

Abstract

The last two decades have seen the emergence of several newly industrialized countries (NICs) whose growth and export records have been so successful that they have become major competitors to the established industrial economies. For the developing world these models of success are particularly important in that they may provide a recipe for the attainment of self-sustaining growth. Principal amongst these developmental success stories have been the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. In this 'Gang of Four', Hong Kong and Singapore are the smallest states in terms of area but they have easily the most prosperous and mature economies and, therefore, they demonstrate the most complete models of success.

The city-states of Hong Kong and Singapore are so similar in terms of the degree of achievement, size, culture, geography, and resources, that they have been classified as economic twins. Such a characterization is unfortunate for there are major differences between each state. These differences, moreover, have not been well articulated. Accordingly, the purpose of this thesis is to explore these differences, so as to illuminate the different ingredients which have made the distinctive recipes which have led to two city-states' economic success.

To this end, the thesis will examine the two economies from historic times to the present. Particular attention

will be placed on the manufacturing sectors, the trading patterns, and the key role of government policy in the two states.