

## WHO IS THE TRUE FOUNDER OF SINGAPORE?

Why are we interested in finding out who is the founder of Singapore?

- -So that our future generations will not be confused about our history
- -We do not want people to have an inaccurate understanding of our history.

Why has our understanding of history changed?

- ->Change in focus->Things that we consider important

Words and phrases related to founder

Explorer	Discovering a place	Thinker
Creative	Empathetic	Grandfather/Father
Visionary	Hardworking	Someone who establishes a place
Leader	Competent	
Pioneer	Develop	
Perseverance	Searcher	

Separating it further...

Personal traits/qualities

Hardworking	Searcher
Competent	Thinker
Creative	Pioneer
Empathetic	Leader
Perseverance	Visionary
Explorer	

Actions

Discovering a place
Establishing something
Develop something

Examples of founders

- Steve Jobs, Founded Apple
- Olivia Lum, Founded Hyflux
- Sim Wong Hoo, Founded Creative

What does it mean to be a 'founder' of a place or an organization?

- -The driving force, the person who made it all possible
- -The iconic figure who is instantly recognizable as the leader of an organization
- -The person with a vision, a grand plan on what a place or organization should be like.

What is modern?

- 21<sup>st</sup> century
- 'Evolutionary' -->From the past to the present

- Revolutionary-->Radical change
- Technology

What is modern now may not be in 100 years time!

"modern' changes over time!

Modern Singapore

- Developed
- Changi Airport, Jewel
- Gardens by the bay
- Marina bay sands

Many of the things Raffles and Farquhar did laid the foundation for Singapore today!

Definition of Modern

- The ensemble of socio-cultural norms, attitudes and practices that arose in the wake of the Renaissance in the "Age of Reason" of 17<sup>th</sup> century thought and 18<sup>th</sup> century "Enlightenment"
- Some people think that the era of modernity ended by 1930, with WW2 in 1945, or the 1980s or 1990s, the following era is called postmodernity.

When did modernity/ enlightenment begin in Singapore?

- 1819

Modernity as a relative?

Dictionary definition: Relating to the recent or present times as opposed to the remote past.

- When is recent? When is remote?
- ☺ What **VISION** should a founder have?
- ☺ What **QUALITIES** should a founder possess?
- ☺ What **ACTIONS** should a founder possess?

Raffles as the founder of Singapore

Personal qualities	Actions	Impact of actions
Vision/Foresight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raffles town plan</li> <li>• Instituted laws, banned vices</li> <li>• Segregates races into different neighborhoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raffles had a vision of Singapore as a peaceful, morally upright colony</li> <li>• Able to avoid racial conflict in Singapore and ensure peace among the races, leads to more safety, more traders being attracted to Singapore, economic boom.</li> </ul>

Audacity, Daring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploited the succession dispute despite risking his career and angering Lord Hastings</li> </ul>	Gave the British legal right to take over Singapore and overcome the platform of Dutch opposition
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#### Arguments against

- × Lack of practicality ---> planned for Singapore to be a free port but did not anticipate how this would lead to a lack of revenue and how to solve this problem
- × Absent father
- × Did not execute his plans and left them to someone else.

#### Full profile

- Raffles ambition and vision which led to the search for another British base in SEA
- Vision that Singapore was to be 'A free port open to ships and vessels of every nation, free of duty, equally and alike to all'----laid the foundation for modern Singapore's strategy for economic survival
- Created the initial town plan for the Singapore Town--- Knew how to organise the settlement for it to grow orderly (Splitting the settlement into different segments for each race, prevent racial riots, Singapore safer place, people come here to trade)

#### Actions

- Took active steps to achieve his vision, carried it out
- Legitimated Sultan Hussein and signed the treaty of 1819, putting his career on risk, gave the British the right to set up a trading post
- Personally selected and directed the officers (Crawford, Farquhar) who would run Singapore on his behalf
- Instituted a magistracy (Judge with court, administer justice, ensure law and order and safety, people's interests can be protected) to dish out fairness in accordance to the laws he had set out.
- June 1819 Raffles sent Farquhar a series of instructions detailing the zoning of the town, including a designated area for the government and public quarters, a marine yard, a zone for industries, a European town, a Kampong for Chinese, Indians and Malays.

#### Qualities

- Foresight

>Recognized the strategic advantages of Singapore (Raffles Town plan, free port policy)

- Maverick (Takes risks)

>Defied orders of his superiors in the EIC to bring about the founding of Singapore.

#### Against

- But was also stubborn, ruthless and insensitive---> Abrupt dismissal of Farquhar

- Had not been the most practical of company officials ---->Abolishment of slavery, gambling, sale of opium.
- **Absent father**---->Was only in Singapore for about 9 months
  - 9 days in Jan to Feb 1819
  - 4 weeks in May to June 1819
  - 8 months from October 1822 to June 1823
- He left Singapore shortly after it was established, and did not have an active role in governing Singapore.

