

THE ISLANDS VIEW  
CURATED BY BILJANA CIRIC

ANTTI LAITINEN





## Make your own land

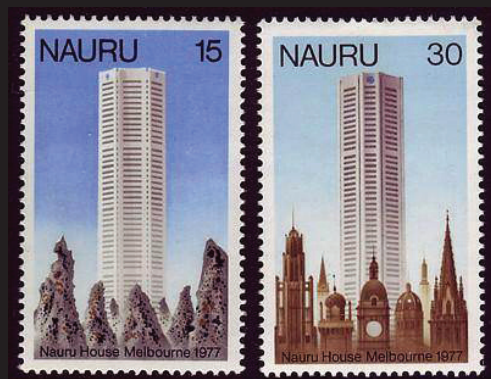
Pile soil into same spot of some water area.

It can be sea, lake, pond, puddle etc.

When the ground rises above the water surface,  
declare this new land area independent.



NICHOLAS MANGAN















ORIGINAL BLOCK OF PHOSPHATE ROCK  
WHICH LED TO THE DISCOVERY  
OF THE NAURU AND OCEAN ISLAND DEPOSITS.





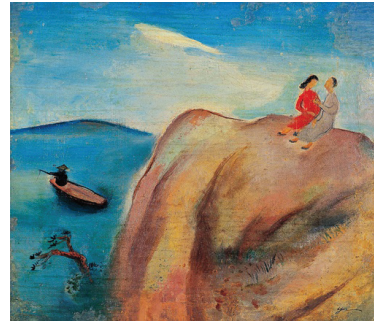








TAN HUAMU



HO TZU NYEN

## THE DICTIONARY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA: G FOR GENE Z. HANRAHAN

*The Communist Struggle in Malaya*, first published in 1954 by the Institute of Pacific Relations and subsequently republished by the University of Malaya Press in 1971 was one of the earliest general historical accounts of the Malayan Communist Party.

This short and concise text by Gene Z. Hanrahan remains - to this day - a key resource for this period of Malayan history, and has been regularly cited by subsequent studies of Communist histories in Southeast Asia. His writing was crisp, his analyses reasonable, if never spectacular. But what made the text valuable was the author's access to confidential documents beyond the reach of other researchers. Hanrahan never explained how these sources were obtained.

Hanrahan's bibliography is dazzlingly diverse. The books that he has been involved with as a researcher, translator (of multiple languages), editor and writer, include *Documents on the Mexican Revolution* (Salisbury, NC, 1976-85), a nine-volume collection of confidential documents related to the Madero Revolution of 1910, writings on military strategies and guerilla warfare, as well as introducing, translating and editing the writings of Carlos Marighella, the Brazilian Marxist revolutionary and urban guerilla theoretician.

Then, there is Hanrahan's more 'literary' streak: *ASSAULT!* (New York, 1962), an anthology of 'real' descriptions of the Pacific War by 'real' US Marines; *Hemingway - The Wild Years* (New York, 1962) a selection of Ernest Hemingway's articles for *The Toronto Star*, as well as *50 Great Oriental Stories* (New York, 1965), a collection of the "finest Oriental tales ever written", chosen and edited by Hanrahan. He also wrote brief but erudite commentaries for each section of the anthology, meant for "students of Oriental literature".

Hints to the biography of this polymath, or hack are meagerly scattered on the dust jackets of his publications, or in prefaces and forewords written by others. Hanrahan has been variously described as a naval intelligence officer, a lecturer and a specialist of guerilla warfare. But judging from the tone of these prefaces and forewords, it would seem as though none of the authors know him on intimate terms. And in *From PKI to the Comintern, 1924 - 1941: The Apprenticeship of the Malayan Communist Party* (New York, 1992), the Malaysian historian Cheah Boon Kheng declares: "it is believed that 'Gene Z. Hanrahan' is the pseudonym of a research assistant or a research organisation."

But if 'Gene Z. Hanrahan' was indeed a pseudonym, it was one that in turn, had a pseudonym. According to the U.S. Library of Congress, the author known as William J. Kennedy is the pseudonym of Gene Z. Hanrahan. As William J. Kennedy, he authored *Pre-Service Course in Shop Practice*, (New York, 1943), a technical manual for "pre-induction training based upon the requirements of the U.S. Army" to be offered to high school seniors during the Second World War, and the three-volume *Secret History of the Oil Companies in the Middle East* (Salisbury, NC, 1979).

