

SIN CHEW JIT POH Commentaries

Economics and Current Affairs

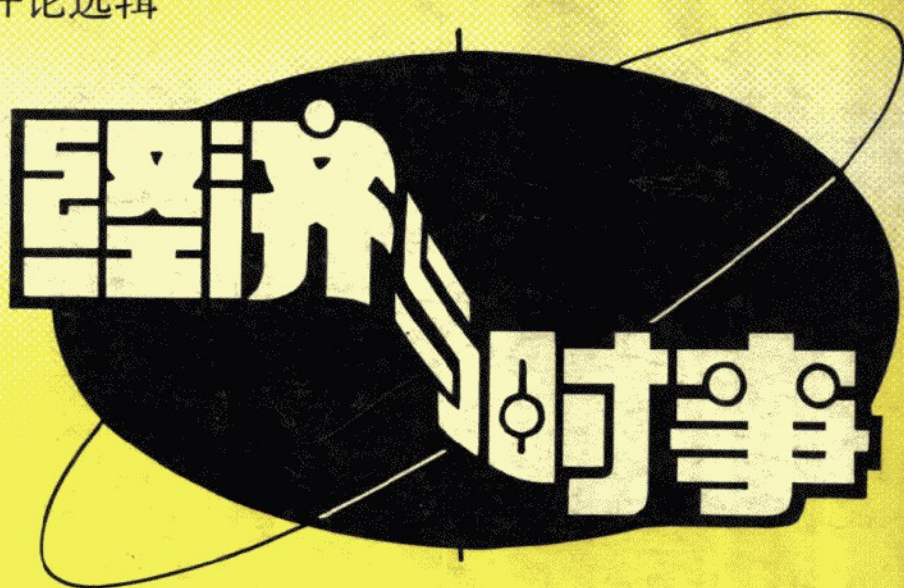
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by

Professor Lim Chong Yah

星洲日報

评论选辑



第二集

林崇椰教授

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PREFACE

These articles, though published in both Chinese and English in this volume, originally appeared in Chinese only on every Sunday in Sin Chew Jit Poh.

I first wrote an article each week in English and then Mr Leow Chiang Mao of Sin Chew Jit Poh would translate it into Chinese. He then read out the draft Chinese version to me on the telephone, and subject to my agreement and amendments, the article in its final form in Chinese would make its appearance in Sin Chew Jit Poh. The Chinese version thus can differ a little from the English version, since in making subsequent amendments and alterations, I had not always accordingly altered the original English text. As the translations are so good, the amendments to the drafts were minor. They normally came from my own personal preferences for certain Chinese words and phrases.

Events have shown that some of the suggestions in the articles later came to pass in various forms. It is not that easy to keep track of these developments, as such correlations were surprisingly quite frequent. Those interested in this aspect should carefully check the dates of the original publications, which are given in the footnotes, against later events that followed. No attempt has been made to alter the English or Chinese version in this volume from the original texts except for obvious printing or typing errors.

LIM CHONG-YAH

前言

这本集子所收集的是我每周日在星洲日报「经济与时事」专栏里所撰写的文章。这些文章只是以华文刊出，现在把华英文原稿一同收集在本集里，供读者参照。

这些文章都是每周先由我以英文写好，经过星洲日报专栏主持人廖江茂先生译成华文，在经我同意下进行一些修改和补充之后而成。因此，华英文原稿会略有一些不同之处，因为在修改补充华文译稿之后，我时常没有再去修改和补充英文原稿。由于这些文章都译得很好，因此，常常只稍微做一些修改，而这些修改通常是出自于我个人对某些华文词句有所偏好之故。

事后的事件发展显示我在这些文章中所提出的一些建议已在不同的形式中得到体现。

要追溯这些事件的发展是不太容易的，因此，这些建议经常和后来的事件相关连，倒令人有出乎意料之感。对于这点，有兴趣的读者可以查阅原来的刊登日期，以便和后来事件的发展相对照。除了一些印刷或打字方面的错误之外，作者无意修改华英文的原稿。

林崇椰

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VIEWS ON SINGAPORE *

There is a beautiful old Chinese couplet saying to the effect that those who are in a fish market for too long will not notice the fishy smell, just like those who are in a flower shop for too long will not notice its scent. It is good therefore occasionally to note what others outside Singapore think about us.

I shall confine myself to the observations of internationally well-known academic scholars who are also economists since I know their writings. But before I begin let me mention two foreign non-economists who cannot see any good in us or in our Government.

(A) MR IAN BUCHANAN

The first of such persons is Mr Ian Buchanan. He is a geographer. He came to Singapore from New Zealand some time ago, attached to the Geography Department of the University of Singapore, to do research for his doctoral thesis. In his subsequent book "Singapore in Southeast Asia" published in 1972, this young man considered mounting large-scale unemployment as the greatest problem confronting Singapore and predicted that this would soon result in a bloody revolu-

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tion in this island Republic. He suggested as a solution that instead of industrialization, Singapore should embark on large-scale commercial agriculture. Well, my view is still for freedom to talk and to write nonsense. However, I note in particular his Euroethnocentrism.

