

Chapter Summary (1 & 2)

SG Port

What made Singapore become what it was in the past (before Europeans)?

→ Geographical Location

- along the trade route that was used ^{for} the China-India trade and outside
- China and India were influential civilisations that traded a lot in the region.
- China's silk and ceramics were in high demand in Europe
- SEA's spices, scented wood and shells were valuable in China and India.

★ The Silk Road

↳ Most important trade link in the past → connected Asian, Middle-Eastern and European civilisations.

⇒ The Silk Road became less safe for traders ⇒ they stopped using it and started relying more on maritime passages for trade routes.

→ Singapore got more involved in trade ⇒ many traders from China, Middle East and SEA

↳ wealth from the trade made Srivijaya and the Melaka Sultanate become small kingdoms.

passed by to pick up supplies / repair ships / wait for better weather conditions before setting sail.

→ Singapore was at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula

⇒ China & India traders would have to pass through the Straits of Melaka (fastest route) [↑] less risky

⇒ They would have to pass by Singapore along their route.

★ Monsoon Winds

↳ Singapore's trade involvement was so high because for most of the year, the monsoon winds would naturally guide ships towards

Singapore.

→ Strong winds = faster journey

reduce resource usage
↓
save money

→ Fall of Srivijaya

(It was south of Singapore)

- Srivijaya was thriving as a port and attracted many people/traders.

↓
strong defense ⇒ safer for ships to sail within region

⇒ less risk of pirate attacks.

- Srivijaya fell to external threats (Chola Kingdom, Siamese Kingdom, Majapahit)

⇒ Trade shifted to the Northeast (to SG)

→ Increased trade between China and SEA

Decline of Singapore (first time)

Why did Singapore decline by the 15th century?

★ Started to decline mid - 14th century

→ Climate Changes / Economic Changes

→ Weather patterns changed drastically in the 14th century

⇒ China suffered lots of droughts / famines ⇒ Collapsed Economy

⇒ Trade between China & SEA suffered too.

⇒ Reduced SG's major sources of wealth

→ External Threat

→ Singapore was a small island ⇒ constantly targeted by others.

→ Temasek was attacked and weakened by Majapahit and Ayutthaya by the end of the 14th century.

→ Founding of Melaka

→ Melaka was also well-located, gaining control over most of the Malay Peninsula. It was also very safe (in terms of its harbour)

→ Parameswara (important guy from Melaka) married Muslim Princess
⇒ attracted Muslim traders

→ Parameswara made Melaka a vassal of China

⇒ Melaka paid tribute to China in exchange for protection from ext. threats.

★ Singapore was overshadowed by Melaka, reducing Singapore's significance.

Arrival of Europeans

→ they established new maritime trade routes into Asia

Other circumstances

→ European economic rivalries (Spain, Portugal, Netherlands) began to focus on Asia ⇒ tried to establish trading settlements in SEA.

→ Melaka was being weakened because of:

→ internal conflict

→ power struggles

⇒ they became vulnerable

⇒ Portuguese took over them.

→ The sultan of Melaka fled over to the South.

→ His successor became Sultan of a kingdom along Johor river (Johor Sultanate)

Rise of Singapore (2) - With the Europeans!

How/Why did Singapore rise again?

- Melaka fell (prev. page)
- We now have ... JOHOR SULTANATE

Evidence of trade in SG

- 17th Century Chinese Map - Shipping routes from China to SEA
- Chinese porcelain from 17th Century ⇒ Chinese products in SG = trade !!
(similar stuff found in Johor)
- Presence of Shahbandar (give trade licenses) ⇒ suggests there were lots of traders there.

Decline of Singapore (2)

- Political Changes
 - Dutch moved to Sundra Straits & Java, away from Straits of Melaka.
 - Dutch also established main trading base in Asia at Batavia in 1619.
 - ⇒ They were the dominant European power in Southeast Asia after getting Melaka from the Portuguese in 1641.
 - By the 1700s, maritime traffic was bypassing Singapore.

* assassination of childless Sultan Muhammad = great political crisis.

- Trade moved away from Singapore = Not many traders in SG
= No Shahbandar.
 - Other Regional ports replaced SG → linked Indian Ocean & South China Sea.

* Singapore lost its significance - became sparsely populated.
- pirates raided / hid.

CHAPTER 2

Why did the British choose to come to SEA?

→ India-China Trade

- ⇒ The British were having imports from China & India
 - China - Tea, silk, porcelain ; India - Cotton, opium
- ⇒ The British wanted to protect the trade route to ensure a stable import of these items.
- * The Dutch were currently controlling the South China Sea ↔ Indian Ocean.

