

Singapore

Singapore is a predominantly Chinese-speaking city-state of 5.1 million inhabitants (3.8 million of whom are Singaporean citizens or permanent residents). It has administrative and electoral subdivisions but no intermediate territorial decentralization, so Singapore scores zero on all dimensions. A key feature of the governance system is the usage of consociational, or group-based, representation for minority ethnic and religious communities, which guarantees a minimum representation for Malays, Indians and other minorities (Ganesan 1996; Reilly 2006). Consociational principles are also applied at the local level, where since 1997 some form of territorial governance has taken shape.

In 1997 the central government created five Community Development Councils (CDCs), each with clear territorial district boundaries (People's Association Act Ch. 227), and since 2001 these councils play a role in active labor market provision and in the provision of social services such as child care, student services, and family care. Each council is headed by a mayor, who is usually a member of parliament elected in the district, but appointed by Singapore's single party, the People's Association (PAP). Council members are also appointed (Haque 1996).

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References

Primary Sources

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Secondary Sources

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