#### William Farquhar as the founder of Singapore

Personal qualities	Actions	Impacts
Knowledge of Malay rulers	Farquhar told succession dispute to Raffles	Raffles had legal right to establish Singapore, without which Singapore could not be developed economically
Foresight	Farquhar was able to foresee threats to Singapore's economic growth	Introduced policies such as money for rats, no throwing of garbage on the streets
Pragmatic/practical	Selling of opium and gambling licenses	Revenue raised for Singapore's police force, anti-piracy, more traders attracted. Singapore grew economically. Farquhar played an important role in the growth and development of Singapore.

Raffles's knowledge and was able to exploit

#### Full profile

- William Farquhar was born in the UK 1774
- Entered the service of the EIC as a military cadet at 17
- Served as a military engineer, helping the British capture Melaka from the Dutch in 1795
- Assisted Raffles with the invasion of Java in 1811
- Previously the Governor-general of Melaka when it was under British rule
- First British resident of Singapore
- Raffles' good friend, shared his vision of a third port in SEA

#### Farquhar's contributions

- Intimate knowledge of Malay politics
  - Farquhar alerted Raffles to the situation dispute in the Johor Sultanate
- Sensitive to the Malay customs and practices and well-loved by the people
  - Allowed sultan and Temmenggong to retain some of their traditional rights over duties and slaves (Knew them very well)
- **Connections with Melaka:** Sent news that Singapore has been founded by the British---- Ensured that Singapore had enough provision in its early days.

- Melaka exodus in 1823: 5000 traders, peddlers, carpenters, laborers and others left Melaka to follow Farquhar to Singapore.
- Arranged for the bank of the Singapore River to be cleared for larger ships to enter the harbor
- Blew up the Singapore Stone in the process, shows how he is a pragmatist and is willing to do anything to achieve his goal.
- Ensured the growth and survival of Singapore
- Raffles left him in charge of the settlement, with no monetary support from the EIC
- Raffles' free port policy and his banning of the sale of opium and gambling meant that there was no substantial revenue earned from traders who came to Singapore.
- Sold licenses for gambling and the sale of liquor.
- The profits helped to fund the government, established a first regular police force, expeditions to put down piracy, street cleaners and even grass cutters.
- Annual trade totalled 13 million Spanish dollars by 1823

#### Against Farquhar

- \* Had the knowledge of local politics but was not the one with the vision and the drive to push for a new port east of Melaka
- \* His qualities and morals were questionable-->Allowed vices to perpetrate in Singapore. What type of Singapore do we want our roots to be planted in?

#### When Raffles returned to Singapore in October 1822....

- His reaction was one of happiness, because Singapore's success was obvious, its population had grown to 5000 and more than 100 Indonesian craft had anchored at Singapore in 6 weeks.
- However, he saw many opium dens, where people could go there to smoke!
- Despite Farquhar's early success in governing Singapore, Raffles disapproved of Farquhar's actions
- Raffles believed that Farquhar's decisions to allow for vices such as opium smoking had turned Singapore into a place of vices.

#### John Crawfurd

- Scottish Doctor
- Born in 1783
- Succeeded Farquhar as the second British resident of Singapore

#### John Crawfurd's contributions

- Engineered and signed the Anglo-Malay treaty, made Singapore an official British colony
  - Managed to cut off Tengku Hussein and the Temmenggong's influence over Singapore
  - ★ August 1824 Anglo-Malay treaty, removal of all their former authority in exchange of a monthly allowance of 1300 and 700 Spanish dollars respectively, and an immediate grant of 30000 and 15000 Spanish dollars to the Sultan and Temmenggong respectively.
  - Conducted negotiations with the Dutch
- He signed the Anglo-Dutch Treaty*  
 Terms of Anglo-Dutch treaty

- British subjects were given trade access to the Maluku Islands, also known as the Spice Islands
- British ceded Bencoolen to the Netherlands
- The Netherlands ceded Melaka to the British and agreed not to enter into any treaty with the rulers of Melaka
- The Netherlands withdrew its opposition to the occupation of Singapore by the UK
- The British agreed not to establish an outpost on the Karimun Islands, the Islands of Bintan, Batam, or any of the islands south of the Straits of Malacca.

John Crawfurd as the founder of Singapore

- Built up the infrastructure of Singapore, set up port even on the basis of keeping costs low and the economy running
- Corrected many of Raffles' impractical plans
- Crawfurd reintroduced the licences for opium and spirits, brought in licenses for pawn-broking and the sale of gunpowder. Cockfighting and gambling was also legalised.
- Abolished port charges

Against John Crawfurd

- \* Again, like Farquhar, he was not the one with the vision and the drive to establish a port. Merely inherited the port and tried to make it work.
- \* The starting point of Singapore's founding would be much later as he came 1823, considering him the founder would be historically incorrect
- \* Morals were questionable, even worse than Farquhar's

END OF NOTES

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