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Singapore's Foreign Policy: Coping with Vulnerability (Politics in Asia)

Michael Leifer

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Michael Leifer : Singapore's Foreign Policy: Coping with Vulnerability (Politics in Asia) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Singapore's Foreign Policy: Coping with Vulnerability (Politics in Asia):

In the years following its traumatic separation from Malaysia, Singapore has risen to become one of the leading economic powers in Southeast Asia. This economic strength has carried it through the recent East Asian economic crisis, as well as providing the resources for an excellent defence capability. Singapore's diplomatic achievements include relationships with countries across Asia and Europe, and ensure its international status. Yet, despite this success, Singapore's foreign policy has continued to be influenced by a deep seated sense of its own vulnerability.

Politicians from the first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, onwards have focused on Singapore's limited physical size, potential domestic and international frailty due to racial tension and confirmed geographical location. These factors have combined to create a powerful nation-state which has never allowed itself to take its sovereign status for granted. Singapore's Foreign Policy is the first full-length English-language study of this subject and is an essential resource for all those interested in Singapore's international role.

The major strengths of this book are Leifer's uncanny ability to decipher with great accuracy the motivations of Singapore's foreign policy formulators and deliver them to an audience in his trademark elegance. Pacific Affairs: Winter 2001-2002 This book... is a useful contribution to a better understanding of how this small nation has managed to survive in such a politically fragile region. It will be especially beneficial for readers who are keen to have a detailed account of Singapore's problematic relations with Malaysia and Indonesia. International Relations of the Asia-Pacific