(B) DR MALCOLM CALDWELL

The second Euroethnocentric and Neo-Imperialist is Dr Malcolm Caldwell. He is a historian and is a lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. He criticized and discredited Singapore and our Prime Minister at the conference of the American Asian Society at the famous Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York in March 1977. I happened to be there too being sent by Ohio University to the conference, since I was on my way back to Singapore, having been at Ohio University for a period as a Visiting Professor of Economics. I took the opportunity to explain, to the applause of the audience, the real situation in Singapore. Dr Malcolm Caldwell, not knowing me nor expecting any response from any "Asiatic" present, was apparently taken aback. I enjoyed that confrontation.

(1) Professor Gunnar Myrdal

Now, we come to the more serious scholars, to those of real international standing. I shall begin with Professor Gunnar Myrdal. He is from Sweden and is a Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics. He is famous for his books on the Third World. I met him on several occasions when he visited Singapore. He was impressed by our University and gave seventy copies of his book "The Challenge of World Poverty" for distribution to University staff and the University Library. In this latest book he praised our Foreign Minister, Mr S. Rajaratnam, and says that, "Singapore is one of the few spots in the underdeveloped world where a clean government has with apparent success fought corruption which otherwise, there as elsewhere, would tend to be common and on the increase."

(2) Professor Peter Bauer

The second person I would like to refer to is Professor Peter Bauer of the London School of Economics. He knows our part of the world well. I interviewed him on Singapore television several years back. He wrote many books, one of which is "The Rubber Industry: A Study in Monopolistic Competition". In a public lecture he gave at our Conference Hall, he said, that Singapore had among the best educated and the most competent governments in the world.

(3) Professor Hla Myint

The third well-known scholar I would like to refer to is Professor Hla Myint who is also from the London School of Economics. When the University of Malaya (then in Singapore) branched into the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, he was External Examiner in Economics for both the branches. He too has many well-known internationally used books to his credit. He is a Burmese by descent.

In his book "Southeast Asia's Economy: Development Policies In The 1970s," Professor Myint is full of admiration for Singapore's economic and educational policy and success. A sentence like this, for example, is quite common: "Singapore is the exception to this general pattern of import-substitution and her experience is rather instructive."

(4) Dr Helen Hughes

My fourth personality is a charming lady economist called Dr Helen Hughes. She is currently a senior officer with the World Bank. She spent sometime some years back with the University of Singapore Economic Research Centre. She is known personally to quite a number of us at the University. In private life, she too is full of praise and admiration for Singapore and Singaporeans. She even sells Singapore to her husband, who works with the IMF, as a model for the Third World.

In her scholarly article on industrialization in Southeast Asia in the Asian Development Bank's publication "Southeast Asia's Economy In The 1970's," she writes of Singapore like this: "Singapore was the only country not building up a balance of payments burden with raw material imports for industry because its outward-looking industrialization strategy led to the export of its manufactured products". Elsewhere she says, for example, "Singapore is in fact almost the only developing country in the world industrializing successfully while it maintains high standards of working conditions, an eight-hour day and relatively high wages."

(5) Professor Kenneth Galbraith

My fifth scholar-economist is Professor Kenneth Galbraith, the author of the television series "The Age of Uncertainty". In this book, this American economist commended Singapore, among other things, for having a rational and successful wage policy. What is not publicized by our local press or in his television series is that he says in his book too that the University of Singapore has the best intellectual environment in Asia outside Japan.

(6) Professor Heinz Arndt

Lastly, let me introduce Professor Heinz Arndt, who is Professor of Economics at the Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University. For some years he has been External Examiner in Economics to the University of Singapore. He is a well-known expert on the Indonesian economy. In his review of Dr Goh Keng Swee's book "The Practice of Economic Growth", he praises not only Dr Goh but also Singapore. To him Singapore is "the greatest economic success story in the Third World". He adds, "Which Australian Cabinet Minister of the past decade could, without a ghost writer, write with anything approaching Dr Goh's professional competence as an economist, his practical experience and insight, his urbanity, his impish humour and readability?" Pro-

fessor Arndt adds that Singapore" ..is a monument to what man can achieve ... by a combination of determination, intelligence and compassion. The more liberal among the British Fabians would have been proud to see their ideals thus translated into practice."

Well, are we Singaporeans in a fish market or in a flower shop? Are we to take the words of Mr Ian Buchanan and Dr Malcolm Caldwell or those of Professor Hla Myint, Professor Kenneth Galbraith, Professor Gunnar Myrdal, Professor Peter Bauer, Dr Helen Hughes and last but not least Professor Heinz Arndt? My stand is clear.

