

Own history notes („> – <“) WAR IS OVERRR A2!! LET'S GO PURE
SCIENCE STREAM WITH GEO BYE HISTORY I NEVER WANT TO SEE U AGAINN

Chapter 6: What did the people in Singapore experience during the Japanese Occupation?

Summary of the Chapter

The British surrender began on 15 February 1942 and lasted until 12 September 1945

It was a period of great hardships for the majority of the population. Almost every aspect of life, such as food, education and labour, was heavily controlled and regulated by the Japanese.

The people of SG => lacked resources, and there was constant fear and hopelessness.

How did the Japanese establish control in Singapore?

- Using force
 - Winning loyalty
-

USING FORCE =>

- Meting out harsh punishments
- imprisoning Allied soldiers
- Carrying out Operation Sook Ching
- Coercing the Chinese business community

WINNING LOYALTY => Using propaganda

- Providing benefits to the Locals
- Imposing Japanese culture

Meting out harsh punishments

The Japanese punished criminals or anyone whom they considered enemies harshly.
They wanted to use these harsh punishments to create **fear** and serve as **severe warnings** to discourage people from committing crimes or going against them.

For example,

The Japanese executed those who were caught for looting. Their heads were displayed publicly in places such as the open area outside the Cathay building and on bridges across the Singapore River.

One group that many people feared above all was the Kempeitai, the Japanese military police. The Kempeitai would arrest anyone suspected of being anti-Japanese.

They would offer rewards such as food and cash to the people to encourage them to inform the authorities of whom they suspected of being involved in anti-Japanese activities.

As a result, nobody knew whom to trust and people became suspicious of each other.

After they caught the anti-Japanese suspects, they would torture or beat them up until they gave them the information they wanted. Some anti-Japanese suspects were imprisoned or executed.

Imprisoning Allied soldiers

The Japanese imprisoned the British, Australians and Allied Europeans, including women and children, when they took control of Singapore.

These Allied prisoners of War (POWs) were forced to march in public from Bukit Timah Road to Changi Prison and the barracks nearby.

Many civilians offered food and money to the POWs despite the risk of being punished by the Japanese soldiers.

Carrying out Operation Sook Ching

The Japanese soon carried out Operation Sook Ching after taking control of Singapore.

It was aimed to identify and eliminate anti-Japanese elements among the local population.

It was a brutal purge of members of the Chinese community who were suspected of being anti-Japanese

The Chinese population was targeted as they were viewed by the Japanese as a potential source of opposition and threat to their rule.

This was because when the Japanese invaded China in 1937, they faced strong resistance from the Chinese, including Chinese communities living outside of China.

For instance, the Chinese community in Singapore called for a boycott of Japanese goods and contributed funds to China's efforts against Japan.

Some even returned to China to join in the fight against the Japanese.

In this operation, all Chinese men aged 18-50 must come for a mass screening by the Japanese that were located in different places such as the former Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) building at Stamford Road which was also the headquarters of the Kempeitai East District Branch.

The process:

- Each of them would be interrogated by a Japanese officer.

- The officer would be accompanied by informants who would look out for **secret society members with tattoos, former Chinese civil service servants and journalists** and identify them as anti-Japanese suspects.

- These people were thought to have stronger links with China and would show resistance to the Japanese.**

- Those who were identified as anti-Japanese would receive a triangular mark.

- They would be tied up and heavily guarded by the Japanese.

- They would transport them to Punggol or Changi beaches to be executed.

The Japanese records show about 6000 people being killed during this operation. However other records show the figure to be between 25000 and 50000

- Those who were NOT identified as anti-Japanese would receive a stamp on a piece of paper, clothing, face, arm or shoulder and were allowed to go home.

Coercing the Chinese Business Community

The Japanese also targeted the Chinese businessmen in Singapore because of their generous contributions to the China Relief Fund, which supported China's resistance against Japan.

The Japanese government and the Chinese community set up the Overseas Chinese Association (OCA) as a channel of communication between them.

Dr Lim Boon Keng was appointed as head of OCA.

The Japanese demanded that the OCA gift 50 million strait dollars to the Japanese administration as a punishment for the Chinese community supporting anti-Japanese war activities in China as well as British war efforts in Malaya and Singapore.

WINNING LOYALTY

Using propaganda

The Japanese used **propaganda** to **influence the minds** of the local people and **gain their loyalty**. The Japanese portrayed themselves as liberators who had come to free Asians from colonial rule.

They tried to convince the locals to accept their vision of the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere in which Japan **would free Asian nations** from the control of the Western colonial powers.

There would be a **united Asia** that **shared resources collectively** to benefit one another.

These messages were spread through various channels such as posters and radio broadcasts.

Propaganda images such as posters, photographs, and postcards.

They wanted to establish themselves as the leaders in Asia. It was to gain power and dominance. By being able to control Asia, Japan would have access to natural resources such as oil, rubber and tin. With these resources, Japan would be assured of their status and power as well as the survival of their own country

Add in information at the back

Providing benefits

The Japanese offered some benefits to the locals, such as free education and accommodation, to win local support.

For example:

They provided school textbooks free of charge to 20,000 students in 1944.

add in information at the back

Imposing Japanese Culture

The Japanese sought to win loyalty by immersing the locals in the traditions of Japan. Japanese culture was held up as a model for all to follow and was imposed in a few ways, such as making students and many adults learn the Japanese language and culture. In doing so, the Japanese hoped to imbue the Singaporean population with the Japanese spirit.

Teaching of the Japanese language

One of the ways that the Japanese promoted their culture was through the **teaching of the Japanese language (Nippon-go)**. Students were taught to speak and write in Japanese in place of English. These lessons were conducted daily over **the schools' broadcasting services**. Japanese education authorities published **a series of Nippon-go readers** for beginners. The books were full of praise for the beauty and greatness of Japan.

Adults also had to learn Nippon-go. For example, teachers were required to attend language classes several times. Language lessons also became a regular feature in the newspapers. Competitions, awards, extra rations, salary increments and promotions were used to motivate people to learn the Japanese language.

Cultivating the Japanese spirit

The introduction of the Japanese language went hand in hand with the promotion of ***Nippon seishin (Japanese spirit)*** to foster a sense of loyalty and identity

During morning assembly in schools, Students had to **sing "Kimigayo"**, the Japanese national anthem, and **bow before the picture of the Japanese Emperor** before the day began. They were also taught to sing folk songs.

Additionally, daily mass exercises were introduced to the locals. These mass exercises were broadcast with instructions and rhythmic music on public radio. The Japanese emphasised physical education to instil discipline and promote fitness among the masses. Selected youths also received training in traditional Japanese martial arts such as kendo and judo to spread the Japanese spirit in schools.

What was daily life like under the Japanese?

Japanese rule in Singapore brought great hardship, and people lived in fear daily. Many people struggled for survival due to **the shortage of food, the spread of diseases and the relocation to rural areas outside of Singapore**. However, amid times of suffering and hardship, there were some opportunities for leisure and entertainment.

SURVIVAL

Dealing with shortages

The war had **disrupted trade**, which limited the import of goods into Singapore from overseas. Furthermore, most of the available resources were channelled to **Japan's war efforts** rather than to the people. As a result, there was a shortage of food and essential items.

After the first few weeks of the Japanese Occupation, essential food items such as rice, sugar and salt were strictly rationed. The locals were limited to a fixed quantity of essential items that they could obtain using ration coupons.

The shortage of items drove prices up as shops did not have enough goods to cater to the needs of the people. The prices of essential goods increased rapidly over time, causing **drastic inflation**.

(refers to the increase in prices of most goods and services of daily use or common use. This reduces the value of money as each dollar can purchase fewer items than previously)

As a result, the **black market** flourished. People had to pay extremely high prices for basic necessities. The Japanese government responded by printing more money (Banana notes), resulting in massive drops in the value of banana notes. By the end of the Japanese Occupation, these notes had essentially become worthless. This further made the locals suffer more.

Disease and Death

Besides food shortages, healthcare and sanitation continued to worsen during the Japanese Occupation. This caused the death rate to rise.

Between 1942 and 1945, 130,000 deaths were officially recorded. This was more than double the number between 1937 and 1940.

The primary causes of death were beriberi (a disease caused by the lack of vitamin B1), pneumonia (lung infection) and dysentery (intestinal inflammation)

The POWs and civilian prisoners in particular suffered **harsh living conditions**. They faced continual shortages of food and medicine, and acute overcrowding. **For instance**, while the Changi Prison was designed for 600 prisoners, it held up to 5000. Such living conditions led to poor hygiene and the spread of diseases.

The Japanese also used the POWs as **forced labour** to carry out activities such as clearing out war damage, burying the dead and building Japanese memorial shrines.

From May 1942, many POWs were sent to work on the Siam-Burma Railway, also known as the "Death Railway", where about 16000 died under horrific working conditions. The railway connected Burma (present-day Myanmar) and Siam (present-day Thailand)

Relocations

The Japanese government encouraged the locals to aim for self-sufficiency by growing their own food, such as vegetables, tapioca and sweet potatoes, to overcome the problem of food shortages

When this failed to ease the food shortage, the Japanese relocated people from Singapore to increase food production.

A Japanese government official, Mamoru Shinozaki, was tasked to oversee the resettlement projects to rural areas outside of Singapore.

The Chinese were encouraged to move to the **Endau settlement** in Johor.

The soil there was **rich** and the water supply was **ample**, making it suitable for agriculture. The settlement was proclaimed a great success as it was self-sufficient. In addition, the settlement had **various amenities** such as street lights, a hospital, a small chapel, a bank and several coffee shops.

However, it was often attacked by bandits and anti-Japanese guerrillas who tried to disrupt the peace.

A few months after setting up Endau, the Japanese created the Bahau settlement in Negeri Sembilan, another state in Malaya for Eurasians and Chinese Roman Catholics. However, the land was too hilly and the soil was too poor to support agriculture. Some people even resorted to eating rats and maggots, and many of them perished.

Leisure and Entertainment

To maintain the appearance of a harmonious and happy society, the Japanese authorities allowed some leisure activities and entertainment to continue.

They introduced radio programmes consisting of Japanese songs, Malay music, and news in Hokkien and Cantonese; Japanese movies and documentaries at cinemas; and free open-air screenings of propaganda shows

In addition, the Japanese officials encouraged sports and cultural activities to reduce the stress of wartime conditions on the local population. Notices of football, baseball, tennis and badminton matches appeared almost every day in the media. Boxing matches took place at Kim Seng Road, and the police band even performed at the Botanic Gardens.

Having to endure miserable living conditions, the POWs also tried to keep their spirits up by organising and participating in social, religious and sporting activities. These examples included publishing a newspaper, organising theatrical performances and church services, and painting murals at Changi Chapel.

