

Singapore in the World

NATIONAL IDENTITY

Imagined Communities: Anderson (1983)
a nation is **constructed imaginatively**, with borders arbitrarily assigned

"the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of their communion"

National identity

- As a consensus
- Can be positive and negative
- Includes values such as meritocracy, harmony and non-corruption

MULTICULTURALISM

1. Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act
2. HDB EIP
3. Racial Harmony Day
4. Religious leaders working closely with MHA

Often used to justify

MERITOCRACY

Compassionate Meritocracy

- Balancing of individual pursuit of success through merit with sense of compassion

Performance based/ Competence based Meritocracy

- Based on demonstrated competencies and tested abilities

Perceptions of Meritocracy in Singapore: Inconsistencies, Contestations and Biases (Teo, 2019)

Meritocracy justifies

- ruling party's enduring political dominance
- policies that (re)produces elitism and technocratic government

Meritocracy undermines

effects of social capital (networks), SES, race/ethnicity, gender.

All of which may confer an individual more advantages, power, resources, status (i.e systemic inequalities that marginalise certain groups of people) accentuates (not levelling) the playing field

But in reality, the opportunities to perform are unequal