

## Understanding Governance

**What is the purpose of the chapter?**

**How does Chapter 2 connect to other chapters?**

1. Understanding structures of government and principles of governance. Structural frame from which to understand policy making (formulation and implementation). Try to revisit restructure whenever possible in subsequent chapters.
2. Appreciate how principles of governance are embodied in policies via case studies of transport and population planning. Show extent of effectiveness in featured case studies by examining both successes and limitations, including how public opinion has shaped policy making.
3. Create clear linkage with Chapter 3 by firstly revisiting role of government in healthcare and also how principles of governance are evident in healthcare policies.

**What do I already know about the role of governance in Singapore?**

**What do my students already know/what are my students' existing perceptions of government?**

**What factors influence their perceptions of governance?**

- Need to deepen own knowledge about role and effectiveness of governance in various domains (get both official versions as well as views from the ground via governmental websites, media commentaries and blog sites).

- Probably first/initial exposure for most students. Be aware of factors influencing perceptions (role of media, personal experiences and family background etc). Get students to surface these perceptions as early as possible so as to manage the introduction of balanced perspectives.

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### **What are the different ways through which to develop an appreciation of the purpose of government?**

#### **How to relate 'distant' concepts to students' lives? □**

1. Other case studies that may be used to demonstrate governance in action:
  - Environmental management, potential for multi-disciplinary understandings
  - Development of a cultural renaissance city
  - Housing
  - Education
  
- How has the types and role of government changed over time/varied over space?
  
- Comparing functions of the three branches of government in other countries.
  
- Looking at role and functions in Singapore across time, e.g. how the legislature has expanded over time, how there are more avenues for public feedback, how there are more examples showing policy formulation based on public feedback.
  
- What are the possibilities for active participation?
  
- Exposure to stories of the impact of ordinary Singaporeans getting involved in social action/issues. Variety of involvement along the opinion-action spectrum e.g. Political blog sites, volunteer, NGO sites.

- Participation at class/school level efforts to improve community.

### Chapter 2 Resources

Series of links (titles are hyperlinked) to governmental, private organisations and citizens' sites on issues related to governance. Together, they should provide a balance of different perspectives and opinions on social issues in Singapore.

There is a sample of web-links for Non-Governmental Organisations. You may want to introduce these in the context of providing another angle to examining the extent of effective governance. Equally important, the efforts of the people behind these organisations and the impact of their work is a potent way to understand what active citizenry could look like.

### [Singapore's Elections Department \(Prime Minister's Office\)](#)

Check out this site for good explanations of how elections are conducted as well as the evolution of elections in Singapore. Good way of introducing to students the concept of their 'rights' as citizens, as well as how part of the government is formed.

### [Singapore Parliament website](#)

Info on how laws are made in Singapore.

### [Gov.sg Information and Policies](#)

This site has links to all major domains of policies. Gd place to start building up your own knowledge of effective governance. Rich source of case studies to use in addition to those in textbooks.

### [Prime Minister's Office \(On Structure of Govt\)](#)

Explains structure in a clear manner, with links that further elaborates on various arms of government

### [Blogsite 'Online Citizen'](#)

This blog site features a group of writers providing commentaries on many issues related to governance. Read their analyses for different perspectives on issues, as well as responses from readers to these articles for some sense of the spectrum of opinions existing in Singapore society. But do remember to read all articles and responses with a critical eye!!!

### [The Singapore Daily blogsite](#)

This site consolidates external (largely individual) blog entries (including Online Citizen) on social issues in Singapore. It is updated every single day. However, the range of entries featured tend to be of a certain slant, so do read and think through with a critical eye. This, together with Online Citizen, should help provide you with more perspectives on issues featured in SS. Will help in balancing the case studies and persp

### [National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre \(NVPC\) Singapore](#)

### [Environmental Challenge Organisation](#)

[Singapore International Foundation - Singapore International Foundation](#)

[H.O.M.E. ... We Are One Family! \(foreign worker welfare\)](#)

[Women's Rights - AWARE Singapore - Association of Women for Action and Research](#)

[Mercy Relief: Extending Hands, Connecting Hearts](#)

[Singapore in the New Millenium \(Book\)](#)

Da Cunha, D. (2002). Singapore in the new millennium: Challenges facing the city state. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asia Studies.

A series of articles on the challenges that Singapore may face in the areas of governance, security and education.

▣ [Politics and Governance in Singapore: An Introduction](#) (book)

Singh, B. (200). Politics and Governance in Singapore: An Introduction. Singapore: McGraw.

Provides a good overview of the historical and structural dimensions of Singapore politics, also examines challenges Singapore may face in the future because of the nature and implications of its political system.

### [Dynamic Governance: Embedding Culture, Change and Capabilities in Singapore \(book\)](#)

Neo, B.S & Chen, G. (2007). *Dynamic Governance: Embedding Culture, Capabilities and Change in Singapore*. Singapore: World Scientific, 2007.

This book provides an in-depth look at dynamic governance, the key to success in a world of rapid, increasing globalization and unrelenting technological advancements. If bureaucratic public institutions can evolve and embed the culture and capabilities that enable continuous learning and change, their contributions to a country's socio-economic progress and prosperity would be enormous.

### [Evolution of a Revolution: The Singapore Constitution \(book\)](#)

Thio, L. & Tan, K. (2008). *Evolution of a Revolution: The Singapore Constitution*. New York: Routledge. 2008.



Assessment of the impact of history, politics and economics in shaping the Singapore Constitution, going beyond the descriptive narrative, the authors will cast a critical eye over the developments of the last 40 years.

### [Government and Politics in Southeast Asia \(Book\)](#)

Funston, J. (2002). Government and Politics in Southeast Asia. Singapore: Zed Books. 2002.

Overview of formal organization of Southeast Asian countries' government, including political parties, elections, civil society, and human rights.

### [Principles of East Asian Governance \(article by Kishore Mahbubani\)](#)

Available for access on Kishore Mahbubani's website, [www.mahbubani.net](http://www.mahbubani.net), which has many resources for topics related to governance and diplomacy.