How did the locals respond to the Japanese Rule?

There were varying responses to Japanese rule. The majority tried to avoid being noticed by the Japanese and simply get by from day to day. Some collaborated with the Japanese willingly while others were threatened or forced by circumstances to do so. Another group chose to actively resist.

Collaboration

The Japanese actively sought the support of the Malays in administering Japanese rule. Some of the duties given out to the Malays included policing and being part of neighbourhood associations that would report on suspected hostile activity against the regime.

Other groups were also enlisted to assist the Japanese in establishing their authority. They included some Chinese who became informants for the Kempeitai during Operation Sook Ching, helping to identify anti-Japanese suspects.

Resistance

However, not everyone was willing to cooperate or accept Japanese rule. For example, seven senior officers of the Malay Regiment refused to pledge loyalty to and fight for Japan. They were subsequently executed.

Others responded to the ill-treatment of the locals by taking up arms and joining resistance forces. Two prominent groups were the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA) and Force 136. Both groups had the common goal of driving the Japanese out of Singapore and worked with the British to do so. Members of the MPAJA would carry out sabotage attacks on the Japanese officers and their men whenever they had the chance. As part of the resistance, they also stirred up anti-Japanese sentiments among the locals by distributing anti-Japanese newspapers and posters.

Force 136, a secret organisation set up by the British, would gather information about the Japanese and also organise sabotage activities.

One notable figure in the resistance was Lim Bo Seng, a local businessman. When the war between Japan and China broke out in the 1930s he organised anti-Japanese activities such as boycott of Japanese goods. After the fall of Singapore, he was recruited as an agent of Force 136 and also linked up with local resistance organisations such as the Malayan Communist Party to fight against the Japanese through guerrilla tactics. Unfortunately, in March 1944, he was captured and tortured for information by the Japanese. Despite this, he did not reveal any information to his captors. Lim eventually died in prison on 29 June 1944.

Another prominent figure was Elizabeth Choy. During the Japanese Occupation, Choy worked as a canteen operator with her husband at the Mental Hospital (present-day Institute of Mental Health) They secretly delivered food, money, medicine and messages to the British POWs. As a result, she was imprisoned and tortured by the Japanese at the Kempeitai headquarters on Stamford Road for close to 200 days.. After the war, she did not name her torturers, saying that they had acted that way because of war circumstances. In recognition of her courage, Choy was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) and the Order of the Star of Sarawak.

What Problems did the people face immediately after the Japanese surrender?

Date	Name of atomic bomb	Location in Japan
6 August 1945	Little Boy	Hiroshima
9 August 1945	Fat Man	Nagasaki

The Japanese surrendered after two atomic bombs were dropped in Japan by America.
The bombs caused massive damage to both of the cities
The estimated death toll was 214 000

On 15 August 1945, Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's surrender to the Allies.
On 2 September 1945, the formal surrender of Japan took place on board an American battleship, the USS Missouri, in Tokyo Bay.

Upon their surrender, the Japanese were stripped of their swords and ranks. As they approached City Hall, huge cheers jeered loudly at them. The returning British, on the other hand, were welcomed with cheers.

With the end of the war, the MPAJA took revenge on those who had actively collaborated with the Japanese. These included the Chinese who served as informants and assisted in Operation Sook Ching and the Malays who served as police for the Japanese. They were rounded up and shot.

The British Military Administration (BMA) was established and took over the administration of Singapore and Malaya from 5 September 1945 to 31 March 1946. The BMA was made up of professional soldiers and former European civil servants who had joined the army during the war. It aimed to maintain law and order and help with reconstruction in the immediate post-war years. However, it faced a host of problems as Singapore was in disarray. For instance, food and water were in short supply, and the railway system did not work properly.

Food shortages

The most urgent issue was the shortage of food. This was due to wartime and post-war disruptions of production and shipping. Rice-producing countries such as Thailand were unable to produce enough rice to sell overseas. Furthermore, it was difficult for rice that was produced to even reach and be distributed in Singapore, as the war had destroyed a large number of merchant ships. In addition, sunken ships blocked the harbour, and few warehouses were available for storage.

The MA dealt with the problem gradually by clearing the harbour so that ships could enter the port. It also controlled the prices of essential supplies such as sugar, salt, fresh fish and vegetables, and provided free meals for children under six years old.

Economic Difficulties

On 7 September 1945, the BMA declared that banana notes were no longer the official currency of Singapore. This meant that those who had not kept the Straits dollar had to borrow from others to survive.

To ease the situation, the BMA issues special grants to the locals. However, the grants were often not sufficient for large families to make ends meet.

Schooling Disruptions

Despite Japanese promises of greater educational opportunities, the war had disrupted the schooling of many people in Singapore. To ensure the continuation of education, the BMA reopened schools quickly in October 1945 for children of schooling age as well as overaged children who had received little education during the Japanese Occupation. They also provided grants and waived school fees for children from needy families. By March 1946, 62,000 students were enrolled in schools

Conclusion

With the return of the British, people expected their lives to improve. However, this did not happen immediately. While the BMA did act to deal with the post-war problems, the measures took time to implement and take effect. This led to the growing discontent among the local population, which sparked off social disturbances in the 1950s. As the post-war problems dragged on, desire also grew among the local population to have freedom from the British rule and control of their own future.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7: How did the People in Singapore Respond to British Rule After World War 2 (π~π)

The Japanese Occupation left a deep impression on those who lived through it. While happy cries greeted the return of the British, the people in Singapore no longer viewed their colonial masters in the same way as before. The swift fall of the supposedly “impregnable fortress” and the subsequent hardship during the Japanese Occupation had led many to question Britain’s right to rule Singapore.

How did External Developments Influence the People’s Responses to British Rule after World War 2?

Weakening of Colonial Rule (¬¬“)

Anti-colonial sentiments had arisen in many places due to the suffering caused by European colonial rule. The defeat of European forces by the Asian power, the Japanese Empire, and the subsequent Japanese Occupation further accelerated the growth of anti-colonial feelings.

Many people took the chance to resist their European rulers and take control of their own destinies after the war.

- In 1947, India gained independence from the British
- In 1949, Indonesia gained independence from the Dutch
- In 1954, Vietnam overthrew French Rule

Colonial Rule in Asia appeared to be weakening. These external events motivated people who wanted to be free from British rule.

Growing Influence of Communism

A new kind of conflict emerged at the end of World War 2. This conflict became known as the **Cold War**. It was a conflict between two very powerful countries: The United States and the Soviet Union (officially the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or USSR).

Both had large populations, strong militaries and rich resources. Although they had been allies during World War 2, their differences in **ideology** made continued cooperation after the war unsustainable.

Ideology	The United States	Soviet Union
Who should have control in the country?	Believed in free elections, which could be contested by more than one political party. [Democracy]	Upheld one-party rule: Only the Communist Party was allowed [Dictatorship*]

How should wealth in the country be created and shared?	Upheld private enterprise and property ownership: People could own businesses, buy and sell goods <i>[Private ownership]</i>	Believed goods should be allocated to people according to their needs. Thus, the government would control all resources needed to produce these goods, such as factories and farms <i>[Government ownership]</i>
How important are people's individual interests compared to society's overall interest?	Valued individual freedom <i>[Individual before Community]</i>	Regarded Individual freedom as less important than the benefit of society <i>[Community before individual]</i>

*A dictatorship is a form of government in which a person or a small group rules with almost unlimited power.

Communism opposed colonial rule for its exploitation of people. Thus, it found many supporters in European countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaya before they gained independence.

[Communist ideas appealed to many who felt unfairly treated by those who governed them]

As an ally of the United States in the Cold War, Britain was concerned that its colonies, such as Malaya and Singapore, would fall under communist control in their fight for independence.

In Singapore, the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) had many supporters, particularly the Chinese community, because it helped in the resistance against the Japanese during World War.

Now that the war was over, the MCP turned its attention to ending British rule and establishing communist governments in Malaya and Singapore. In Singapore, amid post-war economic difficulties, the MCP worked to influence trade unions and Chinese-medium schools, stirring up anti-colonial feelings among workers and students.

It also attacked rubber plantations and tin mines in Malaya, many of which were owned and managed by the British. The MCP's actions further heightened British fears.

When three European rubber planters in Malaya were murdered in June 1948, the British took action against the MCP. A state of Emergency was declared throughout Malaya, and in the following month, the MCP was declared illegal. The Malayan Emergency lasted from 1948 to 1960. By the time it ended, the conflict had killed or wounded several thousand civilians and military personnel.

British concerns over the growing influence of communism deepened after 1949 with the victory of the Communist Party of China (CPC), led by Mao Zedong, in the Chinese Civil War. China, the world's most populous country, had entered the communist bloc.

Given the sizeable Chinese immigrant population in Malaya and Singapore and their traditionally close ties to China, the British feared that the appeal of communist ideas would grow among them.

Britain wanted to reassert its rule over Malaya and Singapore after World War II and had drawn up plans for this. However, the British failed to recognise how their surrender to the Japanese during World War II had changed people's attitude towards the British, and there was fierce resistance to the British plans to reassert colonial rule.

The British thus had to adapt their plans by addressing the people's concerns and winning their support.

How did the British attempt to win local support?

Although the people in Singapore were relieved and overjoyed when the war ended, they soon realised the post-war period was not without problems.

Living conditions, for instance, did not seem to improve as much or as quickly as many had hoped. The British needed to address these problems if they were to win the people's support.

Meeting Housing Challenges

One problem was the shortage of housing. Much of the housing had been destroyed or had become run-down during wartime. Furthermore, Singapore's population was rapidly growing as it experienced a post-war baby boom and had one of the highest birth rates in the world in the 1940s and 1950s. As a result, many people lived in increasingly overcrowded conditions. A significant portion of the population lived in slums.

To address the problem, the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) accelerated its building programme. The SIT had been established in 1927 by the British to provide low-cost housing. Between 1947 and 1959, it built 20,907 housing and shop units.

This worked out to an average of 1742 units per year, which was far below the estimated 10,000 units per year required to meet the growing population's housing needs.

Despite the SIT's efforts, housing shortages persisted, and many continued to live in cramped conditions throughout the 1950s.

Addressing food shortages

Food was also in short supply, a problem made worse by the growing population. The war had disrupted shipping, affecting the flow of food supplies into Singapore. Besides, neighbouring rice-producing countries did not have enough rice to export to Singapore. Wartime food rationing continued. Malnutrition was widespread, and wages could not keep up with the rising food prices.

The British were worried that the food shortages would lead to widespread unrest. To avoid this, they established People's Restaurants to provide affordable meals. By the end of 1946, there were 10 People's Restaurants in Singapore.

