng Hui Singapore Branch, and its Southeast Asian Headquarters. He led the editors of the Zhongxinxing Ribao (Chong Shing Yit Pao), the local revolutionary party organ, in an intensified ideological war against the Union Times of the reformists, aiming to gain the sympathy and support of the local Chinese. Con-
sequently, Singapore replaced Tokyo as the centre of Chinese revolutionary movement when relationship between Sun and the local revolutionary supporters reached its peak in 1907. However, Singapore's role as the centre of revolutionary movement lasted only two years and was superseded by Penang in early 1909.

This academic exercise attempts to describe Sun's revolutionary activities in Singapore between 1900 and 1911, to analyze the response of local Chinese communities to the anti-Manchu agitations and to assess their contributions in terms of manpower, provision of sanctuary for revolutionary refugees and financial assistance.