

History

CHAPTER 1

What is it?

History is the study of the past. When we study history, we want to find out what, how & why an event happened in the past

How do historians construct knowledge about the past

In 4 steps...

- Ask qns abt the past(5W1H)
- Gather sources(Pri&Secondary sources)
- Examine the source to extract info
(Consistency,corroboration&credibility)
- Arrive at a logical conclusion about the past

Sources

Divided into 4 groups

1. Written evidence-news, official records etc...
2. Pictorial evidence-paintings, posters, maps etc...
3. Oral evidence-interviews spoken by witnesses
4. Artefacts-items used by the people in the past

Why study it

- Understand change and how society has come to be
- Learn from past successes and failures
- Understand and respect each other
- Develop critical thinking skills

How connected was Singapore to the region & the world

- Its location was very strategic
- Located between South of china & East of India (where most trades take place)
- Very attractive due to the location & proximity of these places
- Chinese goods like silk & ceramic & Indian goods like spices & wood were in high demand & being traded a lot

The silk route(It was called the silk route as the amount of silk trading that took place was huge)

In its early days, trade was only done by land, it was a historic trade route that dated to the 2nd century BC stretched through China India Arabia Persia Greece & Italy traders then turned to maritime route as it became unsafe due to dangers & travel difficulties

Maritime Trade Route

Due to dangers in the silk route, traders used Maritime trade routes around 100BC

People built better, faster & stronger ships thus it was faster&safer to travel by sea than by land

Most traders were from the Middle East, China, India & Southeast Asia

This led to the demand for ports in Asia where ships could rest & repair their ships & get replenishment

Growth of ports

Ports were strategically located alongChina, India maritime trade routes

During early days, tech wasn't developed & a ship couldn't sail over long distances without stopping at ports

These stopover points were called ports of call as they serve convenient stopovers for ships to be resupplied with food, water repairs

These ports then became collection centres for goods & a place to rest

Overtime these ports evolved into major trading hubs

Monsoon winds

In the early days, ships had to rely on the winds for their travel

Ships had to travel with the flow of the wind to reach their destination

Thus the winds that blow towards & away from Singapore was useful for travelling to & from Singapore

How did early Singapore become an important trading center

How did early SG become an important trading empire

Srivijaya was a mighty empire & had control of the main trade routes in the sea around

But the empire collapsed in the 13th century due to war & was taken over by another kingdom

This then led to the major decline of Srivijaya as a major trading port

Traders then shifted to the straits of Melaka and moved to SG as it was closer

What do early sources say about SG's connection to the world

1) RECORDS

Chinese merchant/traveller from Yuan China visited SG around 1300, says that the climate was hot with heavy rains and there were also pirates living there

2) Archaeological finds

Singapore was a major trading city since as early as the 14th century

Pottery, Jewellery & other objects show that SG had trade relations with other countries

SG traded with India, China & other countries within the region

3) Maps

Many historians know about Singapore in the 16th century itself

The Spanish map shows the coast of SG

The map contains names of places in SG that are still used today

Scientific Data

Tree Ring record Show that There was famine and drought during that period

Singapore's trade suffered during those periods

WHY DID SG DECLINE DURING THE 14TH CENTURY

1) Climate & ECONOMIC CHANGES

During the 14th century, there were severe famines in china

As the Chinese economy collapsed Singapore would also have been affected

2) External threats

Singapore was also affected by external threats

As a small nation, it could not afford a big army/navy

Bigger kingdoms like the Majapahit empire could have also caused the downfall of Singapore

3) Melaka sultanate

Melaka took over SG as a key trading port in the 15th century

Melaka came under the protection of china

Melaka came under the protection of china

Melaka was also the main port of call for the imperial king navy

Because of this, the importance of Melaka grew while Singapore declined

Importance of SG to the Johore sultanate

SG was able to rise back to prominence again as many European travellers wrote about Singapore

Trade between the Johore sultanate and China increased as it mainly focused on porcelain and other artefacts

Trades were done through SG thus it was a gateway to china trade

Sustainability of SG

SG had a deep natural harbour, thus it was easy for ships to come much closer to shore and goods can be loaded easily from ships

It had plenty of fresh water and thereby it can supply a large number of people Its strategic location meant that it was at the halfway port for ships to dock between India and China and thus was at a commanding position

this would give the brits good control over their India china trade

How did the Brits establish a port in SG

Raffles decided to support Tengku Hussien as the rightful Sultan

Hussein allowed the brits to set up a trading port in SG

On 16 Feb 1819, Hussein was proclaimed as the sultan of Johore

A treaty was signed that allowed the Brits EIC to set up a trading settlement in SG

The Temenggong and Hussein would receive protection and a yearly allowance from the EIC