Managing Industrial Unrest

Unsatisfactory working conditions, together with the housing and food shortages, led to a wave of strikes during the post-war period. Thousands of workers from various industries took part in these strikes. In 1947 alone, known as "The Year of Strikes", there were over 300 strikes in Singapore, involving almost 70,000 workers. Some of these strikes lasted for weeks.

[Planning a strike for higher pay and working conditions]

Many workers who took part in the strikes were members of trade unions. The trade unions, whose members also included English-educated men such as Devan Nair, Jamit Singh and Sidney Woodhull, were concerned with improving workers' conditions. Many trade union members wanted immediate change to their working conditions and went on strike to secure their demands.

British officials suspected that communists working within the trade unions were stirring up anti-colonial feelings and instigating the strikes. Thus, laws were passed in an attempt to control the trade unions. From 1947, all unions had to register with the government. This enabled the government to monitor their membership. The unions were also no longer allowed to use their funds to organise strikes and protests against the government. Nevertheless, trade unions continued to be active and industrial unrest remained an issue in the 1950s.

- A strike occurs when workers refuse to work as a way to get their employers to agree to their demands, such as higher pay or better working conditions.

Rebuilding the Economy

Economic recovery was crucial to improving the lives of people in Singapore. Without the revival of trade and industry, people would not have jobs, and the government would not have sufficient tax revenues to pay for programmes that improved people's welfare.

The British thus repaired the ports that had been damaged during the war, restoring Singapore's status as an important trading centre. This was a significant move as worldwide demand for tin and rubber was growing.

The volume of trade eventually surpassed pre-war levels. This expansion of trade, together with greater control of trade union activities and abundant food harvests in 1948, ended the worst shortages and hardships in Singapore.

As a port city, Singapore continued to survive through the 1950s on its entrepot trade as it did in the 19th century. It also processed and exported raw materials from Malaya and Indonesia, such as oil, tin, rubber and timber.

Allowing Local Political Participation

In another bid to win local support, the British held an election in 1948. For the first time, the people in Singapore were given a say in who would represent them in the Legislative Council. The election was based on the British model.

The election process in Singapore:

People who have similar ideas on how a country should run form a group, called a political party	First Step	Some candidates also contest elections as independents. This means that they do not belong to any political party.
	Second Step	A political party can only implement its ideas by forming the government, either by itself or together with another party. To do so, it contests elections.
In the lead-up to the elections, parties and candidates hold campaigns to share their ideas and win support	Third Step	
	Forth Step	On polling day, voters vote for the candidate(s) whose ideas they most agree with
The candidate with the most votes in an area is elected as the representative of that area in the government	Fifth Step	
	Sixth Step	The party with the most elected candidates wins the elections and gets to form the government. *The 1948 election was limited to electing six representatives in the Legislative Council. They did not form the government, which was still controlled by the British.

The 1948 election was the first step towards democracy. However, participation among the people was very low. Many recent immigrants were not allowed to vote as they were not born in Britain or in the British colonies. In the end, only about 22,000 people were registered to vote, and only 14,000 votes actually turned up. This was a small fraction of the total population, which numbered around 960,000.

Only one party, the Singapore Progressive Party (SPP), contested the election, making it the first political party to do so in Singapore. The SPP won three out of the six elected seats. The remaining three were won by independent candidates.

THE SINGAPORE PROGRESSIVE PARTY (SPP)

The SPP was led by Tan Chye Cheng (C.C. Tan), John Laycock and Nazir Ahmad Mallal. Its members were mostly English-speaking professionals.

The party believed in gradual self-government and worked closely with the British. It championed equal treatment for local and European civil servants and fought to provide financial security for workers in their retirement.

Why were there riots in the early 1950s?

Despite British attempts to improve living conditions and grant more political participation, sources of discontent remained. Major riots broke out in the first half of the 1950s, making it a turbulent period in Singapore's history.

Maria Hertogh Riots

The first of the riots took place in late 1950, when a custody battle over a 13-year-old girl caught the public's attention. The girl's name was Maria Hertogh.

Who was involved?

Maria Hertogh, who was born to Dutch Catholic parents

Che Aminah, who was her foster mother

Maria's natural mother, Adeline Hertogh

The Muslim community

Why did the battle for the custody of Maria take place?

When Maria's father was imprisoned during the Japanese Occupation, Adeline Hertogh, Maria's mother, left her in the care of a local family friend, Che Aminah.

Under the care of Che Aminah, Maria was raised as a muslim and her name was changed to Nadra binte Ma'arof.

In 1950, Adeline tried to reclaim her daughter by making a case to the court in Singapore. The British judge ruled that Maria be returned to her natural parents. Adeline placed Maria in a Catholic convent while waiting to return to the Netherlands. In response, Che Aminah appealed against the judge's decision.

While the case was under appeal, some newspapers published sensationalised stories about Maria's life in the convent. The case was also portrayed as a religious issue between Islam and Christianity. Many Muslims were upset as they felt that their religion was being disrespected.

The judge eventually rejected Che Aminah's appeal. Feeling that the British had sided unfairly with the Dutch, Che Aminah's supporters reacted angrily. They overturned cars on the streets and set them on fire. They also attacked any Europeans and Eurasians in sight.

Troops were sent to the scenes, but the riots continued for three days. In response to the violence, a curfew was imposed. By the end of the riots, 18 people had been killed and 173 injured.

What was the impact?

The riots affected business and the economy in the country.

The events created social disorder that affected people's lives.

Racial tension rose when different ethnic groups failed to understand each other's culture and customs.

Anti-National Service Riots

The Anti-National Service Riots of 1954, like the Maria Hertogh Riots, were an expression of anti-colonial feelings. The post-war British government felt that the responsibility of defending Singapore should be spread more evenly among the population.

The Emergency also increased the urgency of improving the defence of Singapore. With this in mind, the National Service Ordinance was passed in 1953, requiring all males aged between 18 and 20 to register for National Service by May 1954.

Those who failed to do so would be jailed or fined.

The announcement was deeply unpopular among secondary students from Chinese-medium schools. Many of them were old enough to qualify for National Service as the war had disrupted their education. If they were to register for National Service, their studies would be disrupted again.

Moreover, the students felt that the British discriminated against Chinese education while favouring English-medium schools.

The British provided little support to Chinese-medium schools. The students were thus unwilling to register for National Service to defend a foreign government that did not seem to give them anything in return. (They felt that the British had been ignoring the Chinese students' interests, so they did not want to defend the colonial government)

To show their unhappiness, about 500 students held a protest march on 13 May 1954. In response, the British deployed riot police equipped with batons and shields. The initially peaceful demonstration turned violent as the students clashed with the police, leaving 26 injured.

The British ordered the closure of all Chinese-medium schools across Singapore the following day, but this only escalated the unrest. On 22 May, thousands of students locked themselves in classrooms at Chung Cheng High School in protest.

They sang songs, held their own lessons and even went on a hunger strike. As a result of the protests, the British government decided to postpone the registration for National Service.

The incident boosted the morale and strength of the Chinese-educated students. It encouraged them to be more politically active and resulted in the formation of student groups such as the Singapore Chinese Middle School Students' Union (SCMSSU). Many in the Chinese community also sympathised with the students and disapproved of the use of violence by the police.

**A demonstration refers to a public display of feelings by a group or groups of people towards a person, event or cause*

How did the British respond to the Changing attitudes of the Locals?

With the unrest of the early 1950s, the British knew things had to change. They saw the locals' discontent and their anti-British sentiments, and recognised that the old system of government was no longer adequate. The locals had to be granted more political power (So that the British could better understand the context and in an attempt to win the locals' hearts and minds)

The Rendel Constitution

The British thus formed a **commission** in July 1953 to review the **constitution** of Singapore. It was chaired by Sir George Rendel, a high-ranking British official. The Rendel Constitution's task was to find out how local people could play a more active role in the government.

**A commission is a group of people appointed to perform a specific task, for example, to conduct an investigation and write a report.*

**A constitution is a set of laws that a government must follow. The constitution of Singapore determines the limits within which the Singapore government has to work.*

The commission submitted its report in 1954, recommending limited self-government for Singapore. This meant the people would be able to elect locals to control certain areas of the government. As a result of the report, the Rendel Constitution was introduced in 1955.

There would now be a Council of Ministers headed by the Governor, and comprising the Chief Minister and five other local ministers, and three British ministers.

The Legislative Council would also be renamed the Legislative Assembly.

The six local ministers would be given control over education, health, housing and trade and industry. [LOCAL CONCERNS]

However, the three British ministers would control areas deemed more important by the British government: law, finance, external affairs, external defence and internal security. [LAW AND ORDER]

Although the changes it introduced were limited, the Rendel Constitution proved to be an important step in Singapore's journey towards self-government. For one thing, the new constitution meant that an election was to be held in April 1955.

1955 Election

While the election in 1948 and the subsequent one in 1951 had met with lukewarm response from the local population, the 1955 election aroused far greater interest and generated much political activity.

The people were encouraged by the greater degree of self-government promised in the Rendel Constitution. In addition, eligible voters were automatically registered instead of having to register themselves, making it easier to vote. Those eager to press for change held discussions, and more political parties emerged as a result.

Labour Front (LF) (Present-Day Workers' Party)

The LF was led by David Marshall, and its key members included Lim Yew Hock and Francis Thomas. It was a multiracial party and comprised mostly low-income and English-educated members of trade unions.

The LF supported immediate independence for Singapore. The party prioritised the improvement of workers' rights and working conditions. It also fought to extend Singapore citizenship to China-born immigrants, which led many Chinese-speaking people to support the party.

People's Action Party (PAP)

The PAP was co-founded by Lee Kuan Yew, Dr Goh Keng Swee, Dr Toh Chin Chye, S.Rajaratnam and Kenneth Michael Byrne. Among its ranks were mainly English-educated lawyers, journalists and trade unionists.

Like the LF, the PAP was a multiracial party that opposed British rule and wanted immediate independence for Singapore. It sought to win the support of workers, trade unions and students in Chinese-medium schools.

The parties campaigned hard to raise political awareness among the locals and to win their support. They visited houses, distributed newspapers and pamphlets, held rallies and gave speeches to crowds hungry for change.

The campaigns focused on anti-colonialism, and many voters found themselves drawn to the anti-colonial attacks delivered by parties like the LF and PAP.

The LF and the PAP convinced many that they could bring an end to British rule (Independence) and gained the support of the people, unlike the SPP.

David Marshall, the leader of the LF, was a lawyer by profession, and he spoke about the need for self-rule. He was deeply critical of the SPP's inability to push effectively for self-government. The LF and the PAP also attracted a lot of support from voters by promising to improve workers' welfare if they were elected.

The 1955 election was a lively political contest, with a level of excitement not seen before.

A total of 79 candidates contested the 25 elected seats in the Legislative Assembly.

