
importantly, the region's people are in general separated socially, culturally, and in terms of religion and politics from the remainder of the country.

It is difficult to move to a conclusion when reviewing Andriess's brilliant work. The topics discussed above suggest the intellectual "flavour" of the book but the volume's immense array of topics and thoughtful details makes summarizing it difficult. However, it's not difficult to conclude that this book is an example of serious and useful scholarship that will interest a readership composed of those whose geographic interests are specific to the region and/or to broader Southeast Asia. The volume will also interest readers whose intellectual foci are on comparative approaches to development. And this final point: while the level of scholarship is extremely high, the list of citations contained in this volume are as impressive as this reviewer has yet to encounter.

ROBERT L. CURRY, Jr.
California State University Sacramento

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Economic Cooperation between Singapore and India: An Alliance in the Making? By **Faizal bin Yahya**. Routledge Studies in the Growth Economies of Asia. London and New York: Routledge, 2008. Pp. 254.

The present momentum of economic cooperation between Singapore and India, which had started with the visit of the Indian Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1991, and later by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2002, and subsequently addressed by Singaporean leaders like the then Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and others, accelerated further after the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in 2005 between them. It has had an impact on all facets of the relationship between both countries — political, economic and social. For India, it was a significant step towards

engaging an ASEAN country to pursue its "Look East" policy; for Singapore, it was looking for a stable partner in South Asia and access to the huge potential market that Singapore companies could tap into. Implications of the bilateral economic relations had been published as working papers and reports or articles from research institutes and think-tanks, but a comprehensive research work in this direction had been much-awaited and desired for, as the title of the monograph suggests, and would have immediately attracted the attention of scholars, policy-makers and entrepreneurs alike.

However, the author has only partially succeeded to live up to the aim of the monograph as he had himself suggested it to be, that is, how Singapore has "enhanced its business and economic linkages with the emerging Indian economy" (p. 3). He has devoted his attention to examine the scope of Singaporean investment potentials in India, that too in the sector of infrastructure only, which is but one of the aspects of the economic cooperation in view of the wide scope of coverage as suggested by the title. There are six chapters devoted to information technology, telecommunications, real estate, ports and civil aviation, which are elaborate and, undoubtedly, informative with well-utilized media publications, but does not much succeed to live up to the commitment of the title, which promises to be more broad-based and comprehensive. The author disagrees with his own self when he mentions that "this monograph ... will cover a broad-range of economic sectors that Singapore companies are involved with in the Indian market" (p. 17). Does this then signify that the Singapore-Indian economic relations are solely based on the paradigms of infrastructure?

Whereas there is no denying the fact that Singapore can and is playing a very significant role in the development of infrastructural facilities in India, which is one of its priority sectors to sustain its economic growth, the absence of mention of certain equally significant and relevant areas of investments like energy, financial sector, manufacturing, tourism, health care and general trade and commerce leaves a considerable void in

the argument. These sectors have already been playing a significant role in the landscape of the Singapore-India relationship. Singapore being a service-oriented economy, with more than 60 per cent of its GDP coming from this sector, can take considerable advantage of India's tourism potential, which could be one of the most economically viable areas of investment in India. Some of the sectors which do not find mention in this book has the prospective of engaging a large number of Singapore-based companies to invest in India.

The author has deliberated on the innumerable challenges that one faces in trying to make inroads into the Indian economy. While he has rightly pointed out the challenges of different regional markets with different characteristics and the linguistic issues which had to be dealt with by business start-ups in the multi-ethnic setting (pp. 53–54), it might help to remember that the English language forms the communicating link to most of the regions, unlike many other countries around the world, which might act as an advantage over many other markets. Whereas it may be argued that the Indian system poses a formidable challenge to new business initiatives in India, there have been significant policy changes towards taxation, rationalization of tariffs, raising threshold limits for investments, etc., that may be considered in its proper perspectives to make the readers aware of the changing scenario. The bilateral initiatives under CECA may also have been covered in greater detail as the agreement is made out to be the focal point of the economic cooperation between the two states. A chapter dedicated to this effect would have been more helpful in generating active interest of the readers rather than a brief mention in the last chapter of the book.

The theoretical perspective, as the author mentions at the beginning of his monograph, of Singapore venturing into developing economies like India because it had reached optimum domestic expansion (p. 3), had historical links with the subcontinent, and could use Indian connections to enter the South Asian market (p. 11), is indeed simple and partial and could go

much beyond it. There is a necessity of factoring the “balance of power” equations in the Asian theatre. The complex interplay of politico-strategic issues had also prompted Singapore to associate itself with the rising powers like India. One might also consider the transition of “knowledge economies” where India has emerged as a significant player and can serve the island-nation's objectives and interests. The historical links have thus been utilized as soft-power tools to forge the contemporary relations between the two powers.

In all, the monograph had been an informative read from the perspective of infrastructure investments of Singapore into India. The extensive information and data which has been utilized deserves appreciation, though there remains a lot of scope for further interpretation. It had been rightly pointed out by the author that it was “crucial to link state developmental theory to literature on big-business” (p. 14). This link could have been better utilized to build up a strong structural base and substantiated by facts and figures already well accumulated by the author and incorporated into the chapters giving it a definitive focus and connectivity to successfully build up a hypothesis, instead of confining them into a separate chapter (Chapter 2). Fruitful analyses of various policies have remained largely undisclosed which could have been relevant to corporate bodies and academic interests alike.

JAYATI BHATTACHARYA

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore

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Public Health in Asia and the Pacific: Historical and Comparative Perspectives. Edited by Milton J. Lewis and Kerrie L. Macpherson. London and New York: Routledge, 2008. Pp. 320.

The edited volume of fourteen chapters, one for each country on epidemiological and non-medical comparative public health by multidisciplinary authors is a huge effort for the population covered.