Cold War and the effects on SG's journey to independence

- Conflicts between anti-communist and communist power blocks
- Singapore's Chinese majority became a source of concern for the British government
- Period characterised by civil unrest
- Merger and *Konfrontasi*

Subsequent notable events

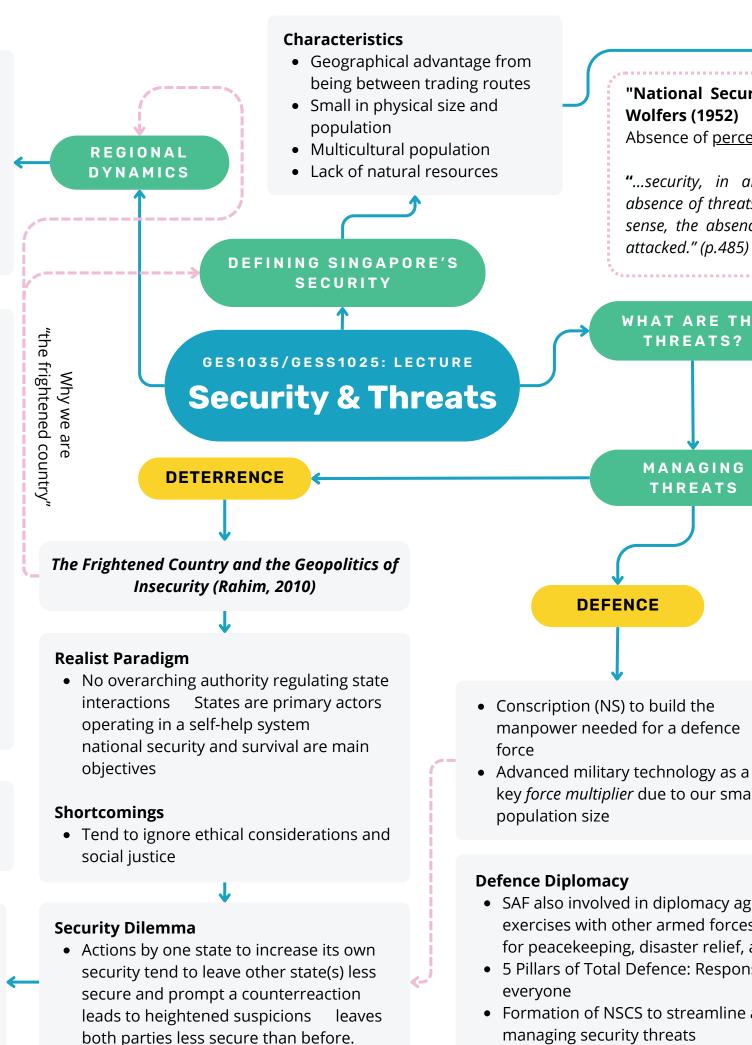
- Separation from Malaysia
- War in Indo-China
 - Domino campaign against SEA
- Withdrawal of British troops
 - Motivated the formation of our own military force. *National Service Act of* 1967, Enlistment Act of 1970
- Formation of ASEAN
 - To create a stable region through a collective voice against external powers
 - To maintain peace and stability in SEA
- Vietnam-Cambodia Conflict
 - Seeing larger states interfere with the affairs of smaller states created unease and insecurity for SG
 - SG contributed to various stages in conflict resolution

Post-Cold War

- New World Order
- 9/11 Attacks

Possible alternative

• Security paradigm that also considers normative ideals of justice, diversity, sustainable development, demilitarisation that departs solely from relying on coercive force



"National Security" as an Ambiguous Symbol:

forms the basis of

Absence of <u>perceived</u> threats to acquired values

Wolfers (1952)

WHAT ARE THE

THREATS?

MANAGING

THREATS

DEFENCE

manpower needed for a defence

key force multiplier due to our small

"...security, in an objective sense, measures the absence of threats to acquired values, in a subjective sense, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked." (p.485)

being

National Interests 55

- Sovereignty
 - Conducting domestic and foreign relations without external influence
- Territorial Integrity
- Social Stability

broadly, anything that's articulated to threaten.

DIPLOMACY

Maintaining strong economic, defence

countries in order to ensure that they

have vested interest in Singapore's well-

• Being an active player in enhancing

Arena to manage the stability of the

Platform to develop SEA's economy

cooperation and managing disputes

and diplomatic relation with other

Importance of ASEAN

• Dialogue partnership

- Social cohesion among multicultural people must be protected with great care and vigilance because it is very fragile
- Economic Well-being
 - Social and political stability hinge on economic progress

Non-Traditional Security Threats

Threats to a nation and it's people, not carried out by states and not involving traditional military warfare

- (Transnational) Terrorism
- Natural Disasters
 - Singapore is not vulnerable to natural disasters but is affected by disasters in the region
- Financial Crisis
 - Can also translate to political instability (e.g 1997 Asian Financial crisis)
- Pandemics
 - Threatens economic well-being too considering Singapore's reliance on global connectivity
- Lack of basic essentials (food and water)
- Dependent on favourable relations with neighbours
- Cyber-attacks
 - o Increased connectivity and reliance on ICT to manage daily tasks
 - RIse of information warfare gathering and use of (mis)information to achieve political objectives (with or without military force)

Defence Diplomacy

population size

force

- SAF also involved in diplomacy agreements, conducting dialogues/ military exercises with other armed forces on a bilateral or multilateral basis, deployed for peacekeeping, disaster relief, and MOOTW
- 5 Pillars of Total Defence: Responsibility to defend SG must be assumed by everyone
- Formation of NSCS to streamline and formalise an inter-ministry approach to managing security threats