

PROFESSOR TOM PLATE is the author of seven nonfiction books, including the bestsellers *Confessions of an American Media Man* (2007) and *Conversations with Lee Kuan Yew* (2010), both published by Marshall Cavendish Editions.



He has lectured at major institutions of higher learning in Asia and America, including Kyoto University, United Arab Emirates University, the U.S. Pacific Command (Hawaii) and Stanford University (as a Media Fellow). At the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA, 1994–2008), he pioneered courses on the politics and media of Asia and founded the well-known Asia Pacific Media Network, which led to the new Pacific Perspectives Media Center.

Plate's newspaper journalism about Asia was launched in 1996 on the op-ed pages of the *Los Angeles Times*. Four years later, it was reconstituted in international syndication, and now appears in other newspapers, making it America's longest-running op-ed column on Asia and America. A career journalist who has held high-level positions at *Newsday*, *Time Magazine*, *New York Magazine*, and CBS, among other U.S. media institutions, he has been honored by the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the Greater Los Angeles Press Club, and by the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

Conversations with Mahathir Mohamad is the second in the 'Giants of Asia' series.

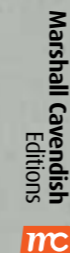


“So, I adhere to that teaching—become a Muslim fundamentalist, and Muslim fundamentalism must let me be moderate.”

Dr Mahathir Mohamad began his professional career as a family physician but wound up prescribing innovative political medicines for the entire nation that remain controversial even today. Was he exactly the bold and fearless policy doctor that the troubled body politic of Malaysia needed? Or was he just another mendacious mediocrity with a record of persistent misdiagnoses, phony remedies and self-serving justifications? Only history's judgment can offer the final verdict ... but Mahathir himself is in no doubt.

In a riveting series of unprecedented conversations, Malaysia's most famous prime minister reveals to American journalist and author Tom Plate a panoramic panoply of views on governing, on Islam, on Jews, on the West and on Malays that are striking in historical sweep and contemporary relevance.

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conversations with MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

TOM PLATE

GIANTS of ASIA



DOCTOR M:
OPERATION
MALAYSIA

conversations with

MAHATHIR
MOHAMAD

TOM PLATE
Author of the bestselling
Conversations with Lee Kuan Yew

“When the economy was growing rapidly, most Malaysians were willing to ignore the darker side of Mahathir's one-man rule. ... But no more. Still, Dr 'M' is a fascinating figure—controversial, outspoken, and never boring. ... Long before Barack Obama, he was telling his people 'yes, we can.' (*Malaysia boleh*) His legacy will be that of a bold, visionary, but ultimately flawed leader.”

*The Hon. John R. Malott,
U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia, 1995–98*

“He was an outstanding Prime Minister of Malaysia. During his premiership of over 20 years, he changed Malaysia from an agricultural, placid society into an industrial, dynamic society.

He educated his people, sent many abroad on scholarships. They in turn transformed Malaysia.”

*Lee Kuan Yew,
Prime Minister of Singapore, 1959–90*

“Tun Dr Mahathir's legacy would be much more creditable if his many achievements in the international arena and in developing our domestic infrastructure could have been enhanced by his building up strong institutions, rather than weakening them. If he had done so, Malaysia would be a much better, more united, and more progressive country, and a real example of a successful multiracial-religious country.”

*Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam,
former Deputy Secretary,
Ministry of Finance, Malaysia*