This is a comprehensive study of the contents and views of the editorials of Chinese dailies in Singapore from 1945 to 1959. The post-war period of fifteen years was selected because it covers a crucial time frame which saw the traumatic development of the Cold War and the anti-colonial movement in Singapore leading to its eventual self-government in 1959. It is interesting as well as important to see how the Chinese press, as the self-styled opinion leaders of the immigrant Chinese community, reacted to the world in general and to the Singapore situation in particular, in a time of change through their editorials.

In all, twelve thousand and ninety-four editorials in four leading Chinese dailies (Nanyang Siang Pau, Sin Chew Jit Poh, Nan Ch'iao Jit Pao and Chung Shing Jit Pao) were analysed. The four were selected from a total of nineteen Chinese dailies published during the period under study based on their relative status, size, life-span of publication and political leaning. Nanyang Siang Pau and Sin Chew Jit Poh were commercial ventures and leaders of the local Chinese press since 1920s when they first appeared in the scene, while Nan Ch'iao Jit Pao was a pro-communist newspaper and Chung Shing Jit Pao an official organ of the Nationalist Party, both of which were first published after the war in 1946 and 1947 respectively and had a comparatively short life-span.

Chapter one of this thesis deals with the aims and scope of the study. Chapter two traces the development of the Singapore Chinese press and periodicals from 1837 to 1959. Chapter three discusses the evolution of the editorial column and its function in the Chinese press from its origins in China right up to its present form as
we know it to-day. Chapter four provides a quantitative
analysis of the contents of the editorials thus offering
a bird's eye view of their focus. In other words, this
chapter brings out the kinds of issues and the countries
which the Chinese press was interested in. Chapters
five, six and seven examine how the Chinese press viewed
or responded to selected international and local issues
relating to politics, economy and education. Chapter
eight, the concluding chapter, attempts to explain why
the Chinese press reacted to the changing international
and local situation the way they did.

There are two main findings in this thesis. Firstly
the Chinese press focused their attention predominantly
on political issues, in particular the political
situation in Mainland China prior to 1950 and the
struggle for self-government and independence in
Singapore and Malaya. Secondly, there is a shift of their
focus from what was happening in China to what was
happening in Singapore and Malaya after the Peoples'
Republic of China was proclaimed on 1 October 1949. This
clearly indicated a change in the political outlook of
the Chinese press or even an effort to establish a local
identity in the wake of the rapidly changing political
environment in China as well as in Singapore and Malaya.