What did the Brits do to develop SG as a settlement from 1819-1826

Major William Farquhar

Singapore's first resident

Developed SG according to Raffles plan

Encouraged many local traders to come to SG to trade

Cleared the plains on the NE bank of SG river

SG became a thriving cosmopolitan town

Established defence positions around SG

Informed ships passing SG about the tax-free port

Granted licenses to increase gambling, liquor, opium

Sir Stanford Raffles

Raffles left SG and Farquhar was left to manage the colony

Raffles only came back after 4 years

He was furious that his plans were neglected and weren't happy with opium and slave trading

Shut down opium houses, gambling dens and brothels opened by Farquhar

Came up with Raffles town plan

Dr John Crawford

British Resident of SG in Mar 1823

Started reclamation work on the SG river

Reintroduced the licensing of gambling, prostitution and opium

Encouraged free trade

Concluded the final agreement on SG

Introduced SG's first newspapers and street light

Chapt 3

How did British rule and External developments affect SG's growth & Why did SG grow into a leading port

From the 1840s onwards, SG became an important port in the region Because of

The opening of the Chinese market

Ocean-going steamships meant less time & cost of shipping goods to Europe

Growth of rubber & tin in Malaya

Arrival of many Malay, Indian & Arab traders

Opening of Suez canal (1869)

No taxation & little restriction. Establishing many merchant houses (Import & Exporting agencies were set up in SG)

What is entrepot trade

It's otherwise known as transshipment port or trading port

Goods brought here from other countries are stored or redistributed to other countries

SG was the main center for redistribution to the whole of Southeast Asia during colonial days

SG police force

SG's police force in the early days was small and weak

1843 Thomas Dunman was appointed as the police chief

He increased wages, modernised it & set up a Police Training School & Police Academy

By 1930s it had 2k officers and became a formidable fighting force & managed to maintain law&order

Secret society problems

Many immigrants were poor & had no friends when they came to SG, Secret societies helped the coolies who were sick & jobless. They also gave a proper burial to those who died with no money

But they were responsible for many riots that happened & targeted the houses of the rich, Colonial authorities could not stop them as they did not understand their language/customs

Labour abuse of coolies

Many poor Chinese immigrants employed in agri, construction, shipping & mining were often exploited by coolie brokers & had to endure bad living conditions while earning very little. Many of the jobs taken by coolies involved in hard labour, which tolled their bodies. In order to escape from the misery & relieve their bodies, many turned to smoking opium or gambling

Prostitution

The majority of people who came to work were men thus there weren't many women in SG as there was an imbalance between male & female population, thus there was a Great demand for brothels as there were large profits to be made

In 1884 there were 2000 Chinese female prostitutes in SG - 1/3 of the Chinese female population

Chinese protectorate (EST 1877)

William Pickering became the protector & was involved in helping exploited coolies & prostitutes as he was knowledgeable in Chinese customs and language & has a good relationship with Chinese community & solved many problems

He would act as an intermediary between the colonial gov & Chinese community

These made secret society members dislike him & an attempted assassination attempt (1887) which led to his eventual forced retirement (1888)

Piracy

The most serious problem in SG

They were well-armed which attacked boats & carried off prisoners - Mainly Chinese & European ships (1850s) the royal navy was patrolling the area & Malay peninsula with steam-powered ships which were more powerful. The Dutch & Spanish were also attacking the pirates. China also agreed to cooperate in suppressing piracy under the provision of treaties signed with western powers (1860). With such measures in place, Piracy was greatly controlled & reduced

Education

The Brits made important reforms in education

(1902) they introduced EL Pri Schs

(1905) They opened a med school

(1889) Est the Queen's scholarship for bright students

Wealthy parents sent their children to EL schools which provided jobs in the government, professional, or business areas.

At the turn of the century, schools were even established in SG for Chinese women

Healthcare

The population had quadrupled from 1830-67

Most people didn't have access to healthcare services, Many diseases such as smallpox caused severe health issues & mostly the lower-income suffered

Chinese businessmen like Tan Tock Seng & others established free hospitals

Expansion of port facilities

SG's port facilities failed to keep up with its commercial development

The harbour board was only established in 1915 which replaced old wharves & warehouses with more modern ones

and a new graving dock (dry dock) was established & Trucks slowly replaced ox carts for transporting goods to town

(1909) Now possible to travel from Singapore to Penang by train & rail ferry

(1923) Johore causeway linked road & rail transport between SG & Malaya

What impact did external developments have on SG's growth as a port city

External (Many developments happened in the 19th century)

Opening of Suez canal (17/11/1869)

LON-SG 120-50 days. SG was the main stopover point for resupplying & replenishment of goods. The opening of the Suez canal led to more people travelling for business & leisure.

