

# SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES 2010

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# **Globalizing Singapore: One Global City, Global Networks, and the Developmental State**

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# Globalizing Singapore

## Presentation Outline

- Placing global cities
- Singapore – THE global city-state
- Singapore – towards a global innovative knowledge cluster

## Placing global cities

- Connecting knowledge, creativity, and economic development at the urban scale: varieties of global cities
- Beyond the internal attributes of creative cities
  - Strategic coupling of creative cities and transnational networks
  - The role of global networks
  - Singapore – from THE global city-state to THE global knowledge cluster: territoriality and extra-territoriality in global flows

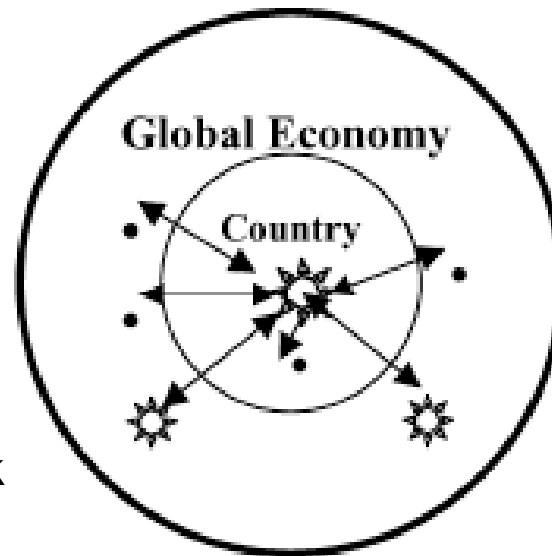
## 1. Hyper Global Cities

↔ Very well integrated into the global economy through both inward and outward flows

☀ Global city-regions

- Cities

e.g. London and New York



## 2. Emerging Global Cities

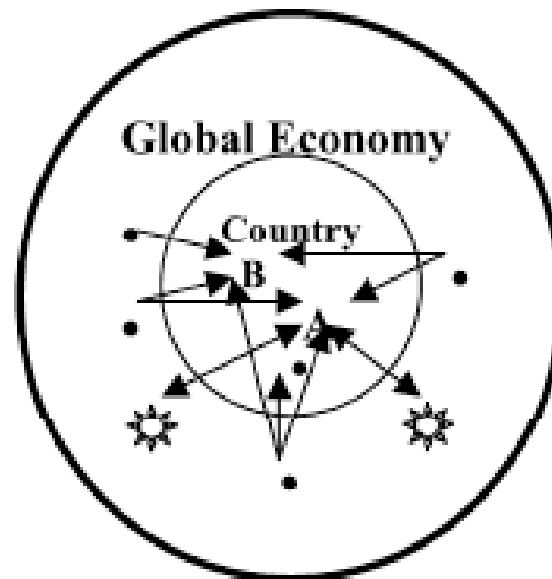
→ More reliance on inward flows from the global economy

