

TIMELINE OF KEY DATES IN SINGAPORE'S HISTORY

Adapted from "Singapore profile – Timeline," BBC News, May 10, 2018,

- 1819** Sir Stamford Raffles of British East India Company establishes trading post on Singapore island.
- 1826** Singapore, Malacca, and Penang become British colony of the Straits Settlements. Singapore becomes the capital of the Straits Settlements
- 1942-5** Singapore falls to Japan, which renames it Syonan (Light of the South). After World War II, Singapore under British military administration.
- 1946** Singapore becomes separate British crown colony.
- 1959** Self-government attained with Lee Kuan Yew as prime minister, but the last British military forces don't withdraw until 1971.
- 1963** Singapore joins the Federation of Malaysia.
- 1965** Singapore pulls out of the Federation of Malaysia and becomes an independent republic and joins the United Nations.
- 1984** Two members from the opposition party are elected to parliament for the first time.
- 1990** Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew stands down after 31 years, replaced by Goh Chok Tong. Constitution is amended to allow for a directly elected president.
- 1993** Ong Teng Cheong becomes first directly-elected president.
- 1998** Singapore slips into recession for the first time in 13 years during Asian financial crisis.
- 1999** S R Nathan becomes president without election as he is declared only candidate eligible.
- 2001** The first legal demonstration outside election campaign. General election landslide victory for governing People's Action Party which secures all but two of the 84 seats.
- 2002** Japan, Singapore sign free trade agreement and in 2003, Singapore becomes first Asian nation to sign free-trade deal with US.

- 2004** Lee Hsien Loong, eldest son of former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, is sworn in as prime minister. In 2006, his People's Action Party wins general elections which are seen as the first real test of the prime minister's popularity.
- 2009** Singapore emerges from its worst recession on record after the economy expands at an annualized rate of 20.4% between April and June.
- 2011** Ruling People's Action Party (PAP) wins all but six seats in parliament, but opposition parties make unprecedented gains." Tony Tan is elected president, first in 18 years.
- 2012** Singapore experiences its first strike since the 1980s as Chinese bus drivers walk out complaining their pay is lower than local or Malaysian drivers. Strikes result in protests and riots throughout 2013.
- 2015** Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong unveils stiffer measures against corruption after a number of high-profile graft scandals. The governing PAP wins a snap election.
- 2015** The government reduces the number of banned publications from that 250 to 17. In 2016, Parliament approves a new contempt law which could see offenders jailed for up to three years.
- 2017** Large protest against the electoral process as an uncontested Halimah Yacob is declared president.
- 2018** Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat became PAP's first assistant secretary-general, suggesting he will become Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's successor in 2021.
- 2019** Singapore increases efforts to protect itself against rising sea levels, proposing to spend S\$100 billion (US \$73 billion).