WAPOR-GBS Joint Webinar
Pandemic, Governance, and Comparative Public Opinion Research

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#AsianBarometer #GlobalBarometerSurvey @WAPOR
The Changed and Unchanged of Public Perception Under the Covid Pandemic

The 2020 Singaporean Case

Min-Hua Huang
National Taiwan University
Covid-19 cases in the region

Project timeline

Confirmed cases

Cases per million

Confirmed cases in SG: 58135

Cases reported on November 17, 2020 from CSSE, Johns Hopkins University
# Asian Barometer Survey Schedule (3rd-5th Wave)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Wave 3</th>
<th>Wave 4</th>
<th>Wave 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Period</td>
<td>Sample Size</td>
<td>Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>2011.12</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>2015.1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>2012.9</td>
<td>1207</td>
<td>2016.2-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>2011.5</td>
<td>1207</td>
<td>2015.10-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>2011.7-10</td>
<td>3473</td>
<td>2015.7-2016.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
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<td>1210</td>
<td>2014.6-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>the Philippines</td>
<td>2010.3</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>2014.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>2010.1-2</td>
<td>1592</td>
<td>2014.6-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>2010.8-12</td>
<td>1512</td>
<td>2014.8-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>2011.5</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>2016.1</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>2010.4-8</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2014.10-12</td>
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<td>Vietnam</td>
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<td>2015.9-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>2012.2-3</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>2015.10-11</td>
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<td>2011.10-11</td>
<td>1214</td>
<td>2014.9-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>2015.1-3</td>
<td>1620</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>India</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Case Number and Death of COVID in Singapore
Economic Impact

Economic Evaluation
Economic Growth Rate in Singapore since 2000 (Percent)
How would you rate the overall economic condition of our Singapore today? (Percent)

- Very good/Good
- So so (not good nor bad)
- Bad/Very bad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Very good/Good</th>
<th>So so (not good nor bad)</th>
<th>Bad/Very bad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>9.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>29.8</td>
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</table>
What do you think will be the state of our country's economic condition a few years from now? (Percent)
How do you rate the economic situation of your family today? (Percent)

- 2010: Very good/Good 42.4%, So so (not good nor bad) 49.9%, Bad/Very bad 7.1%
- 2014: Very good/Good 48.6%, So so (not good nor bad) 42.7%, Bad/Very bad 8.4%
- 2020: Very good/Good 29.6%, So so (not good nor bad) 56.7%, Bad/Very bad 13.5%
What do you think the economic situation of your family will be a few years from now? (Percent)
Can governments and leaders earn trust amid the pandemic?
Singapore's ruling party won another general election, but its support fell to a near record low

By Sugam Pokharel and Nectar Gan, CNN

Updated 0743 GMT (1543 HKT) July 11, 2020

Thai protests: Thousands gather in Bangkok to demand reforms

© 16 August 2020

For stepping down in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic, I offer the people...
The Prime Minister; Please tell me how much trust do you have in them? (Percent)
The Singapore government; Please tell me how much trust do you have in them? (Percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Trust</th>
<th>Distrust</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>78.4</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>86.4</td>
<td>12.8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Parliament; Please tell me how much trust do you have in them? (Percent)
Civil service; Please tell me how much trust do you have in them? (Percent)
Cultural Impact

Is collectivism more stronger than before?
For the sake of the family, the individual should put his personal interests second. (Percent)
In a group, we should sacrifice our individual interest for the sake of the group's collective interest. (Percent)
For the sake of national interest, individual interest could be sacrificed. (Percent)
Possible Trends

While we generally would expect governments to lose support if they do not handle the pandemic well, how about the opposite?
Economic Pessimism: How worried are you that your family might lose its major source of income within the next 12 months?

- Very worried/Somewhat worried: 59.1% in 2014, 68.3% in 2020
- Not too worried/Not worried at all: 36.9% in 2014, 31.1% in 2020
If your family were unfortunate enough to lose its main source of income, how serious would it be for your family?

1. It would be serious, and we would have difficulty coping
2. It would be serious, but we could deal with it
3. We could manage just fine

![Bar chart showing responses over time]

- **2014:**
  - It would be serious, and we would have difficulty coping: 33.2%
  - It would be serious, but we could deal with it: 13.3%
  - We could manage just fine: 0%

- **2020:**
  - It would be serious, and we would have difficulty coping: 38.6%
  - It would be serious, but we could deal with it: 46.0%
  - We could manage just fine: 15.1%
Abuse of power has become the norm in Moon's South Korea

And Koreans are taking notice.

by Hyung-A Kim
5 Sept 2020

Tsai Takes a Political Risk to Pursue a Taiwan-US Trade Agreement

Her Friday announcement that she would ease restrictions on U.S. pork and beef imports led to a backlash from opposition politicians and local farmers.

By Nick Aspinwall
August 31, 2020

Commonality:
Hegemonic rule buttressed by a rubber-stamp legislature.
Competitive authoritarianism: The coexistence of meaningful democratic institutions and serious incumbent abuse yields electoral competition that is real but unfair.

Subtle measures

- Control the judicial branch
- Control independent agencies
- Passing laws undermines the opposition or certain party
- Politicize state-run media, co-opt much of the private media
- Let cyber warriors do nasty criticisms against the opposition
The pandemic provides an opportunity for leaders to secure solid support that is difficult to come by in an environment of (true) multi-party competition. Thus, it also provides an opportunity for competitive authoritarianism to accelerate the process. Once competitive authoritarianism is in place, democracy only has the facade.

No democracy can be taken for granted

~~~Levitsky and Way
Thank you

Comments and questions welcomed