The oeuvre of 'Gene Z. Hanrahan' can be described as consisting largely of texts that are 'documentary' in nature, but it partakes of fiction at a different level – the construction of an author. Gene Z. Hanrahan is an author dreamt up by his books, and in the oneiric skein of his bibliography, is entangled the history of Malayan communism.

Text and images by Ho Tzu Nyen.

*G for Gene Z. Hanrahan* is the second entry in *The Critical Dictionary of South East Asia*, an ongoing collection of ideas, motifs and biographies related to Southeast Asia. assembled in order to map a region of bewildering multitudes.

*The Critical Dictionary of South East Asia* was developed during Ho Tzu Nyen's residency at the Asia Art Archive.

In February 2015, Ho Tzu Nyen presented his collection of books by Gene Z. Hanrahan alongside a film *The Name*, at the DAAD Galerie in Berlin.



# THE COMMUNIST STRUGGLE IN *Malaya*

By **GENE Z. HANRAHAN**

With an Introduction by  
**VICTOR PURCELL**



International Secretariat  
**INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC RELATIONS**  
1 East 54th St., New York 22, N. Y.  
1954



# **CHINESE COMMUNIST GUERRILLA WARFARE TACTICS**

Edited and Introduction by  
Gene Z. Hanrahan

Foreward by W. R. Heaton  
United States Air Force Academy, Colorado

Preface by D. J. Alberts,  
Captain, U.S.A.F.  
Department of Political Science and Philosophy  
United States Air Force Academy, Colorado



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A DELL BOOK



**The terrorist classic**

# **Manual of The Urban Guerrilla**

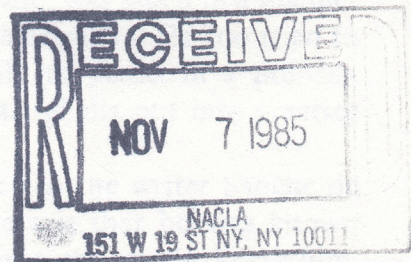
**By**

**Carlos Marighella**

With an introduction, new translation  
and a  
bibliography

by

**Gene Hanrahan**



Documentary Publications  
Chapel Hill, N.C.  
U.S.A.





# **BLOOD BELOW THE BORDER**

**American Eye-witness Accounts of the Mexican Revolution**

Edited & Introduced  
by  
Gene Z. Hanrahan



The fifty-eight documents in this volume make no pretense of providing definitive answers to these questions. The serious scholar must search more deeply for his answer. A wealth of original source materials are to be found in the vast number of government hearings and reports treating American claims for losses to life and property as a result of the Revolution. Both American and Mexican government repositories bulge with these rich sources. One must also consult the extensive contemporary body of literature produced by the revolutionaries and their leaders. Several hundred memoirs and autobiographies deal in some measure with this issue. Then, of course, there are the Mexican scholarly histories produced over the past forty years, particularly those relating to Mexico's relations with the United States. One could go on and on. But even then a final resolution to this question is at best only probable. The emotions of those days ran deep, the facts were colored by the bias of the writers, and much of the real truth may remain buried in the past.

As with the documents presented in earlier volumes in this series, all materials included in this work have been reproduced from original papers preserved in the U.S. National Archives in Washington, D.C. All materials have been presented, as far as possible, in their original form, without substantive alterations or additions.

Gene Z. Hanrahan



all these scholars, however, have been allowed to reproduce documents found within these papers. The exceptions were Yap Hong Kuan and Mahmud Embong, who were allowed to reproduce several charts on the organizational structures of the MCP, including those for 1925 and 1932. One of the important Special Branch papers frequently cited by these scholars is the "Basic Paper on the Malayan Communist Party," bound in several volumes, which is believed to include information given by police informers and Communist leaders during interrogations. Other writers, however, such as the journalist Harry Miller and the British Army officer Edgar O'Ballance whose works will be cited later, although they had not seen such papers had, nevertheless, been given police briefings on the historical background of Communist activities in Malaya. Their writing contains much useful information not found in scholarly works.

The earliest author to attempt a general history of the MCP was the mysterious "Gene Z. Hanrahan,"<sup>7</sup> while other writers, such as Virginia Thompson and Richard Adloff,<sup>8</sup> pioneered brief preliminary studies of the Malayan Communist movement. Hanrahan's work, however, is still the best concise standard account and for some years of the MCP's prewar history remains the most important account. Hanrahan studied several MCP documents, including its 1934 party constitution, which was translated and included as one of the appendices in the book. He is also the first writer to use the wartime Japanese Kempeitai's account of the MCP found in Tsutsui's work entitled *Nampo gunsei-ron* (Military government in the southern regions), published in Tokyo in 1944. Although in some areas the information in Hanrahan's work is now out-of-date, it is still a useful reference. An intriguing question is how Hanrahan gained access to those MCP documents. He does not mention the holding centers where they are kept.

