

Blame the young, the old, the Chinese, everyone - The Middle Ground

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IF YOU'RE the sort to say "you voted for it, I don't want to hear you complain", then the latest Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) findings from a post-GE2015 survey will give you, vaguely at least, some people to vent your ire on in a progressive, non-racist, non-discriminatory kind of way.

Where previously you had to pick out specific people who told you how they voted for the People's Action Party (PAP), now the anger will be less pent up and more easy to bear once you're done pigeon-holing people into categories. Your well-practised evil eye can now be cast upon the more-likely and more deserving masses of sheep, whether you spy them languishing on the MRT platform during one of the now-more-frequent train breakdowns, or maybe in a non-WP-supporter kopitiam.

Conclusions

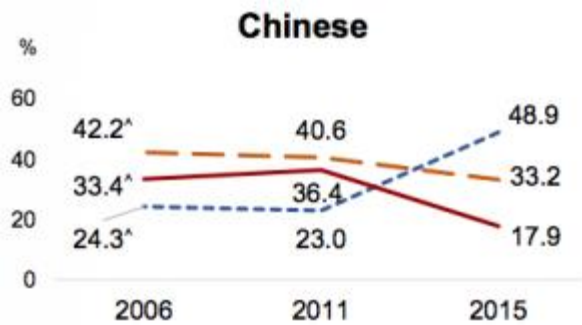
- The key segments that shifted from supporting the PAP and the political status quo in 2011, shifted back in 2015 and these were people in the
 - 21-39, 65 and above age groups
 - Lower-middle, Upper-middle and High income groups
 - 4-room flat dwellers
 - Intermediate and Working classes
 - Post-secondary and above educational categories

Pluralism loves the middle-aged Malay or Indian, low-income PMET living in private housing with secondary education or lower. I think. Graphic courtesy of IPS.

Aha! Those pesky youth. Gosh, how fickle they are. Never mind that half of 2011's youth are 2015's 30-39 age group. That's the problem with youngsters today – too naive. Just bribe them (did I say "bribe"? I meant "assuage") with effective policies to control housing prices and make things more affordable and they will be firmly in your corner.

Now you're going to look at every NSman, every university student, every young adult or new parent differently. Practise that suspicious eye-narrowing, trying to discern if they voted against the opposition in the last GE. There's a better than 70 per cent chance that they did.

And the elderly? A handsome \$8 billion worth of Pioneer Generation Package seems to be enough to make them forget about all the hard truths that some people had to experience on the road to prosperity. They think they had it hard in the pioneer years? What about those poor sods who get put away for decades and who will never win a Nobel Prize? You would spit on the elderly (selectively of course) but that would attract a \$1000 fine, since even opposition supporters vouch for Singapore's high level of law and order.



That blue line shows PAP support. 70% voted for PAP, 76% of the population is Chinese. Coincidence? I don't think so. Graphic courtesy of IPS

But ah, the Chinese vote! Surely a large swing could only have been possible with their influence. The Malays may waffle and wait for the hustings to be over, and Other races (all 1 per cent of them) have shifted from pluralist to swing, but the Chinese are more conservative than ever, and have made up their minds even before the campaign period.

Among those naturalised citizens who agreed and strongly agreed that PAP is a credible party, most were aged 40 years and above, been naturalised citizens for 31 years and more.

Proof that the longer new citizens stay here, the more they become like local-born Singaporeans. Curses. Graphic courtesy of IPS.

And new citizens? Well, it is true that they tend to be more supportive of the status quo, but that's nothing new and since the trend has changed little since 2011, you can stay as pissed off as you ever were at this group. Just a caution, though: the older they are and the longer they have been new citizens, the more likely they are to support the PAP. Could it be that, horror of horrors, these new citizens are actually thinking and behaving like local-born citizens? If they were to eventually become indistinguishable from local-born citizens, then it's going to make the job of blaming someone harder for you, isn't it? Tough.

Better to vent and vex about the young, old, Chinese, higher-income, blue-collar, 4-room-dwelling, post-secondary educated voter. This nation is infested with such people! All most of us have to do is look in the mirror to find one. That's the problem with this country.

May their trains break down; may their GST rise to 10 per cent; may they buy expensive houses and get charged 50 cents just to tar-pow food. Damn their humbuggery in 2011, when they swung to the opposition, because as a die-hard opposition supporter, it's opposition supporters you can't stand most of all.