That was about five times the number of candidates in 1948. About 160,000 people (slightly above 50 per cent of those eligible) turned up to vote.

On the night of 2 April 1955, over 5000 people gathered at Empress Place to await the election results. When they were announced, the crowd roared in jubilation. The SPP had lost, and the LF emerged as the biggest winner, clinching 10 out of the 25 seats.

The results shocked the colonial authorities as they had expected the SPP to win. It was clearer than ever that the people wished to be freed from British rule.

1955 Election Results

Labour Front -> 10 seats

Singapore Progressive Party -> 4 seats

People's Action Party -> 3 seats

Alliance Party -> 3 seats

Democratic Party -> 2 seats

Independents -> 3 seats

How did Singapore Achieve Internal Self-Government?

Having won the most seats, the LF formed a **coalition** to head the government. David Marshall became Singapore's first Chief Minister and worked under the Governor.

The Governor and his British officials saw Marshall as a leader only in name and did not offer him full support. They were not eager to cooperate with the LF government, which was anchored by a party committed to ending the colonial rule.

One example of the lack of British support for Marshall was the delay in giving him a proper office to work in.

*A coalition is an alliance between two or more political parties. It occurs when no party has a majority of the seats, and an effective government can only be formed through an alliance

Hock Lee Bus Riots

A month after the LF won the 1955 election, the Hock Lee Bus Strike broke out. While industrial strikes and disputes were not uncommon then, the Hock Lee Bus Strike was one that turned violent.

The incident presented a major challenge to the LF government. In the eyes of the British, it also tested the new government's ability to deal with what were seen to be communist influences.

The Hock Lee Bus Riots:

The workers from the Hock Lee Amalgamated Bus Company were members of the **Singapore Bus Workers' Union** (SBWU) and **Hock Lee Bus Employees' Union** respectively.

In April, the workers from the SBWU, led by Fong Swee Suan, went on strike to demand for better working conditions and fair treatment.

For example, they were not granted leave to attend union meetings, and they felt that the other union had better treatment.

As a result, 229 workers were sacked by the Hock Lee Bus Company. The workers thus protested against the company's action by organising a hunger strike and gathering at the company's bus depot to block buses from leaving the depot.

When the police were called in to disperse the crowd, the strikers threw stones at them. The police fought back with their batons. The clash between both parties led to 15 people being injured.

Over the next few days, more than 10,000 students from Chinese-medium schools gathered at the depot to support the striking workers. They brought food for the workers and entertained them with song and dance.

David Marshall tried to settle the dispute between the SBWU and the bus company. However, no agreement was made, and the strike continued.

The situation turned worse as the strike progressed because the workers from other companies also joined the strike.

Tension reached a climax. The police attempted to disperse the crowd with water hoses. Enraged by the actions of the police, the crowd fought back by throwing bricks, stones and bottles.

By the next morning, four people had been killed and 31 injured. Among the dead were a police detective and a 16-year-old student.

On 14 May 1955, the Hock Lee Bus Riots ended after the government helped to negotiate an agreement between the unions and the Hock Lee Bus Company. The dismissed workers got their jobs back. However, many trade union members remained suspicious of the government and continued to organise rallies and protests.

The British felt that David Marshall was **not capable of handling the riots** and seemed **weak**. He had refused to call in British troops to handle the riots as he did not want to **appear to be siding with the British**. He would also rather negotiate than take stronger actions against those strikers.

This was to have an impact on the First Merdeka Talks held in 1956.

The First Merderka Talks (1956)

In April 1956, David Marshall led a mission to London to **press for Singapore's self-government**. These negotiations were known as the Merdeka (Freedom) Talks.

In London, Marshall demanded full internal self-government for Singapore by 1957. He was determined to have greater local control over defence and external affairs. He had vowed to resign as Chief Minister if the negotiations failed.

The talks did not go well. After the Hock Lee Bus Riots, the British doubted the LF government's ability to maintain law and order and to deal with the communist threat. The British wanted a strong and stable government in Singapore to protect British economic and defence interests, and to keep it from becoming communist.

As a result, Marshall and his delegation returned to Singapore empty-handed. True to his promise, he stepped down as Chief Minister, and Lim Yew Hock took over. Singapore's hopes of independence had suffered a setback.

Chinese Middle School Student Riots

Lim Yew Hock wanted to succeed where David Marshall had failed. He understood that the British were concerned about the communist threat in Singapore. Thus, his government needed to show its ability to control the communists, which would help convince the British that Singapore was ready to take greater charge of its own affairs. This can be seen in the way he handled the Chinese Middle School Student Riots in 1956.

In September 1956, Lim Yew Hock's government banned the Singapore Chinese Middle School Students Union (SCMSSU) because of its supposed communist activities.

In response, around 5000 students took over their schools and demanded the re-registration of the SCMSSU. After stern warnings from the government, the students' protests died down.

Two weeks later, 142 students were expelled from various schools, such as Chung Cheng High School and the Chinese High School, on suspicion of anti-government activities. Students camped at both schools in protest.

On 24 October, Lim Yew Hick made a radio broadcast demanding the students leave the school premises by 8 o'clock the following evening.

This time, with the support of the unions, the students were more defiant and willing to fight to the bitter end. Large crowds gathered outside the school.

The demonstrations turned violent when a mob outside Chung Cheng High School confronted the police. The ensuing riots spread across the island and continued for three days. Troops from Malaya were called in to restore order.

13 people had died and over 120 were injured in the riots.

When the riots ended, the government arrested a number of people, including the union leaders, Lim Chin Siong and Fong Swee Suan.

On the whole, the British were impressed with Lim Yew Hock's decisive handling of the riots. This strengthened his position when he travelled to London in 1957 to renew discussions about self-government.

However, Lim's tough actions made his LF government appear to be "running dogs" of the British in the eyes of some locals.

Running dogs is a negative term used to refer to followers who are overly eager to serve or please their masters

The Second Merderka Talks (1957)

When Lim Yew Hock led his team for the second Merderka Talks in 1957, the talks were successful. This was because the British had confidence in the LF government to deal with the communist threats. Like David Marshall, he wanted to gain control over all internal matters of government, including security.

However, Lim Yew Hock was willing to compromise on the issue of internal security as he knew that the British were still worried about the communist threats in Singapore. The areas of government of external affairs and external defence would also remain under the control of the British.

This second round of the Merderka Talks allowed Singapore to achieve **full internal self-government**.

With the new constitution, Singapore would be known as the State of Singapore with control over all domestic issues except for internal security, external affairs and external defence.

A Head of State, or Yang di-Pertuan Negara, replaced the British Governor. To bring this new constitution into force, an election was to be held in 1959.

**extra information!!* [The election was necessary to form a new local government under the new rules, and to legally and democratically begin Singapore's self-governance.]*

Free page ->

1959 Election ⚡ (give me my deserved sleep)

For the election, Singapore was divided into 51 **constituencies***. Voters in each constituency would elect a representative. For the first time, the people could elect representatives to all the seats in the Legislative Assembly.

A total of 13 political parties took part, and 194 candidates stood for election. Since the elected government would have almost full internal powers to carry out its programmes, the stakes were high.

The parties worked hard to convince people that they were capable of leading a self-governing Singapore. They used radio broadcasts, newspapers and pamphlets to spread their ideas. Vehicles with loudspeakers broadcasting party slogans were a common sight. Candidates also held election rallies, which were attended by large crowds.

Compared to the 1955 election, people showed an even greater interest, as it was an opportunity for them to decide who was most suited to the task of governing Singapore. This increased interest was partly due to the Citizenship Ordinance of 1957.

The Citizenship Ordinance allowed those who were not born in Singapore to become citizens.

Compulsory voting was also introduced to ensure that people took responsibility for choosing their own government. As a result, about 525,000 voters turned up, more than three times the number in the 1955 election.

The election results were announced in the early hours of 31 May. The LF, renamed the Singapore People's Alliance (SPA) in 1958, performed poorly, winning only 4 out of the 39 seats they had contested.

One reason for the SPA's loss was the unhappiness of many Chinese voters over how Lim Yew Hock had handled the Chinese Middle School Student Riots in 1956.

On the other hand, the PAP scored a landslide victory, winning 43 out of the 51 seats they contested.

Consistency is an area in which voters elect a representative to parliament or government.

Branch of government	Executive	- Head of State or Yang-di-Pertuan Negara - Prime ministers - Local ministers
	Legislative	- 51 members to be elected in the 1959 election
Areas of Responsibility	Singapore's Internal Self-government	- Trade and industry - Health - Education - Finance - Housing

		- Law
	British	- External affairs - External defence
	Shared responsibility among the local, British and Malayan representatives	

BREAKDOWN

Branch	Who's in it?	What do they do?
Executive	Head of State, PM, Ministers	Runs the country & carries out the laws
Legislative	Elected Assembly Members	Makes laws for the country

On the evening of 3 June 1959, a crowd of 50,000 assembled at the Padang in front of City Hall. They greeted the start of Singapore's internal self-government with loud cheers.

Speaking from a rostrum on the steps of City Hall, PAP leader Lee Kuan Yew rallied the people, sounding a message of unity and hope:

"Let us work together as a more united people towards a brighter and better future. May the next five years be happy, peaceful and prosperous years for all of us!"

The PAP formed the government successfully after this election. The party leader, Lee Kuan Yew, became the first Prime Minister.

Yusof bin Ishak became the Yang di-Pertuan Negara, or Head of State, of Singapore. Singapore's state flag, State National Anthem and the State Crest were unveiled. The State National Anthem, 'Majula Singapura' was composed and written by Zubir Said and replaced Britain's "God saved the Queen"

Conclusion:

The post-war period in Singapore saw locals becoming more discontent with British rule as a result of external influences and the hardships they had suffered. The increasing anti-colonial sentiments led to strikes and riots, but also to greater political participation as the people's desire for self-government grew.

In 1959, 14 years after the war ended, Singapore attained full internal self-government, ushering in a new phase in its history. However, it was still not an independent nation.

Chapter 8

Own history notes (→ ←)

Chapter 8: How did Singapore Become an Independent Nation?

The attainment of full internal self-government in 1959 marked a new chapter in Singapore's history. To the new PAP government, independence from the British was the next step. To achieve this, it successfully pursued a merger of Singapore with Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak, forming the **Federation** of Malaya.

This merger, however, was short-lived. Less than two years later, Singapore separated from Malaysia and found itself facing an uncertain future alone

**Federation is a group of states led by a central government, but with each state retaining a degree of control over its internal affairs*

Why did the PAP Government pursue a merger with Malaya?

The PAP's 1959 election promise included achieving independence for Singapore through a merger with Malaya. The idea of a merger was not new, as many people in Singapore had advocated for a merger with Malaya since 1948.

