

Leaders of the new Asia-Pacific

Tigers

GREG SHERIDAN

ALLEN & UNWIN

Copyright © Greg Sheridan 1997

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Publication of this title was assisted by the Australia Council, the Federal Government's arts funding and advisory body.



First published in 1997 by
Allen & Unwin Pty Ltd
9 Atchison Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065 Australia
Phone: (61 2) 9901 4088
Fax: (61 2) 9906 2218
E-mail: frontdesk@allen-unwin.com.au
URL: <http://www.allen-unwin.com.au>

National Library of Australia
Cataloguing-in-Publication entry:

Sheridan, Greg. 1956-
Tigers: leaders of the new Asia-Pacific.

Includes index.
ISBN 1 86448 153 6.

1. Heads of state—Asia—Biography 2. Heads of state—
Pacific Area—Biography 3. Pacific Area—Politics and
government. 4. Asia—Politics and government—1945-
I. Title.

351.003109225

M 936466

Set in 10.5/13pt Arrus by DOCUPRO, Sydney
Printed by South Wind Production, Singapore Pte Ltd

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

25 MAR 19.
Perpustakaan Negara
Malaysia

CONTENTS

Foreword	vii
Acknowledgments	x
Introduction: Tigers on the prowl	xii
1 Kim Young-sam and the crucible of Korean politics	1
2 'Steady Eddie' Ramos: People Power Mark II	37
3 Lee Kuan Yew and Goh Chok Tong: Old tiger, young tiger	59
4 Suharto: The Javanese king	84
5 Paul Keating and John Howard: Australia into Asia with the dynamic duo	111
6 A New Zealand interlude: A voyage on the Starship <i>Enterprise</i>	168
7 Mahathir and Anwar: The Malay magician and the sorcerer's apprentice	182
8 Clinton in Asia: Primary colours in primary disarray	216
9 Martin Lee: The martyr in waiting	247
10 Morihiro Hosokawa: Japan's false dawn or true?	272
11 Lee Teng-hui and the promise of Chinese democracy: Stand tall, fellow Taiwanese	294
Index	318

*I wish to dedicate this book to my wife, Jasbir Kaur
Sheridan, with affection and infinite gratitude.*

FOREWORD



This is a book about leaders and leadership, in particular the leaders of the Asia-Pacific. It is based around interviews I have had with all the leaders profiled here except President Suharto of Indonesia, President Clinton of the United States, and President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan. With all the other leaders I have had at least one, and mostly several, interviews in the course of covering the region for the *Australian*. As a frequent traveller in the region over the last decade and more I have been drawn to the experience of hearing from these leaders from their own mouths what they are doing and why. This has given me a privileged vantage point from which to view the region and one I try here to share with the reader. The leaders examined here cover nations of four distinct sub-regions: North-east Asia, Southeast Asia, Australasia and the United States. Apart from the US, these countries form what one might call the East Asian hemisphere. Although the US is not geographically part of the region it is a major economic and military power in the East Asian hemisphere and you can't really consider the region without considering America's role. Of course, the book is not comprehensive. There are ten nations in Southeast Asia alone, but from Southeast Asia I have written about only Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. I am afraid the choice reflects opportunity and experience. It is simply not possible to get access to every single, serving leader in East Asia. This aside, I also decided only to write about countries to which I have been a frequent visitor. This is partly because while the