The police documents compiled within this monograph are (with one exception) found in holding centers *outside* Malaysia. This must be stated because under recent amendments to the Official Secrets Act (OSA) of Malaysia, following opposition disclosures in Parliament of naval arms purchases, the Malaysian government has tightened loopholes to prevent leakage of secret and confidential government documents to the public, and violators are liable to prosecution in a court of law. Therefore, the

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permission to look at the Special Branch papers because his late father was an assistant minister in the federal government of Malaysia. While his thesis tends to be general and descriptive on the prewar period, it has, however, more recent information on the MCP's postwar history.

<sup>7</sup>Gene Z. Hanrahan, *The Communist Struggle in Malaya* (New York: Institute of Pacific Relations, 1954); reissued, by arrangement with the Publication Centre, University of British Columbia, by the University of Malaya Press, Kuala Lumpur, 1971. It is believed that "Gene Z. Hanrahan" is the pseudonym of a research assistant or a research organization. According to his bibliographical card index at Yale University's Stirling library, "Gene Z. Hanrahan" is said to have authored the following works: *An Exploratory Critical Bibliography on the Chinese Red Army, 1927-1945* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1952); *Ernest Hemingway 1896-1961: The Wild Years* (New York: Dell Publishing, 1962); *Documents on the Mexican Revolution* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: Documentary Publications, 1972); *Secret History of the Oil Companies in the Middle East* (Salisbury, N.C.: Documentary Publications, 1979); and *Marighella, Carlos, Manual of the Urban Guerrilla*, introduction, new translation and a bibliography by Gene Hanrahan (Chapel Hill, N.C.: Documentary Publications, 1985). When the University of Malaya Press decided to reprint *The Communist Struggle in Malaya* in 1971, they experienced great difficulties in contacting the "author," but finally signed a contract with a third party. Information was given to this writer by Beda Lim, retired chief librarian, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.

<sup>8</sup>Virginia Thompson and Richard Adloff, *The Left Wing in Southeast Asia* (New York: William Sloane, 1950).

## P R E F A C E

The artists presented in this exhibition on paper explore radical thinking of islands existing and imaginary, from its geographical realities to personal world explorations. These islands create archipelagos, fragmented territories that cannot be reconciled under collective identities except as individual identities as part of the diverse multiplicities bringing the world to the world.

Their approaches in researching existing islands and their political and economic settings within the capitalist mode of operation or exploring individual attempts of creating his own world as a strategy of active withdrawal, propose new models of operating within the art world and the larger social framework.

Here, withdrawal could be understood as a form of abstraction from the representative imagery of the world, to propose a notion of social abstraction through active withdrawal that in artists' current strategies means creating a space in fiction as an ISLAND within mainstream narrative.

At the same time I hope that these practices and issues discussed through the presented works hint at Edouard Glissant's archipelagic thinking. He wrote:

I imagine the museum as an archipelago. It is not continent, but an archipelago... It is not a recapitulation of something which existed in obvious way. It is the quest for something we don't know yet.

Glissant's archipelagic thinking, islands scattered but interconnected as well as his idea of mondialite-form of worldwide exchange that acknowledges and preserves diversity, stays as an important reminder that what we know should stay dynamic.

Biljana Ciric

Edouard Glissant (1928-2011) was a French writer, poet and philosopher.

Quote from *Edouard Glissant & Hans Ulrich Obrist, (100 Notes - 100 Thoughts, dOCUMENTA 13): Notebook No. 38*. Kassel: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2012.

# IMAGE CAPTIONS

ANTTI LAITINEN

It's My Island  
Still from Video

2007

Image courtesy of the Artist

<http://www.anttilaitinen.com/>

NICHOLAS MANGAN

Nauru - Notes From A Cretaceous World

2009-2010

All images courtesy of the Artist

<http://www.nicholasmangan.com/>

TAN HUAMU

Landscape

1940

Image courtesy of the Artist's Estate

HO TZU NYEN

Critical Dictionary of Southeast Asia: G for Gene Z. Hanrahan  
ongoing

All images courtesy of the Artist