

(Ebook pdf) Singapore: Smart City, Smart State

Singapore: Smart City, Smart State

Kent E. Calder

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Kent E. Calder : Singapore: Smart City, Smart State before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Singapore: Smart City, Smart State:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Model for Others -By Loyd Eskildson Massive urbanization has created innumerable cities - over 54% of the world's population live in cities, nearly double the ratio of half a century ago, and expected to rise to two-thirds by 2050. One of the greatest challenges today is the problem of governance - structures that can cope effectively with the increasingly complex and numerous problems faced everywhere. The traditional Western welfare state, relying on expensive universal entitlements to shield citizens from poverty, ill health, unemployment, and the vicissitudes of social transformation, has generated huge fiscal deficits, while arguably

reducing impulses to save and to economize. The United Nations has not shown itself to be as effective as hoped. Singapore is both a city and a state - and it offers some important lessons. The World Bank has, from 2006 through 2015, rated Singapore (population 6 million) as the easiest country in which to do business. (Average start-up time for a new company is less than 2.5 days.) The World Economic Forum's 'Global Competitiveness Report' has, from 2011 through 2015, ranked Singapore as second only to Switzerland in overall competitiveness among 148 nations. In both 2014 and 2015, Singapore was first in networked readiness. It also traditionally ranks high in transparency of government policymaking (#1 in 2015), public trust in politicians (#1), absence of corruption (#3), and quality of intellectual protection (#4). Over 7,000 multinational firms operate there, employing over 110,000 expatriates; net international position as a share of GDP ranked Singapore #1 in 2012. Its per capita GDP ranking is 9th of 248 countries, and rising - exceeding Britain, Germany, Japan, and the U.S. While one-fourth the size of D.C., Singapore boasts the world's second-largest container terminal port, 6th-busiest international airport. Home ownership has risen from 59% in 1980 to 91% in 2015. Personal income tax rates start at zero and limited to 20% for residents; nonresidents are taxed at 15%. The corporate income tax rate is only 17%, and there are incentives (eg. Start-Up Tax Exemption) that reduce rates further. Its value-added tax is 7%, and there is no dividend, estate, or capital gains tax. Its unemployment rate was 1.7% in 2014, 4th lowest in the world. The technical quality of its healthcare system was recently ranked as 3rd best in the world, WHO reports Singapore has the 2nd lowest rate of infant mortality. Its high-school students recently ranked #1 in the world (PISA 2015), and it sends many to the finest universities in the West. The number of manual guest workers now surpasses 1 million, though rates of increase have leveled off since 2012. Singapore is rated #1 in Asian personal safety, 8th globally in 2016. (No mass shooting, serial killings, terrorist bombing attacks, major civil unrest.) Gallup found 95% pleased with water quality (#5 globally), and 91% with their air quality (#6 globally). Singapore's Freedom House democracy ranking is 'partly free' for the past 15 years, freedom of the press was 148th in 2015. Most guest workers come without their families, are under tight social restrictions, and typically without benefits of basic services. While Singapore is a democracy, it has always been dominated by a single party whose control of the system means it can move quickly. Beginning in late 2014, Singapore began deploying an undetermined number of sensors and cameras across the island city-state that will allow the government to monitor everything from the cleanliness of public spaces to the density of crowds and the precise movement of every locally registered vehicle. (The latter will allow charging tolls more precisely, based on precise distances driven. It also would permit dynamic pricing throughout the day, depending on road conditions.) Any decision to use data collected by Smart Nation sensors for law enforcement or surveillance would not, under Singapore law, need court approval or citizen consultation. There is also the elderly resident monitoring program, which started on a trial basis in 2014 and is voluntary. The sensors measure movements in the home. The data is handled by private companies selected by the government. It can be accessed, with family members' permission, by caregivers. Although free for trial participants, the thinking is that residents would pay for the service in the future.

How Singapore's solutions to common problems can provide examples for other societies. Nearly everyone knows that Singapore has one of the most efficient governments and competitive, advanced economies in the world. But can this unique city-state of some 5.5 million residents also serve as a model for other advanced economies as well as for the emerging world? Respected East Asia expert Kent Calder provides clear answers to this intriguing question in his new, groundbreaking book that looks at how Singapore's government has harnessed information technology, data, and a focus on innovative, adaptive governance to become a model smart city, smart state. Calder describes Singapore as a laboratory for solutions to problems experienced by urban societies around the world. In particular, he shows how Singapore has dealt successfully with education, energy, environmental, housing, and transportation challenges; many of its solutions can be adapted in a wide range of other societies. Calder also explains how Singapore offers lessons for how countries can adapt their economies to the contemporary demands of global commerce. Singapore consistently ranks at the top in world surveys measuring competitiveness, ease of doing business, protection of intellectual property, and absence of corruption. The book offers concrete insights and a lucid appreciation of how Singapore's answers to near-universal problems can have a much broader relevance, even in very different societies.

From the Inside Flap Nearly everyone knows that Singapore has one of the most efficient governments and is among the most competitive advanced economies in the world. But can this unique city-state of some 5.5 million residents serve as a model for other advanced economies as well as for the emerging world? Respected East Asia expert Kent Calder provides clear answers to this intriguing question in his new, groundbreaking book. Calder describes Singapore as a laboratory for solutions to problems experienced by urban societies around the world. Through information technology and sophisticated data collection and analysis, and with a focus on innovation and adaptive governance, Singapore has dealt successfully with education, energy, environmental, housing, and transportation challenges. It has become a model smart city, smart state. And many of its solutions can be adapted for other societies. Singapore consistently ranks at the top in world surveys measuring competitiveness, ease of doing business, protection of

intellectual property, and absence of corruption. But there are caveats: the city-state comes in at only "partly free" in the Freedom House democracy rankings and like many other developed nations, faces growing inequality. Singapore: Smart City, Smart State addresses these deficits while also offering concrete insights and a lucid appreciation of how many of Singapore's answers to near-universal problems can have a much broader relevance, even in very different societies.