Political Independence

- Merger with Malaya was deemed necessary for Singapore to achieve political independence, as it was the only way the British would let go of control of Singapore.

During the Cold War, the British were worried that the communists would take hold of Southeast Asia because of **great influence** from Communist China and rising communist movements in Indonesia and Vietnam.

As the British wanted to protect **Singapore and the Borneo Territories** (North Borneo and Sarawak) from communist threats, the British sought to provide a greater political stability through the formation of a new federation comprising Malaya, Singapore, North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei.

- Therefore, the British would only grant Singapore political independence if it merged with Malaya. As a result, a merger was needed.

Economic Survival

Another reason for the PAP to pursue a merger with Malaya was the belief that Singapore could not survive economically in the long term without a merger.

Singapore lacked natural resources and it experienced a rapidly growing population due to the post-war baby boom, so more jobs were needed to meet the demand soon. It also suffered a declining entrepot trade as other neighbouring countries had become independent, and they wanted to export goods through their own ports instead of relying on Singapore as their regional trading port.

Moreover, the Malayan government had introduced tariffs in the 1950s on goods traded with Singapore. The tariffs made goods entering Malaya from Singapore more expensive and thus less desirable to customers in Malaya. This reduced the amount of trade between Malaya and Singapore.

To address these challenges, Singapore saw a merger as a way to establish a common market. This would allow goods made in Singapore to be sold more easily in the larger Malayan hinterland, increasing demand for local products, boosting trade, and creating more jobs for Singaporeans. By merging, Singapore hoped these tariffs would be removed, allowing its industries to thrive in a larger, tariff-free market.

Therefore, the need to overcome economic barriers, expand market access and have more job opportunities were key reasons why Singapore saw a merger with Malaya as a necessary step for its economic survival.

What was Malaya's response to a possible merger?

There was initial hesitation in Malaya towards the merger. However, it eventually turned around and accepted the possibility of a merger despite the doubts.

Malaya's Initial Response

The Malayan Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, saw great differences between the people in Malaya and Singapore. He was concerned that the predominantly Chinese population in Singapore might be reluctant to accept a Malay Sultan as their Head of State, use Malay as the national language or accept Islam as the state religion.

Therefore, he believed that a merger with Singapore would create trouble in their respective societies.

Furthermore, he was concerned about **changes to the racial makeup** in a new federation. A merger with Singapore alone meant the combined **Chinese population would outnumber the Malays**.

The Tunku also suspected that many Chinese in Singapore had **sympathies for the communists**, given that many of them had led and supported the strikes of the 1950s. He was worried that such attitudes would spread to the rest of the federation. However, by the middle of 1961, he began to support the idea of a merger.

Fear of an Independent, Communist-Influenced Singapore

The Tunku was concerned that if Singapore became an independent state, Malaya would lose a representative on Singapore's Internal Security Council. This would cause Malaya to lose influence over security matters in Singapore. That, together with the absence of a colonial government, could make the threat of communism in Singapore harder to contain.

Besides, the Tunku was concerned that the PAP might be taken over by members who were sympathetic towards communism. In his eyes, that would result in a Singapore government less willing to consider a merger on terms acceptable to Malaya.

He also realised that Singapore would probably be less dangerous once it became part of Malaysia, as the communist elements in Singapore could then be controlled by the government in Malaya. He feared that if Singapore became an independent country that turned communist, it could influence others to consider a communist government as an alternative.

Hong Lim By-Election

The Hong Lim by-election in April 1961 further fuelled the Tunku's fears and led him to support the idea of a merger.

Ong Eng Guan from the PAP represented the Hong Lim area and served as Mayor of Singapore's City Council. After winning a seat in the Legislative Assembly in the 1959 election, he was appointed Minister for National Development. By 1960, Ong had started to fall out of favour within the PAP because his actions as Minister were not in line with the party's direction.

In June 1960, when Ong openly challenged the PAP leadership at one conference, he was suspended as Minister. He was later expelled from the party and forced to resign his seat in the Legislative Assembly. This triggered the Hong Lim by-election. Contesting as an independent candidate, Ong defeated the PAP's candidate with 73.3 per cent of the vote.

The by-election worried the Tunku as it pointed to the increasing divide within the PAP. One group had moderate views and wanted to bring about political change gradually through elections. The other group, which included Ong, had radical views and pushed for drastic changes. They were seen to be willing to take more forceful measures to achieve their aims.

With Ong's win, the Tunku felt that the **moderate group** was losing its influence in the PAP.

This heightened his fear that the **radical group** would take control of the PAP and establish a communist government through forceful means to end British colonial rule. He was also concerned that Singapore would be used as a base to spread communist ideas in Malaya.

****Radicals:** People who want quick and extreme changes, often using protests or aggressive actions. The radicals did not trust the British and wanted immediate independence. They believed in taking a much stronger and aggressive approach, such as organising strikes and protests.*

***Moderates:** People who want gradual and peaceful changes through discussion and compromise. The moderates were willing to work with the British to gain independence gradually from the British through elections.*

Agreement on Proposed Merger

When the Tunku made a speech on 27 May 1961, he highlighted the prospect of a merger between Malaya and Singapore as part of the formation of a new federation, including other territories such as Brunei, North Borneo and Sarawak. Bringing in these territories would help to offset Singapore's Chinese majority.

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew declared his support for the Tunku's suggestion. They began discussions on a merger that would lead to the formation of the Federation of Malaya.

However, the radical group within the PAP objected to the merger as they felt that once Singapore became independent through the merger, they would be put down by the federal government in Malaya, who controlled internal security.

The radical group within the PAP decided to sabotage them by asking voters to support the opposition candidates instead. This resulted in the PAP candidate losing the Anton by-election on 15 July 1961, which sealed the Tunku's commitment to the formation of Malaysia.

On 24 August 1961, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Tunku came to an agreement on the broad terms of the merger that allowed Singapore to have a special status in Malaysia.

- Singapore would have its own Head of State
- Singapore citizens would be given the title of "federal nationals" instead of "federal citizens"
- Singapore could hold its elections to choose its state government, and Singapore citizens could only vote in their elections
- Singapore would have control over its education and labour matters, and its own civil service
- Singapore would collect its own revenue and pay Kuala Lumpur an agreed-upon sum (to cover the cost of federal services such as telecommunications, defence and security)
- The federal government, stationed in Kuala Lumpur, would oversee Singapore's defence, internal security and dealings with foreign governments

What was the Result of the Battle of Merger?

The British agreed to the broad terms of the merger. However, the proposed merger met with fierce opposition from some groups within Singapore.

Opposition from Barisan Sosialis

Some members of the PAP, such as Lim Chin Siong and Fong Swee Suan, opposed the merger. They felt that the terms were unfavourable to the people in Singapore and tried to get support from the other PAP members to challenge Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's leadership.

However, they did not succeed and were later expelled from the PAP. The expelled members subsequently established a new party: the Barisan Sosialis Singapura (Socialist Front of Singapore). Dr Lee Siew Choh became Chairman of the party, while Lim was its Secretary-General.

The Barisan Sosialis opposed the proposed merger for several reasons.

One issue was the status of the Singapore population within the new federation. The Barisan Sosialis members were concerned that citizenship would not be automatically granted to Singapore citizens. Singapore citizens would only be known as “federal nationals” and could only vote in Singapore elections.

Another issue was the allocation of seats in the federal parliament. In exchange for having control over its education and labour, Singapore was only given 15 seats in the parliament, while North Borneo and Sarawak were given more seats despite their smaller population. The Barisan Sosialis felt that the under-representation of Singapore in the Malaysian Parliament was a sign of its second-class status.

The PAP's Campaign

The PAP embarked on a year-long campaign to convince the people of the need to merge with Malaya. From September to October 1961, Prime Minister Lee gave a series of radio talks called The Battle for Meger. Broadcast on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, they were delivered in three main languages on the same evening – Mandarin at 6.45 pm, English at 7.30 pm and Malay at 9.00 pm.

The talks were later re-broadcast in Tamil, Hokkien and Cantonese. This series of talks targeted the listeners in the territories that were to form the new federation in order to win their hearts and minds.

The PAP also used exhibitions to highlight the benefits of a merger. One of the notable examples was the Malaysia Exhibition that was part of Malaysia Week in early 1962. It was held at the Victoria Memorial Hall (present-day Victoria Concert Hall), and it was jointly organised by the governments of the territories that were to form the new federation.

The exhibition aimed to showcase the close cultural and social ties among the territories. It exposed visitors to the lives and cultures of the people, as well as the trade and commerce of the territories.

Referendum

A referendum is a direct vote by the people on a specific issue.

A **referendum** was held on 1 September 1962 after the campaigns to find out what type of merger the people in Singapore wanted. Voters were given three options, each proposing a different form of merger.

PAP's preferred option was Option A, while the Barisan Sosialis opposed all three options and urged people to cast blank votes.

70.8% Option A

I support merger giving Singapore autonomy in labour, education and other agreed matters as set out in Command Paper No.33 of 1961, with **Singapore citizens automatically becoming citizens of Malaysia.** *[Prime Minister Lee renegotiated the status of Singapore citizens in the Federation with the Tunku to prevent the Barisan Sosialis from using citizenship issues to oppose the merger. Thereafter, in August 1962, he announced that the Tunku accepted that all Singapore citizens would become "Malaysian citizens" after the merger, but were only allowed to vote in elections for Singapore's legislative body.]*

1.7% Option B

I support complete and unconditional merger for Singapore as a state on an equal basis with the other 11 states in accordance with the Constitutional documents of the Federation of Malaya.

1.4% Option C

I support Singapore entering Malaysia on terms no less favourable than those given to the Borneo territories.

25.7% Blank Votes

0.4% Rejected and Uncertain Papers

The results of the referendum were a clear indication of the people's support for the government's position: almost 71 per cent of the votes were in favour of Option A, while blank votes made up almost 26 per cent. Most voters had rejected the Barisan Sosialis' call to cast blank votes during the referendum.

Weakening of the Barisan Sosialis

On 2 February 1963, the Internal Security Council detained more than 100 people, including Lim Chin Siong and 23 other Barisan Sosialis members. They were accused of attempting to sabotage the formation of Malaysia and planning to launch an uprising in Singapore. The series of arrests was code-named Operation Coldstore.

The Barisan Sosialis, weakened by the arrest of its leaders during Operation Coldstore, suffered defeat in the subsequent 1963 election. The PAP won 37 out of 51 seats, while the Barisan Sosialis managed to only win 13 seats.

Reactions to the Formation of Malaysia Outside of Singapore and Malaya

The **Cobbold Commission** was launched in 1962 to find out if the people in **North Borneo** and **Sarawak** wanted to join Malaysia. The results were positive, as two-thirds of the people favoured the merger.

The Philippines, Brunei and Indonesia opposed the merger.