→ Overpower the Dutch

- ⇒ The British wanted to overpower the Dutch in the Trade Business
- ⇒ The Dutch were in the SEA region, trading and had lots of control.
- * To overpower the Dutch, the British ~~decided~~ had to go to SEA to get control over the region through trade.

→ Interest in the Spice Trade

- ⇒ 1400s onwards → spices like cinnamon, pepper & nutmeg (from Asia) were as valuable as gold in Europe.
- Used for medicine, ~~and~~ food preservation (refrigeration/artificial)

★ High demand for spices ⇒ high prices
⇒ indication of wealth.

→ European powers began competing with each other for control over the spice trade.

★ End of 15th century → Explorers were looking for new ways to reach spice-making regions.

Why did the British choose Singapore to establish their trading port in?

→ Lack of Dutch Presence

- Singapore was out of the Dutch's sphere of influence.
- Dutch couldn't interfere much.
- Easier to trade freely (and trading within their sphere of influence would make it harder to control them.)

→ Natural sheltered Harbour / Good Harbour

- Safe from storms (monsoon storms)
 - ↳ protected goods
 - ↳ reduced damage on ships/cargo
- deep waters
 - ↳ easy for large cargo ships to dock
 - ↳ more goods to be shipped in one journey ⇒ profit!!

★ ANOTHER REASON (not character of Singapore)

- None of their existing SEAN ports were close to the center of trade.
- They needed a port in the center of the trading business

→ Good supply of drinking water

- rain water, underground water, springs/streams ⇒ all not polluted yet = lots of water to drink & survive on
- Some places have to import water ⇒ new way to make money.

→ Good geographical location

- just along the IC trade route and other trade routes ⇒ convenient place to stop by

★ Monsoon Winds!!

- guided ships to SG naturally
- good economy & very busy trade.

How did the British establish a trading port in SG?

→ Succession Dispute

- Tengku Hussein vs Tengku Abdul Rahman
 - Widow of Sultan Mahmud Shah
 - Bugis Chiefs (lots of power)
 - won
 - lost

★ Raffles brought him back to SG

- said to give him protection & financial assistance
- TH thought it was a chance to come back.

★ 6 Feb 1819 → TH and Raffles + Temenggong signed ~~the first treaty~~ agreement ⇒ Sultan Hussein

★ Trading Post !!

How the Dutch Responded + How British solved it.

- Dutch were angry ⇒ contested Raffles' actions
 - ⇒ claimed that Singapore ~~was~~ was theirs because it was part of Johor-Riau (under Dutch sphere of influence)
- British Government was also angry - Raffles was risking ruining the Dutch's and British's good relationship.
- Lord Hastings was with Raffles - they really needed a good port there.

→ British / Dutch still didn't go to war against each other.
(both governments wanted to remain on friendly terms.)

→ European wars (1789-1815) ⇒ British realised they needed Dutch on their side.

★ The European wars disrupted Dutch trade ⇒ Dutch borrowed a lot of stuff from Britain

1824 Anglo-Dutch Treaty

- 17 March 1824
- Reps of British and Dutch Government
- Dutch dropped legal claims over SG
- British sphere / Dutch Sphere of influence

⇒ They didn't want to get involved in wars ⇒ it could harm their economy.

⇒ Dispute solved
(only literally a few years later)

1824 Treaty of Friendship and Alliance

- 2 August 1824
- Dr John Crawford, Temenggong Abdul Rahman, Sultan Hussein
- British got Control over entire SG

→ they got money.

(Sultan & Temenggong)

Control of SG ↓ ↑ money
(EIC)

What did the British do to develop SG?

Ferguson	Crawford	Raffles
- set up defence force + police force - got ppl to advertise ^{the} new port. → attracted many traders → SG became bustling marketplace - Traders from Melaka solved the SG food storage issues (due to ↑ population)	- reintroduced gambling after Raffles banned them - Profits were used to improve SG - maintain free trade (Raffles wanted it) - introduced newspaper + street lighting - Signed the 1824 treaty of Friendship and Alliance	- based in Bencoolen (1818-1824) - Visited SG 3 times - Dismissed Ferguson - he was unhappy with Ferguson and how he developed SG - Shut down gambling dens - Banned it in Bencoolen too.

TOGETHER

- They enforced law / defence forces
- made the port popular (through advertisements)
- Infrastructure of SG