SG benefitted greatly because of the lower shipping costs due to reduced travel time & increased number of ships passing through

Thailand opening up for trade

Invention of steamships

Canning industry & Rubber processing

Growth of the auto-industry

Helped increase the demand for rubber as it was needed to make tyres

Increased demand for rubber, tin & sugar

Rubber from Malaya was brought to SG to be processed & sent to different parts of the world which led to a huge increase in trade between SG & Malaya. A Tin melting factory was thus established in SG & it became very profitable. Slowly, Tin became the most important item traded in SG

Great Depression

By the 1930s SG was hit by & was severely affected by the Great Depression which caused Prices of rubber & tin to fall drastically as many businessmen became bankrupt & Thousands lost their jobs as a result

Government restricted the number of immigrants & Most immigrants were sent back to their home country

Only in 1934 did the situation improve & things went back to normal

Conclusion

By 1942 SG had become a busy port as British policies & external events had a positive impact on the economy

Rubber & Tin industries as well as the opening of the Suez canal made SG a major trading center

Immigrants also played a critical role in developing SG as a port city as they provided the labour & trade networks that were important for SG

CHAPT 4 MASS MIGRATION

Mass migration-Physical movement of large groups of people over long distances which leads to interaction & cultural exchange between countries

Reasons

Industrial revolution-Major improvement in tech & mass production led to the creation of new industries & production of more goods increased the demand for more raw materials found outside Europe

Mass migration took place in search of raw materials as the invention of steam tech made travelling faster & further than before

Who were the migrants

Immigrants are the labourers who came to SG in droves to escape hardship at home. Most were from

China, India, Malaya & Indonesia. Most stayed temporarily & were more attached to home rather than SG but they were very hardworking & resilient people

Characteristics of early immigrants

Mostly men who did not intend to stay for long. Some married locals, others sent their families over. Malays were the majority until mid 19th century until the Chinese took over. Different ethnic groups were segregated based on Brits concept of divide & rule. Each group had a Kapitan (Local head) to take charge

SG in its early days

Most immigrants were not educated as they lived in very crowded & unhygienic settlements. Many of them were subjected to a lot of exploitation as they worked under very hard conditions

They were nevertheless the backbone of modern SG

Why did they come to SG

Push factors-Unfavourable conditions in their homeland(War,natural disaster,poverity etc)Conditions were so bad that it pushed them out of their homeland

China-Clan&civil wars

19-20th century there were fierce clan wars between the

Hakka&Guangdong province(1855-67),Different political parties& independent warlord armies(1910-30)

Guomindang vs Communist Red army

These made people decide to go to SG

India-Natural Disasters,Wars&Rebellions

Depended on monsoon season for rain(Lack of rain=Less harvest=famine)

Approx 50mil deaths(late18-19th centuries)&The great famine(1876-78),

These caused a large number of artisans&Agricultural labourers to leave for SG

British extended their control over parts of India which made Indian rulers resent it

Indian rebellion 1857-Rebels were caught by the Brits&Sent overseas as convict labourers, They were cheap labour in British colonies like SG

Pull factors-Favourable conditions in the host country(Job abundance, peace etc)SG was like a magnet that attracted people from different parts of the world

Better trade opportunities: SG was able to attract merchants & traders from all over Asia. It served as a meeting point for traders from different countries(Britain,China,India,Middle east).This helped it emerge as a major trading center.Making it a place with many trade opportunities

Excellent Geographical location-It was situated along the straits of melaka,Connecting Indian ocean&South China Sea&key point of trade between asia&Europe

Free immigration policy

Could come&go as they please&were allowed to stay for as long as they wish,It was also able to make money due to its free port status.Immigrants were also able to save alot of money if they were frugal.This thus attracted immigrants to come to SG

Street traders

Travelling hawkers/street traders were a common sight back in the day as they sold daily products,it was a way for the unskilled to make a living with little costs.Some of the services offered were street

barbers,cobblers,locksmiths&tin workers

Moneylenders

Skilled Indians(Chettiers) who were proficient in accounting,banking&credit services became money lenders

They provided loans to traders who were rejected by the banks & contributed significantly to SGs growth of trade&commerce

Labourers

Chinese coolies who were engaged in unskilled hard labour,the backbone of early SGs labour force

Mainly poor&undeeducated Chinese immigrants who came to SG& were employed in almost every sector

They were often exploited&abused by coolie workers

During the 1870-80s some coolies were unwillingly sent to Sumatra

Convict labourers

Until 1873 public works in SG was through Indian convicts who were sent here,they had as a result contributed much towards SGs development.They even made their own bricks for construction.They built many roads(North&South bridge,Serangoon&keppel road). Cavanagh bridge was the last major project undertaken by the Indian convict labourers in 1869