The Philippines did not recognise Malaysia, and insisted it had a rightful claim to North Borneo. It broke off relations with Malaysia in 1963.

The moderates were willing to work with the British to gain independence gradually from the British through elections

Brunei decided against joining Malaysia and gained independence from Britain in 1948.

Indonesia opposed the merger as it felt that it would give the British control over the territories in the new federation and that North Borneo and Sarawak should come under its influence. It broke off diplomatic and trade relations with Malaysia in 1963.

Indonesia launched a policy of Konfrontasi (Confrontation) in January 1963, which involved military attacks, bombings and other acts aimed at causing instability in the states that were to form the Federation.

The Formation of Malaysia

Despite opposition from various groups, the merger proceeded. On 9 July 1963, the Malaysia Agreement was signed in London by Britain, Malaya, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak.

The Federation of Malaysia came into being on 16 September 1963.

As Singapore was now one of the Federation's 14 member states, control of its foreign affairs and defence would be transferred to Malaysia.

Some of the initial terms of the merger remained the same. For instance, Singapore citizens would not be entitled to all the same rights as other Malaysian citizens, such as the right to vote in Malaysia elections outside of Singapore.

However, other terms of the merger were modified. One important modification was that Singapore citizens would automatically become citizens of the Federation of Malaysia. It was also agreed that the Malaysian common market would be established in stages.

To celebrate the establishment of the Federation, festivities were held throughout the island
'.

(for a much shorter and compressed info, please check out chapter 8 part ii, thank you)

Why did Singapore separate from Malaysia? (ㄟ^ㄟ)

Singapore was part of it for less than two years. Both economic disagreements and political differences in Malaysia and the state government of Singapore resulted in the separation of Singapore from Malaysia on 9 August 1965.

Economic Disagreements

What did Singapore expect as Part of the Merger	ISSUE	What the Federal Government decided
• The common market would be set up for its long-term economic survival. • Tariffs on Singapore-made goods would be removed	Common Market	• There was a delay in setting up the common market • Tariffs continued to be imposed on Singapore-made goods to protect some of Malaysia's industries <i>*Treated Singapore as an economic rival even though Singapore was part of Malaysia*</i>
Singapore would contribute 40% of its revenue to the federal government	Revenue Contribution	• The federal government increased Singapore's contribution to 60% as defence spending had risen significantly due to Konfrontasi. • Singapore felt that the decision was unfair and that its original contribution was sufficient.

Political Differences

Singapore	ISSUE	Federal Government of Malaysia
• Singapore's major political parties, such as the governing PAP, were multiracial and sought to represent the interests of all communities • Singapore's government felt that everyone, regardless of race, should be given an equal opportunity to succeed.	Composition of Political Parties	• The federal government was formed by the Alliance Party, which comprised three communal (race-based) parties: The United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), Malayan Chinese Association (MCA) and Malayan India Congress (MIC) • These parties sought to look after the interests of their respective ethnic communities
• It believed that the best way of enabling Malays to gain better employment opportunities was by providing free education	Treatment of Races	• Special privileges in employment, business and education were given to the Malays with the aim of improving their economic and social position. For instance, a certain number of jobs in the government were reserved for the Malays.

Events leading to the separation

The Singapore branches of UMNO, MCA and MIC joined forces with the Singapore People's Alliance (SPA) to form the Singapore Alliance Party (SAP)

In 1963, the Alliance Party in Kuala Lumpur supported the Singapore Alliance Party (SAP) in the state election in Singapore. However, the SAP did not win any seats in the Legislative Assembly. In contrast, the PAP won 37 out of 51 seats contested.

From the Alliance's perspective, the result of the election was deeply disappointing. Every one of the seven seats previously held by the SPA and UMNO-Singapore had been lost to a PAP candidate.

The PAP's decision to participate in the 1964 federation election further strained the relationship between the PAP and the Alliance Party in Kuala Lumpur. During the campaign, the PAP questioned the way the Alliance Party governed Malaysia and promised to build a Malaysia that would not be governed along racial lines. Though the Alliance won the election with the PAP won one seat, they were upset with the PAP for contesting the election [WHY ARE THEY SO SMALL-MINDED AND CHILDISH, WHAT THE HECK]

After winning the federal election, the Alliance leaflets began to organise anti-PAP campaigns by publishing sensitive articles in the Malay press, particularly widely read Utusan Melayu, to win back the Malay supporters in Singapore, as there was already some unhappiness within the Malay Community in Singapore who saw little improvement in their economic position. Some UMNO leaders accused the PAP government of neglecting the Malay Interests in Singapore.

For example, Allegations that the PAP was treating Singapore Malays as second-class citizens flew fast and furious. Utusan Melayu also accused the PAP for placing greater emphasis on Chinese education at the expense of Malay education.

On 12 July 1964, the Secretary-General of UMNO, Syed Ja'afar Albar, amid already simmering tensions, made a fiery anti-PAP speech in Singapore, which raised tensions close to the boiling point.

At the New Star Cinema where he spoke, chants from the crowd of "Kill him! Kill him! Othman Work and Lee Kuan Yew!" could be heard. Othman Work was then Minister for Social Affairs. Due to his association with the PAP, he had been depicted as an "anti-Malay" tool.

In an attempt to ease tensions, Prime Minister Lee and Othman organised a meeting with over 100 non-political Malay organisations on 19 July 1964. They assured the 900 Malay representatives present that the Singapore government would do its utmost to help the Malays in the areas of education, employment and housing. Prime Minister Lee reiterated that all Singaporeans had equal rights, regardless of their race.

Despite the government's effort to calm tensions, Utusan Melayu continued to print articles accusing the PAP government of unfairly treating the Malays in Singapore. Eventually, the race tensions resulted in two racial riots.

On 21 July 1964, about 20,000 Muslims gathered at the Padang to celebrate the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. However, during the procession that followed, clashes broke out in several areas, such as along the Geylang Road and Guillemard Road. As news of the clashes spread, so did the riots. The violence resulted in the loss of 23 lives, and 454 people were injured. To restore order, a curfew was imposed across the island.

After the riots, Goodwill Committees, comprising community leaders from various racial groups, were formed to calm tensions and restore harmonious relations among the different races.

However, tensions did not disappear. Six weeks later, riots broke out, triggered by the murder of a Malay trishaw rider on 2 September 1964. An islandwide curfew was imposed again. By the time it was lifted, 13 people had died and 106 were injured.

This latest wave of violence prompted the Alliance Party in Kuala Lumpur and the PAP to agree not to raise any matters that were racial in nature. Both also agreed not to challenge each other in elections for the next two years.

The agreement did not last long. In October 1964, the SAP announced that the party would be reorganised with the intention of contesting and winning the next election. The announcement served as a direct political challenge to the PAP.

In response, the PAP brought together four other Malaysian opposition parties to establish the Malaysian Solidarity Convention (MSC). The MSC was to campaign for a “Malaysian Malaysia” where all would be treated equally, regardless of their race or religion.

The MSC’s campaign angered the Alliance leaders and deepened their mistrust of the PAP government. They felt that the idea of a “Malaysian Malaysia” threatened the special rights enjoyed by the Malays. Some UMNO leaders even called for the arrest of Prime Minister Lee’s arrest.

The Call for Separation

By mid-1965, Tunku Abdul Rahman was convinced that the differences between the federal government and the state government of Singapore could not be resolved. He saw the 1964 racial clashes as a sign of disorder that would spread throughout the Federation if these differences persisted. He felt that it would be best for Singapore to leave Malaysia. In fact, a few PAP leafers also thought that separation would, perhaps, help bring an end to the problems. By July 1965, secret negotiations on Singapore’s exit from the Federation had begun.

Within a few weeks, the Independence of Singapore Agreement was signed, and Singapore was no longer a part of Malaysia. On 9 August 1965m an emotional Prime Minister Lee announced Singapore’s separation from the Federation in a live televised press conference.

The Proclamation of Singapore, drafted by Minister for Law E. W. Barker, was signed by Prime Minister Lee on 9 August 1965. It formally declared that Singapore was no longer “a state of Malaysia and shall become an independent and sovereign state and nation separate from and independent of Malaysia”

The next day, newspapers in Singapore carried the news of the separation on their front pages. With its departure from the Federation, Singapore was now an independent nation. It became a republic with Yusof Bin Iskah as its first President.

Chapter 8 Part ii

Chapter 8 Part II: Why did Singapore separate from Malaysia?

What were the areas that caused Singapore to separate from Malaysia?

- Economic Disagreements
- Political differences

Economic Disagreements

Singapore wanted the common market to set up quickly for its long term economic survival and the removal of tariffs on Singapore-made goods.

However, Malaya treated Singapore as an economic rival even though Singapore was part of Malaysia. As a result, Malaya delayed the establishment of the common market and continued to impose tariffs on Singapore-made goods to protect some of Malaya's industries.

Singapore wanted to contribute 40% of its revenue to the federal government.

However, the federal government wanted to increase Singapore's contribution to 60% because they reasoned that the rising expenditure on defence was due to Konfrontasi.

Singapore felt that the decision was unfair and that its original contribution was sufficient.

Political Differences

Malaya and Singapore practised different systems of forming political parties.

- The political parties in Malaya were formed along racial lines. For example, the federal government was formed by the Alliance Party, which comprised three communal (race-based) parties: The United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), Malayan Chinese Association (MCA) and Malayan Indian Congress (MIC)
- Each party sought to look after the needs of its own community

In Contrast, Singapore's major political parties, such as the governing PAP, were multiracial and sought to represent the interests of all communities.

Singapore and the federal government of Malaysia could not agree on the treatment of forces.

In Malaysia, Special privileges in employment, business and education were given to the Malays with the aim of improving their economic and social position. For example, a certain number of jobs in the government were reserved for Malays.

The PAP government advocated equal opportunities for all regardless of their race or religion. It was believed that the best way of enabling Malays to gain better employment opportunities was by providing free education.

Events leading to separation

In 1963, the Alliance Party in KL supported the Singapore Alliance Party in the state election in Singapore. However, the SAP did not win any seats in the Legislative Assembly, including constituencies of predominantly Malays, and felt deeply disappointed.

On the other hand, the PAP won 37 out of 51 seats in this election.

The participation of the PAP in the 1964 federal election had further upset the Alliance party in KL, even though they won the election.

During the election campaign, the PAP questioned the way the Alliance Party governed Malaysia and promised to build a Malaysia that would not be governed along racial lines. However, the PAP only managed to win one seat, and the Alliance Party won 89 out of 104 seats.

After the Alliance victory in the federal election, UMNO decided to focus on winning back the Malay vote in Singapore. There was already considerable discontent with the Malay community in Singapore, especially among those who saw little improvement in their economic position.

