

Singapore, an Accidental nation

What does a country need to survive?

- 1) Natural Resources
- 2) Leadership
- 3) United People
- 4) Defence
- 5) Foreign Investment

strength/weakness/opportunity/threat

Modern Day

Natural Resources Key challenge	No natural resources Deep natural harbour/port [Can also be opportunity]
Leadership Always a cause for concern.	Governing party with a majority Leaders with shared goal and vision Examples: Lee Kuan Yew, Goh Keng Swee, Toh Chin Chye, S Rajaratnam [political leaders] Business leaders: (Lee Kong Chien, etc.)
United People Better than the past but still work in progress	Nation of migrants-different races, religion, languages, culture, etc. Attract traders from different places speaking those languages or practising the religions Racial tensions-this might be a catalyst for conflicts. Social cohesion is a problem Communication barrier-lead to conflict as people do not have a common language Attract traders from different places speaking those languages or practising the religions. This can help to boost economic growth A possible threat could be migrants influencing locals with radical ideas/communism(Threat to national safety)
Defence Improved :)small but potent	No defence force Potential military threat Learnt from Israel (small countries surrounded by other bigger territories.)
Foreign Investment (Singapore's reputation and credentials) Extremely well :DDDDD Singapore-World's most competitive economy	Dependent on entrepot trade. Need to build up our manufacturing and financial industries.

Campaigns(Mr Lee Kuan Yew)

- Saving water
- English as the main mode of communication (Children had to take up 1 of 3 languages: Chinese, Malay or Indian as a mother tongue)
- Anti-corruption
- River clean up

2 key topics

- 1) Challenges facing Singapore post independence
- 2) How Singapore addressed and overcame these challenges.

The first step for nation building in Singapore was to **survive**.

Singapore secured Natural resources with other countries-Eg. Water Agreement with Malaysia

However, Singapore could not just depend on Malaysia for the resources.

The stakes were very high and it was one shot at success for leaders of Singapore after independence.

What is Singapore's relevance?

Need to constantly think about where our value is at.

3 challenges that Singapore faced **right after independence**:

1. Defence
2. Economy
3. Political Stability/Livelihoods/housing

Forging the Singaporean Identity

Psychological challenge?

More important problems back then, that needed to be solved to ensure the survival of the nation.

Where does forging the Singaporean Identity fit in in our list of priorities.

"Existential crisis"-> crucial to survival

Key obstacles in building a Singaporean identity during the early years of independence:

-Racial tensions

Fragile social fabric could be strained easily. A racial riot took place on 31 May 1969, the Internal Security Department stepped in to quash the conflicts together with the police and ethnic tensions remained high in the years to come.

-A young nation

The known history of Singapore dated back to 1819. However, national history was first written in 1980

-Little shared experience

Divide and rule during British rule-different communities did not share similar experiences that bonded them. Short 3 years of Japanese Occupation drew the people together and provided a shared experience. But after the occupation?

Identity:

Sense of community

Shared experiences

Collective memory binds us together

Efforts put in to build an identity:

Solution-Unity in diversity

Dual identity:

Ethnic identity-the different races

National identity-being Singapore

Build a society without ethnic enclaves

Understand that the Singapore identity is dynamic!

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Ethnic Enclaves

When Raffles came to Singapore, he made the Raffles Town plan which segregated the community into different groups(different races lived in different places)

However, the idea of ethnic enclaves is not applicable in modern day Singapore due to the small land size and Singapore being a multiracial society

Examples of Government policies to encourage **Singapore identity**/multiracialism:

Housing

Ethnic Integration Policy(EIP)

The EIP is put in place to preserve Singapore's multi-cultural identity and promote racial integration and harmony. It ensures that there is a balanced mix of the various ethnic communities in HDB towns. The EIP limits are set at block/ neighbourhood levels based on the ethnic make-up of Singapore.

For the purchase of an HDB flat, a household with members of different ethnic groups can choose to classify their household ethnicity under the ethnic group of any owner or spouse (co-owner or occupier), according to the race shown on the NRIC of the chosen member. Once an ethnicity is chosen for the household, it will remain the same when the flat owners subsequently sell their flat on the open market.

(source:HDB flats)

Education

National schools where students of different races study together(with the exception of SAP schools)

Purpose of such policies: To break up ethnic enclaves and encourage the diverse people of Singapore to interact with one another. This facilitated the growth of a harmonious community.

Introduction of National Service for defence

Instill a sense of loyalty in the young men of Singapore.

Annual National Day Celebrations (a display of patriotism)

Bring Singaporeans together to celebrate success.

Ethnic enclave

"Economic Challenges and how Singapore overcame them"

1. Manufacturing
2. Infrastructure
3. Tourism + Finance Industries

Consider the question: Why did Singapore succeed where others have 'failed'?