外国学者眼中的新加坡

中国古时候有一对绝妙的诗句这样写着：「入鲍鱼之肆，久而不闻其臭；入芝兰之室，久而不闻其香。」因此，偶而注意一下外国人对我们新加坡的看法是好的。

我将只谈那些本身也是经济学家的国际闻名学者，因为我熟悉他们的著作。但在我开始谈他们之前，让我先提起两个不是经济学家的外国人，这两个人对我们和我国政府觉得一无是处。

(A) 伊恩·布坎南

我要先谈伊恩·布坎南(IAN BUCHANAN)他是一名地理学者，几年前从纽西兰到新加坡来，在新大地理系从事研究工作，准备他的博士论文。后来，他在一九七二年出版了一本书，书名是「东南亚中的新加坡」。在这本书中，这位年轻白人认为，大规模失业的不断加剧，是新加坡所面临的最大问题，并预测这将会很快地引起一场流血革命。他所建议的解决方法是：新加坡不应该实行工业化，而应该推行大规模农业商业化计划。虽然我还是支持言论自由和胡言乱语的自由，但我特别注意到的是他的那种白人优越感。

(B) 马尔科姆·考德威尔博士

另一个白种人至上主义者和新帝国主义者是考德威尔博士(MALCOLM CALDWELL)他是伦敦东方及非洲研究学院的一名历史学家和讲师。一九七七年三月，他在美国亚洲协会假纽约著名的沃尔多夫·阿斯特里亚酒店举行的会议上，批评和贬低新加坡和

我国总理。我当时刚好也在场。我是由俄亥俄大学派往参加会议的，因为我在俄亥俄大学担任了一个时期的客座教授后，正好要在那个时候回国，大学当局便派我在归途中赴会。

我乘这个机会在会上解释新加坡的真正情况，结果获得了与会者的喝采。考德威尔吃了一惊——他不认识我，也没有预料到任何在场的「亚洲人」会和他顶撞。我对这次对抗感到很痛快。

(一) 同纳·梅达尔教授

现在，让我们来谈谈一些较为严肃的、真正具有国际地位的学者。我先从同纳·梅达尔教授(GUNNAR MYRDAL)开始。梅达尔是瑞典人，曾获得诺贝尔经济学奖金，以有关第三世界的论著而闻名。我曾数次在他访问新加坡时会见他。他对新加坡大学留下深刻印象，并赠送了七十本他所著的「世界贫穷的挑战」给新大的教员和图书馆。

在他的这部最新著作里，他赞扬了我国的外交部长拉惹勒南先生，并说：「新加坡是发展中世界里少数几个拥有廉洁政府的国家之一，这个政府显然已经成功地击败了贪污。如果不是这样的话，贪污现象必将会像在其他地区一样，在新加坡盛行起来，并不断滋长。」

(二) 彼得·鲍尔教授

我所要谈的第二个人是伦敦经济学院的彼得·鲍尔教授(PETER BAUER)。他对我们这一区有很深的了解。几年前，我曾在新加坡电视台访问过他。他著有很多本书，其中一本是「树胶业——垄断性竞争的探讨」。

他曾我们的全国职总大会堂发表公开演讲，指出：新加坡的政府是世界上受过最好教育和最能胜任的政府之一。

(三) 拉明特教授

我所要谈的第三位世界著名学者是缅甸裔的拉明特(HLA MYINT)教授。他也在伦敦经济学院执教。当马来亚大学(当时在新加坡)在吉隆坡另设一间马大时，他兼任这两间大学的经济

学校外主考人。他曾著有多部受各国采用的闻名著作。

他所著的「东南亚的经济：七十年代的发展政策」一书对新加坡的经济和教育政策和她的成功备加赞扬。

像下面所引的句子，在书中俯拾皆是：「在这种一般的人口替代工业模式中，新加坡是一个例外，它的经验是很富有启发性的。」

(四) 海伦·休斯博士

海伦·休斯博士 (HELEN HUGHES) 是一位风姿绰约的女经济学家。她目前是世界银行经济研究部主任。几年前，她曾到新加坡大学的经济研究中心来研究了一个时候，新大经济系很多同事都认识她。她本人对新加坡和新加坡人备加颂扬和赞美，甚至于还在她那位任职于国际货币基金的丈夫面前推崇新加坡，说新加坡是第三世界的好榜样。

她曾在亚洲发展银行所出版的「七十年代的东南亚经济」一书中发表一篇论述东南亚工业化的学术性文章。她的这篇文章这样描述新加坡：「新加坡是唯一不因工业原料的进口而加重国际收支负担的国家，这是因为它所推行的外向工业化策略使到它的制成品能够输出。」

其他的例子还有：「事实上，新加坡几乎是唯一能在成功推行工业化的同时，保持高水平的工作条件——每天工作八小时，工资相对来说较高——的发展中国家。」

(五) 肯尼恩·嘉布礼教授

肯尼恩·嘉布礼 (KENNETH GALBRAITH) 教授是「动荡的年代」电视片集的作者。

在同名的书中，这位著名的美国经济学家对新加坡所作的其中一项评论是：它的工资政策是合理和成功的。

他在书中也说，新加坡大学拥有亚洲（日本除外）最佳的学术环境。这点在本地报章和他的那套电视片集里没有提及。

(六) 海因茨·阿恩特教授

最后，我要介绍澳洲国家大学太平洋研究学院的经济学教授