

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF SINGAPORE'S AUTHORITARIAN CAPITALISM

Christopher Lingle, "Singapore and Authoritarian Capitalism", *The Locke Luminary*, Vol. 1 No. 1 (Summer 1998) Part 3. Available at: http://www.thelockeinstitute.org/journals/luminary_v1_n1_p3.html.

Some readers may remember that Lingle held a fellowship at the National University of Singapore in the late 1990s and was collecting information for a book on the "Singapore model". While there he published a short article in the *International Herald Tribune*, which inferred that Singapore's judiciary was supportive of the government's authoritarianism. He left the country shortly after that with a pending libel case against him.

Soek-Fang Sim, "Asian Values, Authoritarianism and Capitalism in Singapore", *Media and Democracy in Asia*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (2001), pp. 45-66. Available at: <http://javnost-thepublic.org/article/pdf/2001/2/3/>. The author examines specifically the dominance of the People's Action Party in Singapore by focusing on its use of discourses of "Asian Values". In order to retain a one-party system, public discourse in Singapore sought to devalue Western-style democracy by stressing the disadvantages of the constant tension between increased liberalism and the growing welfare state. The fundamental nature of the "Asian Values", as viewed by Soek-Fang Sim, is its traditional focus on progress based upon ability and talent rather than on class privilege or wealth, and then allowing "social welfare to be privatised and administered through (ethnic) communities, not through the state."

Daniel Goh, "The Rise of Neo-Authoritarianism: Political Economy and Culture in the Trajectory of Singaporean Capitalism", University of Michigan, 1 April 2002. Available at: <http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/2027.42/51355/1/591.pdf>. The author explains the key role of Singapore's bureaucratic elite in creating an Asian value system, which he called neo-Confucianism, in order to form the basis for Singapore's state-participative development. This was viewed in the early 1980s as an effective and expedient way of retaining state authority in the transition to a more complete democratisation of Singapore.

The second article by Soek-Fang Sim in *Media and Democracy in Asia*, is perhaps the most informative in terms of possible use of the "Singapore model" in China by Xi Jinping. It is generally recognised that the recent, dysfunctional struggles in the US Congress are sufficiently off-putting to give little or no credibility to a "American value system". Though some analysts (such as David Smick at http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/what-will-replace-the-globalization-model/2012/10/16/57cf62da-0e6d-11e2-bd1a-b868e65d57eb_story.html?wpisrc=nl_opinions) consider this to be at a crisis level and believe that a new system will emerge, this is not likely to occur within Xi Jinping's presidency.