☀ Global city-regions

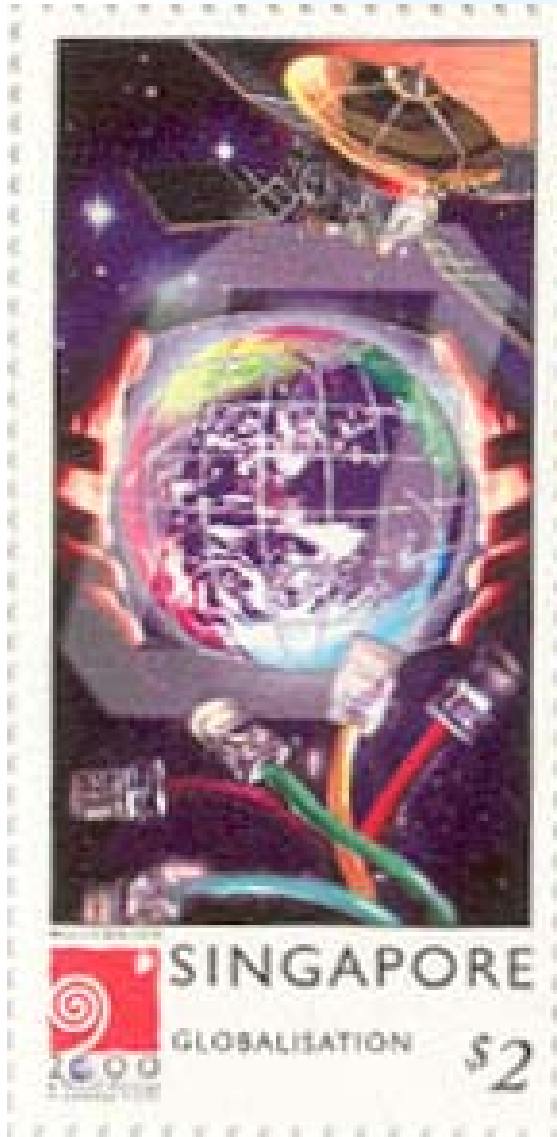
A/B Emerging global cities

- Cities

e.g. Shanghai and Dubai



How does Singapore fit in as a global city state?



- a marker of the transition towards a knowledge based economy
- an indicator of the increasingly significant role of information technology in underlying global development processes
- a celebratory icon of the new Millennium
- knowledge, innovation and talents?

# Singapore – THE global city-state

## ➤ Characteristics

- National political capacity and legitimacy
- Avoidance of national-versus-urban politics
- Colonialism and post-colonial dynamics: outward orientation and cosmopolitanism



## Singapore – THE global city-state

- Global reach: a globalizing city by default
  - Deliberate effort by strategic actors to extend their influence and relations beyond their limited geographic space: elites in private firms, social organizations, and state institutions
  - Global city-state – a powerful node in global networks AND an important window to extend our “spheres of influence” in the global economy



## Singapore – THE global city-state

- Global reach: a global city by default
  - Developmentalism: state institutions and policy frameworks in **UrbaNational** developmental strategies

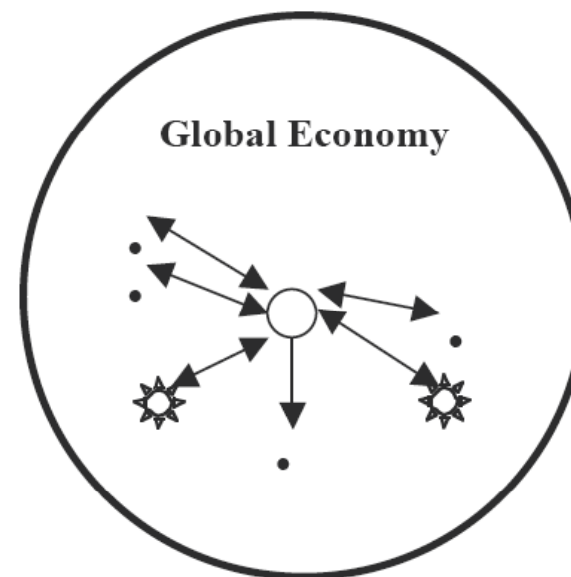
FIGURE 4. Singapore as a Global City-State

↔ Very well integrated into the global economy and experience direct influence

☀ Global city-regions

○ Global city-state

• Cities



Source: Adapted from Olds and Yeung (2004: Figure 2).

## Singapore – towards a global innovative knowledge cluster

- Economies of urbanization = economies of agglomeration
  - Innovation and knowledge development
  - R&D activities in geographical clusters
  - Spatial contiguity in innovation processes
- Several examples:
  - Financial services
  - Electronics (e.g. HDD)
  - Petrochemicals and biomedical sector
  - What next?? Cultural industries?

## Singapore – towards a global innovative knowledge cluster

### ▶ Implications for future success

- Innovative clusters as intentional creation: both local and non-local flows of capital, people, knowledge
- Less coordinated and managed national innovation and knowledge system: critical to creative cities
- Continual importance of political credibility and policy consistency