

SINGAPORE PERSPECTIVES2015

Choices

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PANEL I

Sovereignty

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SINGAPORE'S FUTURE IN A WORLD OF HYBRID SOVEREIGNTY

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SINGAPORE'S FUTURE AS A SOVEREIGN STATE

SOVEREIGNTY

(In theory)

‘Westphalian’ definition:

“states exist in specific territories, within which domestic political authorities are the sole arbiters of legitimate behaviour”

- ⇒ Freedom from external interference
 - ⇒ Recognition as an autonomous agent
in the international system
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(In practice)

Not zero-sum

Not static

Not linear

SINGAPORE'S EXPERIENCE OF SOVEREIGNTY

- Traumatic
 - Intense
 - Exciting and promising
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SOVEREIGNTY TRENDS 1965-2015

Globalization undermines the assumed
coincidence of authority and territory

1. Intensified interdependence and collective action requirements

2. Diffused authority and threats

3. Unprecedented opportunities for subcontracting

⇒ Hybrid state authority

⇒ Networks v territory

⇒ Flows v borders

⇒ Opposing or contradictory forces

SINGAPORE'S FUTURE SOVEREIGNTY?

- (I) Dissolution: end of sovereignty
 - (II) Merger: federal sovereignty
 - (III) Integration: pooled sovereignty
 - (IV) 'Global state': 'hyper-hybrid' sovereignty
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MERGER

- Federal sovereignty
- Malaysia; Indo-Malay federation; 'Greater China'
- Control over networks; the economic 'region state'; rise of Asian consumer market
- Political and ideological divides; military and economic lags

INTEGRATION

- Pooled sovereignty
- ASEAN; East Asian Union
- Address ineffectiveness and intervention challenges
- Political will; functional competence

'GLOBAL STATE'

AIM = be extraordinarily effective in practising hybrid sovereignty

LOGIC:

the 'limbo' of hybrid sovereignty

state effectiveness comes from effective participation in global networks and flows

CHALLENGES OF HYBRID SOVEREIGNTY

- manage opposing forces of de- and re-nationalisation to maximize state capacity
 - leverage multiple systems of rule to achieve national purposes
 - make choices to reconcile contradictions in modes of sovereign practice
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SINGAPORE'S CHALLENGES

- Security: most traditional
 - Defence relationships
 - International judicial authorities
 - Security cooperation
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- Economic: most globalized
 - Multilayered economic governance networks
 - Sovereignty through transnational cooperation
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- Social: most complex
 - National identity and labour flows
 - Citizenship and geography
 - Global and national citizens
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THANK YOU.