From 1845 to 2020:
Singapore and the world through ST headlines

Over the course of 175 years, more than 47,000 headlines have made it to the front page of The Straits Times. Readers can now zoom in on the biggest news of the day through an interactive project that features all of ST's front pages since its first edition on July 15, 1845.
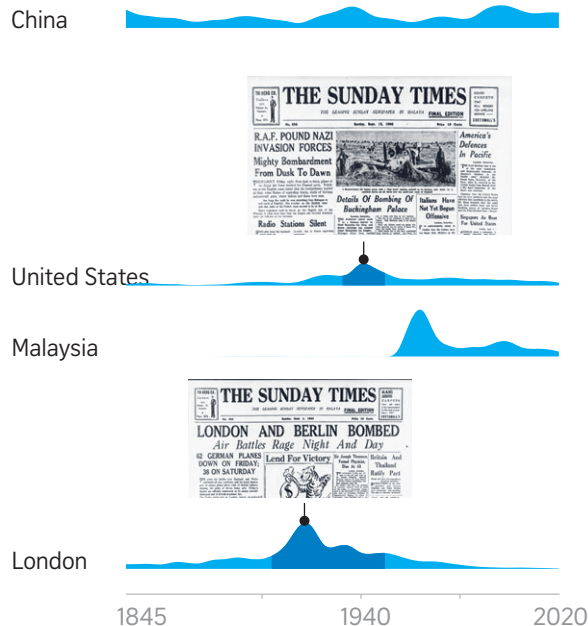
From cholera and opium to terrorism and Covid-19

Users can also explore some of the most heavily featured topics through the years, from epidemics and global affairs to local news and major crimes.
The ST digital graphics team analysed all front-page headlines using an algorithm and grouped them into key topics to give readers a good feel of what shaped Singapore and the world. These are some of the topics:

Scan to find out
What was the top story on the day you were born? And what made the news on a specific day in history?
str.sg/ST175-headlines

Global news

In colonial-era Singapore, from the 1800s to the 1940s, front-page headlines mostly mentioned locations where trading transactions relevant to Singapore took place, like China and London. As the country transformed itself into a global trading hub, coverage of other countries grew.

China

United States
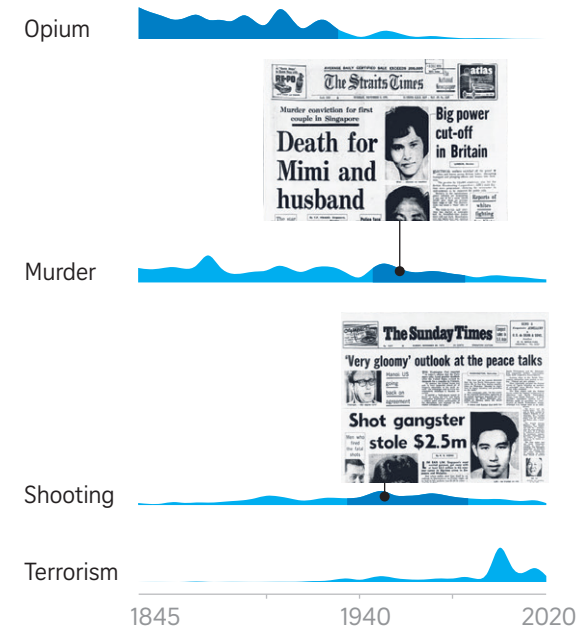
Malaysia

London

1845   1940   2020

Epidemics

During the early days, infectious diseases were associated with poor hygiene issues such as inadequate sewage facilities.
These diseases included cholera, as well as childhood diseases like polio and measles. Later, Singapore would go on to tackle other diseases, such as dengue, severe acute respiratory syndrome (Sars), Zika and Covid-19.

Cholera

Malaria

Sars

Covid

1845   1900   1940   1980   2020

Vices and crimes

ST covered stories about opium for almost half of its 175 years, mainly from the 1850s to the 1930s, tracing how the drug went from being a common commodity to becoming illegal. Other more recent headlines include the move to regulate alcohol and smoking, as well as Singapore's grim past of shootings and murders.

Opium

Murder

Shooting

Terrorism

1845   1940   2020