



# Spies in British Controlled Singapore: Policing the Japanese, 1921-1941

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COLLECTION EDITED BY Dong Wang

COLLECTION  
Asian Studies

EDITION  
1st edition

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scholarly

## This course reading...

- Narrates the clandestine espionage and counter-espionage struggle waged in Singapore between Britain and Japan in the nineteen twenties and thirties
- Explores the implications of an expatriate identity in occupied territory
- Draws from British police records and Japanese military archives of the time
- Is ideal reading for students of East and South-East Asian studies, cultural history, military history, Japanese diaspora, sociology, empire and colonial studies, and related courses

**Imagine being Japanese, living in Singapore in the nineteen twenties and thirties, suspected by everyone around you of being a spy.**

Prior to December 1941, Singapore was the site of a major naval base for the occupying British. As tensions increased between the imperial powers of Japan and Britain, Japanese expatriates living in Singapore became the focus of both governments in the struggle for control and power, resulting in further marginalization, suspicion, and othering from the Singapore authorities.

Based on British police records and Japanese military records of the time, this book explores what it meant to be Japanese in those circumstances, and how people were used – sometimes without their knowledge and consent – as spies and intelligence agents.

**Edward Drea PhD** is a celebrated military historian and veteran. After military service in Japan and Vietnam, he received his M.A. in International Relations from Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan, and his Ph.D. in modern Japanese history from the University of Kansas. In 2003, he was awarded the Samuel Eliot Morison Prize for lifetime achievement from the Society for Military History.

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