Chapt 5 The fall of SG

In 1920s British empire is now largest in the world as it ruled over $\frac{1}{4}$ of the worlds land area&population

However in the 1930s Germany&Japan began to challenge Britain, they were serious threats to the empire& international peace

Rise of Nazi Germany

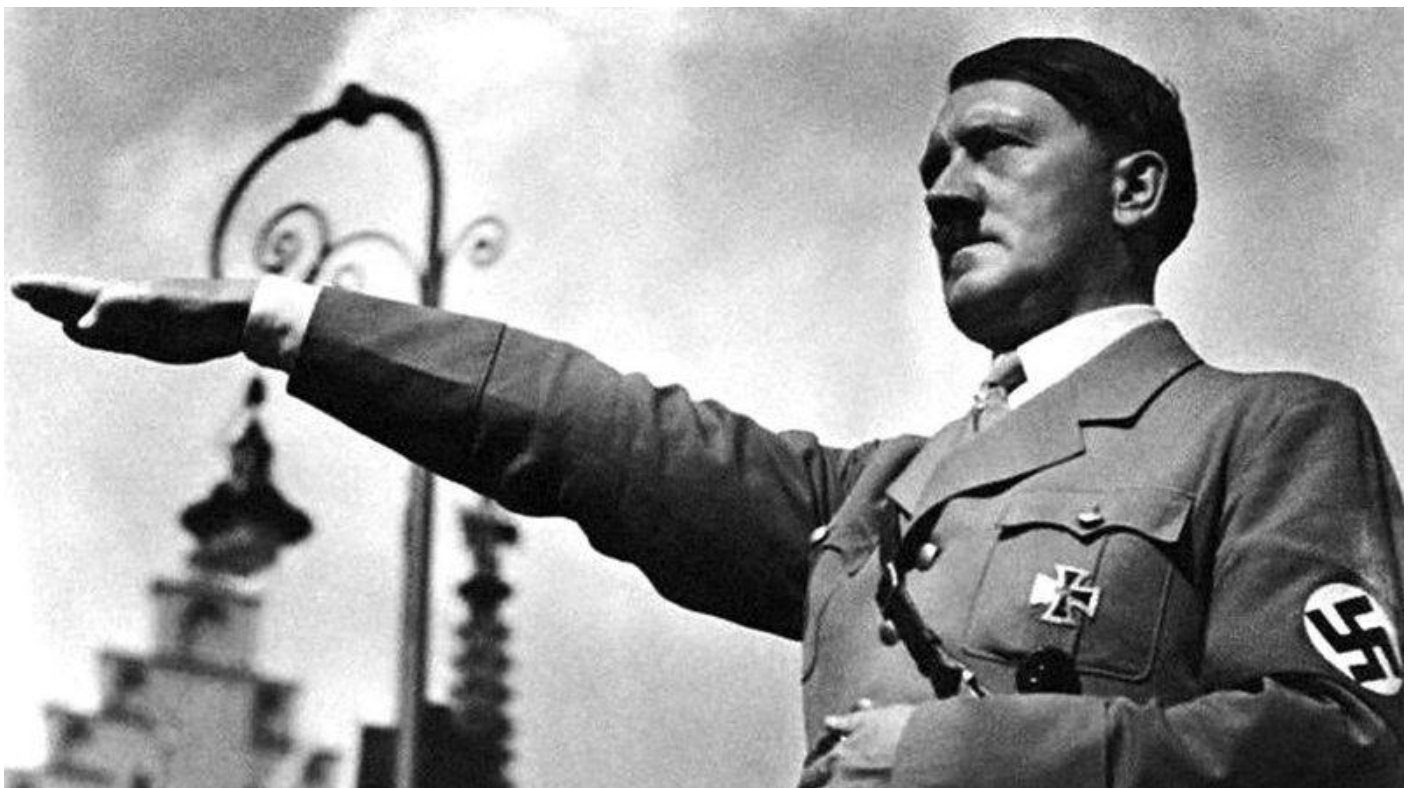
After world war 1, Germany lost its status as a great power as the German economy was in ruins&there was great hardship. Under those circumstances, Adolf Hitler rose to power as he promised the people that he would make Germany great again.

By the 1930s Germany was getting stronger&more powerful;

Japan

At the same time Japan also had ambitions of becoming a great power as it decided to build an empire in Asia, which would give them the land&resources they needed. In less than 50 years, it became a modern&industrialised country

It began to search for colonies that was against the interest of Britain&the US. Bringing Japan into direct conflict with the US. These developments had important implications for the security of Britain and its empires overseas



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