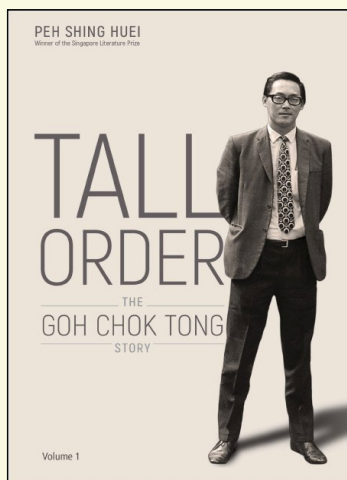


Tall Order

The Goh Chok Tong Story Volume 1

By **Peh Shing Huei**
(*The Nutgraf, Singapore*)



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ABOUT THE BOOK

Goh Chok Tong was an improbable Prime Minister for an unlikely country. He had neither the connections nor the cunning to rise to the top, and was even once famously derided by his mentor Lee Kuan Yew for being "wooden" in his communication skills. Except for an imposing height most unusual in this part of the world, he was an ordinary man. He lost his father at a young age, lived in a two-bedroom public flat with his mother and four siblings and needed a government bursary to complete university.

Yet somehow he succeeded. *Tall Order* tells the extraordinary story of his life and career over half a century, revealing how Singapore's second Prime Minister rose through a combination of strength, wit and a political nous which many, including himself, did not know he had. In this first of two volumes, Goh navigated years of a challenging apprenticeship to Lee, scoring numerous policy successes but also suffering political blows and humiliation.

He was the man who first made Neptune Orient Lines, Singapore's national carrier, profitable, before entering politics. The stellar corporate stint was followed by his many novel policies and institutions that have since become household names in the country: Medisave, Total Defence, Residents' Committee and Nominated Member of Parliament. But the highlights were counterposed by setbacks, including overseeing the People's Action Party's first electoral defeat after independence at the Anson by-election.

In the hands of acclaimed author and journalist Peh Shing Huei, this authorised biography reveals the private deliberations and negotiations between Goh and Lee before the maiden leadership transfer of independent Singapore. *Tall Order* is the first biography of Goh. This riveting book offers rare insights into Singapore's biggest and most important political and economic stories.

READERSHIP

General readers.

Contd.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peh Shing Huei is a Singapore Literature Prize-winning author of several books, including the No. 1 bestseller *Neither Civil Nor Servant: The Philip Yeo Story*. He is a founding partner of content agency The Nutgraf, and former news editor and China bureau chief at *The Straits Times*.

Other books written and co-written by the author: *Dream Island: The Mad, Mad World of Philip Yeo*; *Project 0812: The Inside Story of Singapore's Journey to Olympic Glory*; *Rings of Stars and Crescent: 70 Years of the Olympic Movement in Singapore*; *When the Party Ends: China's Leaps and Stumbles after the Beijing Olympics*; *Struck by Lightning: Singaporean Voices Post-1965*.

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