Some UMNO leaders accused the PAP government of neglecting Malay interests in Singapore. They began to organise anti-PAP campaigns by publishing sensitive articles in the Malay press, particularly widely read Utusan Melayu, to win back the Malay supporters in Singapore, as there was already some unhappiness within the Malay community in Singapore who saw little improvement in their economic position.

Allegations that the PAP was treating Singapore Malays as second-class citizens flew fast and furious. Utusan Melayu also accused the PAP of placing greater emphasis on Chinese education at the expense of Malay education.

On 12 July 1964, UMNO's Secretary-General made a speech to Malay organisations in Singapore to criticise the PAP government for neglecting the interests of the Malays in Singapore and caused the majority to remain in poverty. This led to growing racial tensions in Singapore.

At the New Star Cinema where he spoke, chants from the crowd of "Kill him! Kill him! Othman Wok and Lee Kuan Yew" could be heard. Othman Wok was then the Minister for Social Affairs. Due to his association with the PAP, he had been depicted as an "anti-Malay tool" of the state.

In an attempt to ease the tensions, Prime Minister Lee and Othman Wok organised a meeting with over 100 non-political Malay organisations on 19 July 1964. They assured 900 representatives present that the Singapore government would do its utmost to help the Malays in the areas of education, employment and housing. Prime Minister Lee reiterated that all Singaporeans had equal rights, regardless of race.

Despite the government's efforts to calm tensions, Utusan Melayu continued to print articles accusing the PAP government of unfairly treating the Malays in Singapore. The racial tensions eventually gave rise to the race riots in 1964.

How did the riots take place?

On 21 July 1964, about 20,000 Muslims celebrated the Prophet Mohammad's birthday by gathering at the Pandang.

During the celebration, clashes occurred in several areas and then spread to more places. This led to the onset of riots that killed 23 and injured 454 people. To restore order, a curfew was imposed throughout the land. A curfew was imposed islandwide to restore order.

After the riots, Goodwill Committees, comprising the community leaders from the various racial groups, were formed to calm tensions and restore harmonious relations among the different races.

However, tensions did not disappear. About six weeks later, riots broke out, triggered by the murder of a Malay trishaw rider on 2 September 1964. An islandwide curfew was imposed again. By the time it was lifted, 13 people had died and 106 were injured.

The latest wave of violence prompted the Alliance Party in Kuala Lumpur and the PAP to agree not to raise any matters that were racial in nature. Both also agreed not to challenge each other in elections for the next two years.

The agreement did not last long. In October 1964, the SAP announced that the party would be reorganised with the intention of contesting and winning the next election. The announcement served as a direct political challenge to the PAP government.

In Response, the PAP brought together four other Malaysian Opposition Parties to establish the Malaysian Solidarity Convention (MSC). The MSC was to campaign for a “Malaysian Malaysia” where all would be treated equally, regardless of their race or religion.

The campaigns upset the Alliance leaders and deepened their mistrust of the PAP government. They felt that the idea of a “Malaysian Malaysia” threatened the special rights enjoyed by the Malays. Some UMNO leaders even called for Prime Minister Lee’s arrest.

By Mid-1965, the Tunku was worried that racial riots would happen again as he realised that many disagreements could not be resolved easily between the Singapore government and the federal government. As a result, he felt that it was best for Singapore to leave Malaysia.

The call for Separation

By July 1965, secret negotiations on Singapore’s exit from the Federation had begun.

Within a few weeks, the Independence of Singapore Agreement was signed, and Singapore was no longer part of Malaysia. On 9 August 1965, an emotional Prime Minister Lee announced Singapore’s separation from the Federation in a live televised press conference.

With its departure from the Federation, Singapore was now an independent nation. It became a republic with Yusof bin Ishak as its first President.

A republic is a country without a king or queen, usually governed by elected representatives of the people and a president.

Chapter 9

Chapter 9: How did Singapore Safeguard Its Independence After 1965?

What Security Challenges Did Singapore face in 1965?

Safeguarding the independence of the country is a priority for all governments, and Singapore was no exception.

To do so, it had to enhance internal security and build a strong defence force. These were important for ensuring peace and stability, which would help attract foreign investors to set up factories and businesses in Singapore, contributing to the development of the economy and the creation of jobs. Therefore, the government decided to bolster the security of Singapore quickly.

At the same time, the government was concerned that by the 1960s, the Cold War had intensified, threatening stability in parts of Southeast Asia. It was believed that ongoing tensions in the region might contribute to Singapore's security challenges.

Konfrontasi

One source of regional tensions was Konfrontasi. Indonesia launched the policy to oppose the formation of the **Federation of Malaysia** for two reasons.

-> The Indonesian President believed that this federation would allow the continuation of British control in these territories in the Federation

-> He also had ambitions to unite the Malay Archipelago under his leadership

During Konfrontasi, Indonesia fought with the Malaysian and Commonwealth forces along the **long land border** that it shared with Malaysia, as well as carried out acts of sabotage in Malaysia. Many soldiers, including some from Singapore, had to **patrol the border**.

Konfrontasi posed a serious security threat to Singapore even before its separation from Malaysia. Indonesian saboteurs also carried out a **series of bombings** in Singapore to terrorise the population and disrupt life here. They targeted military facilities and public utilities initially before turning their attention to **public places** where they were not heavily guarded.

-> The Singapore government advised the public to **remain on high alert** and **avoid handling suspicious items** in buildings and long streets

-> A volunteer force was deployed to patrol the neighbourhood, and schools carried out emergency drills

The deadliest incident during Konfrontasi occurred on 10 March 1965 when a bomb exploded along Orchard Road at MacDonald House. It killed 3 people and injured 33, and damaged nearby buildings and cars

Two Indonesian soldiers were arrested for the MacDonald House bombing. They were charged with murder, found guilty and hanged. This triggered an angry response among Indonesian students, who attacked the Singapore embassy and homes of Singaporean diplomats in Jakarta.

Communist Terrorism

Singapore also had to guard itself against attacks by communist groups. Although the danger of a communist takeover had lessened and the British declared the Emergency over in 1960, acts of terrorism by communist groups continued.

Some of the violent acts included the killing of a seven-year-old girl in Changi in 1970, a bombing in Katong in 1974 and the attempted assassination of Singapore's Commissioner of Police in 1976.

By the 1970s, the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) had split into smaller groups but continued to pose a danger to the internal security in Singapore. The police found large quantities of weapons, such as pistols and grenades, when they raided these groups.

International Terrorism

Independent Singapore experienced its first encounter with international terrorism on 31 January 1974 when **foreign terrorists hijacked** the ferry boat Laju and held crew members hostage. The terrorists had already **attacked the Shell oil refinery** on Pulau Bukom in an attempt to disrupt the oil supply from Singapore to South Vietnam. After several days of negotiation, the hijackers finally **agreed to release the hostages** in exchange for safe passage from Singapore to Kuwait, a country in the Middle East.

The Vietnam War

Vietnam was a French colony before the Japanese occupied it during World War II. When the Japanese surrendered, a communist movement resisted the return of French Rule. After Vietnam signed a peace treaty with France in 1954 to end the conflict, the country **split into two independent states - Communist North Vietnam and Non- communist South Vietnam**

In 1956, the French colonial rule in Vietnam ended after France left the country. However, both states **continued to fight** despite the peace agreement, as the governments of each state **sought to reunify** the country **under their own rule**. This conflict was known as the Vietnam War.

The **United States** and **other non-communist countries** were concerned about this conflict in Vietnam. This was because they feared that communism would **spread to neighbouring countries** and **eventually the whole region** if North Vietnam won the war.

They became even more worried because there were also communist movements present in Southeast Asian countries such as Malaya, the Philippines and Laos during the 1950s and 1960s.

This caused the United States to commit its military resources to help South Vietnam win the war.

As the Vietnam War escalated, Singapore had just gained independence. Like other non-communist countries in the region, Singapore was worried that the fighting would spread to the rest of the region and destabilise Singapore.

The Vietnam War ended after North Vietnam won the war in 1975.

British Military Withdrawal From Singapore

Aside from the regional and international conflicts, Singapore also had to address the challenge posed by the withdrawal of British forces. Since 1819, Singapore had relied on the British Empire to defend it against external threats, with the majority of the troops coming from Britain, India and Australia. Although local volunteer troops had been recruited and trained, they were small in number.

-> In the 1920s and 1930s, the British wanted to develop Singapore as a major naval base to safeguard their interests in Asia.

-> After World War II, the British **remained committed** to expand their military base in Singapore

-> The British built modern airbases and stationed their **warships** in the **local naval bases**.

-> There were also many British and Commonwealth servicemen stationed there.

However, by the 1960s, the British had a different view of their military involvement in Asia. Although Britain saw the importance of maintaining its military presence in the region, it could no longer afford the **large amount of money and resources** to maintain this military commitment. It needed to **focus on rebuilding its economy** at home.

Therefore, the British decided to withdraw their defence forces from Singapore in 1967. In 1971, the majority of the British forces had left Singapore, and in 1976, they had withdrawn completely.

As a newly independent country, the withdrawal of the British forces had left Singapore practically undefended. At the point of independence, Singapore had only two battalions of regular infantry of 50 officers and about 1000 men each, which were hardly sufficient to fight against external threats.

[The British had failed to defend against the Japanese invasion with an estimated 90,000 men. In Konfrontasi, about 50,000 British men had been stationed in the region. How could Singapore survive with only 2000 men?]

How did Singapore Overcome Its Security Challenges?

- **Deterrence**

- Singapore built its own defence force to discourage enemies from attacking it. If deterrence failed and war broke out, this defence force also had to be capable of defeating the enemy swiftly and decisively

- **Diplomacy**

- Singapore established a good relationship with other countries. In this way, Singapore could train with and learn from more advanced militaries elsewhere, have access to advanced technologies, and ensure that others would have a stake in preserving Singapore's peace and stability

Building A Defence Force

- By introducing National Service
- By establishing a home-grown defence industry
- By strengthening military cooperation with other countries

National Service

The unpopularity of and resistance towards the 1954 National Service Ordinance highlighted the difficulty of introducing conscription in Singapore. As a result, this was never carried out while the British ruled Singapore.

Therefore, Singapore could only build a credible defence force through conscription, so the country introduced National Service (NS) in 1967.

- Conscription is the compulsory enrolment of people for military service

The NS helped the country's defence force, known as the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), to expand rapidly as a large number of men were conscripted for at least two years of full-time NS.

Upon completing NS, they would become reservists that required them to continue to receive occasional military training and take up arms in times of emergency.

By the end of the 1970s, the SAF had grown into a sizeable defence force, including an army, an air force and a navy.

The SAF was supplemented by the People's Defence Force (PDF) to form a large pool of manpower to meet its defence needs.

-> The PDF was formed by part-time volunteers, including Ministers such as Dr Goh Keng Swee and Jek Yeun Thong, Members of Parliament and senior civil servants.

At first, Many young men and their families expressed some anxiety and uncertainty towards NS, particularly those from less well-to-do families. This was because these people were expected to work as soon as they left schools to help support their families. There were concerned that NS would delay their employment and caused the loss of income they would have earned.

Furthermore, the majority of Singaporeans were unfamiliar with military life. This was because only a small group of local people had experienced the military life as regulars or part-time volunteers with the British forces.

For many conscripted men, NS was a big change, and they had to adapt to the disciplined lifestyle of the military. Training was physically tough, and they had to manage their anxieties being away from their homes and families. In turn, many families were anxious about the well-being of their sons when they were conscripted into the SAF.

NS remains critical to Singapore's continual survival and success today as it serves as the foundation of Singapore's national defence. It helps Singapore develop a sizeable force that is combat-ready to defend the country. It also provides a chance for Singaporean males to bond and promote social harmony.

National servicemen from the majority of the fight force in the SAF and help safeguard Singapore's peace and stability.

Establishing a Home-Grown Defence Industry

The SAF had inherited war equipment from the British. Unfortunately, most of the equipment was obsolete and inadequate for the growing demands of the SAF.

To meet its growing demand, the SAF acquired equipment from other countries such as the United States and France. However, it was a potential weakness for a country to rely on foreign countries to supply its war equipment, as the supply could be disrupted abruptly.

To ensure a reliable supply of war equipment for the SAF, Defence Minister Dr Goh Keng Swee decided to develop Singapore's defence industry.

In 1967, the Chartered Industries of Singapore (CIS) was set up to produce ammunition and weapons of the SAF

The American-designed M16S1 rifle was one of the earliest weapons produced locally and issued to almost every soldier

Singapore also trained defence engineers and scientists to design and create new technology to meet Singapore's defence needs.

Strengthening Military Cooperation With Other Countries

To further strengthen its defence, Singapore built on its existing relations with Commonwealth countries such as Britain, Australia and Malaysia, and established new ties with countries such as the United States. This was essential as friendly relations with other countries would allow the SAF to buy equipment from them, and train with and learn from other experienced armed forces.

In 1971, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Britain established the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA), which committed the five members to consult with one another in the event of an armed attack on Singapore or Malaysia. These five countries were part of the former British Empire and members of the Commonwealth that shared common interests in the region.

The FPDA has facilitated regular combined military exercises among the five countries and has provided a platform for them to enhance defence cooperation. The latter was particularly critical as there were various armed conflicts raging across parts of Southeast Asia. The FPDA remains a relevant and defensive arrangement that contributes to regional peace and stability.

Strengthening Relations with the World

- Establishing diplomatic relations with other countries
- Growing bilateral relationships
- Joining international and regional organisations

Establishing Diplomatic Relations with Other Countries

By establishing diplomatic relations with other countries, Singapore would be recognised by other countries for its independence and they would have an interest in keeping it safe and secure.

Without this recognition, Singapore could be threatened, coerced and even invaded by hostile countries as these countries would claim that Singapore had no right to exist on its own.

Growing Bilateral Relationships

A bilateral relation is the relationship between two countries.

Singapore had close ties with many Commonwealth countries such as Australia, Malaysia at the point of independence. However, it also needed to form new bilateral relationships with other influential countries.

-> Singapore built good relations with the United States, one of the most economically and militarily important countries

-> Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew visited China for the first time in 1976 to engage with Chinese leaders due to the expansion of China's ties with Southeast Asia

Singapore also developed good relations with other countries that had no direct interests in Asia or held different stance in the Cold War

Singapore also put in effort to amend ties with countries it has tensions with, such as Indonesia.

In 1973, Prime Minister Lee visited Jakarta and scattered flowers on the graves of the two soldiers who were sentenced to death for their roles in the bombing of MacDonald House in 1968. This allowed both countries to move on from this incident and ease the tensions between them.

Joining International and Regional Organisations

When Singapore became a member in the international and regional organisations, it would help to cement the status of Singapore as an independent country.

Singapore would be able to take part actively in international and regional matters and have its voice heard by the world.

Singapore became the 117th member of the United Nations (UN)

-> The UN is an international organisation that tries to get all countries to work together to maintain peace and deal with international issues.

In 1967, Singapore became a founding member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

ASEAN was formed to prevent the spread of communism during the Cold War and to promote economic growth, social progress and cultural development in Southeast Asian through multilateral cooperation.

It has worked together to increase trade among its members. It also helps maintain peace and stability among member states and external partners. For example, when Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978, ASEAN worked with the UN and other countries like the United States and China to get Vietnam to withdraw its forces.

Conclusion

After independence, Singapore faced various security challenges from the region and internally. To overcome these challenges, Singapore adopted a two-pronged approach: deterrence and diplomacy.. To deter attacks, it established a credible defence force. At the same time, it established diplomatic and military relations with countries around the world. This ensured that other countries had an interest in keeping Singapore safe and secure.

 History notes (from class) ★°∂°★

History notes (from class)

Because I have a dumb brain ☐☐☐

The Japanese occupation began in 1942 until 1945.
Singapore was renamed "Syonan-to"

Effects and Experience ☐ > life under Japanese occupation

The people of SG suffered harsh punishments.

Such as:

-slap 😱

-pulling out their nails 😡

-burning their hair

-caning

-jail.

They mostly targeted the Chinese. They were a potential source of opposition and a threat to their rule. This was because when the Japanese invaded China in 1937, they faced strong resistance from the Chinese, including Chinese communities living outside China.

For example, the Chinese community in SG called for a boycott of Japanese goods and contributed funds to China's efforts against Japan.

It was a period of hardships for the majority of the population. Almost every aspect of life including food, education and labour was heavily controlled and regulated by the Japanese.

Take Resources – Japan needed things like oil, rubber, and metals to support its military and economy. Asia was rich with these natural resources.

Expand Its Empire – Instead of freeing countries, Japan wanted to rule them

Why are there food shortages?

There were food shortages and hence it was in high demand.

The Japanese were greedy and took all the food for themselves.

They took the food for their soldiers and gave the remaining to the people whom they had to split among themselves.

Why do the Japanese treat some people nicely and some of them harshly?

If they treat them kindly, the people will obey them and think they are better than the British.
Some actions can be giving them food supplies.

They treat them harshly so that they can show the people that they are powerful and in control, and hence they must obey them or their lives will be taken away from them. They also gave out harsh punishments to people who go against them or are anti-Japanese to show others fear and serve as a severe discouragement for them from doing so.

Explain how the Japanese tried to win the loyalty of the locals during the Japanese Occupation.
Question asking for HOW - so need to describe the *method*
How do you know if you have won someone's loyalty?

The impact of these methods/ways on the local people so that they would respond according to what the Japanese wanted.

- Using propaganda
- Providing benefits to the locals
- Imposing Japanese culture X (not allowed as they used a sort of force)
- Harsh punishments X(cruel)

Explain how the Japanese tried to win the loyalty of the locals during the Japanese occupation

The Japanese tried to win the loyalty of the locals during the Japanese occupation by providing benefits to the locals and using propaganda.

Firstly, the Japanese offered some benefits to the locals, such as free education and accommodation, at no cost. They also gave favourable treatment to some ethnic groups. They won the support from the Malay nationalist organisation Kesatuan Melaya Muda (Union of Malay Youth or KMM) as the Japanese promised better lives for the Malays under their rule. The Japanese treated them less harshly and even gave them sugar, rice and salt, which were scarce during the occupation. To the Malays, the Japanese were friendly people who were willing to make a change in their lives and free them from British rule, and hence they gave the Japanese their loyalty.

Secondly, the Japanese used propaganda to influence the minds of the people in Singapore to win their loyalty. They portrayed themselves as liberators who had come to free Asians from colonial rule. They tried to convince the locals to accept their vision of the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere in which Japan would free them from British rule. There would be a united Asia that shared resources collectively to benefit one another. Although this image appealed to locals who resented British rule, it still masked Japan's true intentions of exploiting resources and manpower for their war efforts. Yet, these messages were spread through various channels, such as posters and radio broadcasts.

Hence, in my conclusion, the Japanese tried to win the loyalty of the locals by providing benefits to some of the locals as well as using propaganda.

Explain one way the Rendel Constitution help the locals to be more involved in Singapore politics.

Sir George Rendel recommended that limited self-government be granted to Singapore in 1955.

Hence, the British formed a commission to review the constitution of Singapore.

The Commission recommended limited self-government for Singapore.

Council of Ministers headed by the Governor and comprising a local Chief Minister and five other local ministers.

Minister and five other local ministers. These ministers would have control over education, health, housing, trade and industry.

By allowing more locals to be involved in the government, it gives more representation to the locals -> voice of the locals.

Decisions made by the government will be more beneficial to the locals.

Explain why there was discontent towards the British in Singapore in the early 1950s.

There was discontent towards the British in Singapore in the early 1950s because of the British's poor management of religious issues

Case study of the Maria Hertogh Riot

- A Dutch girl raised as a Muslim by a Malay family during World War II
- When her biological parents sought to reclaim her, the British courts awarded custody to them, effectively nullifying her marriage to a muslim man and requiring her return to a Catholic upbringing.
- The courts failed to adequately consider Islamic law and Muslim customs regarding marriage
- The decision to invalidate Maria's marriage -> dismissive of Muslim religious practices.
- British authorities insensitively housed Maria in a Catholic convent during the custody proceedings -> Inflamed religious tensions within the Muslim community.
- The timing of the court decision coincided with the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, showing a lack of awareness of religious sensitivities and important dates in the Muslim calendar.
- These missteps led to violence (18 deaths and 173 injuries)

Hence, there was discontent against the British as they felt the British did not understand them and did not care about their feelings.

Reasons for the merger

- Economic Reason
- Political reason -> Government

Need to contain communism in Singapore

-> Difficult to control the spread of communist activities if Singapore became independent (Malaya and the British had no say in the matter of Internal Security)

It also looked like the PAP was losing power to the radicals who were sympathetic towards communism

The PAP

The PAP was founded by English-educated moderates and Chinese-educated radicals in 1954. Both wanted independence for Singapore, but were different in their attitude towards the British and the method to achieve their goal.

The moderates were willing to work with the British to gain independence gradually from the British through elections.

The radicals did not trust the British and wanted independence to come faster. They believed in taking a stronger and more aggressive approach, such as organising protests and strikes.

Without the radicals, the English-educated non-communists would not have been able to attract the majority of Chinese-speaking people.

Separation

-> economic -> c.m./taxes/revenue -> unfair treatment

-> political -> election/trigger: Prophet Muhammad's birthday, more Chinese than Malay