



**HWA CHONG INSTITUTION (High School Section)**

**INTEGRATED HUMANITIES (CORE)**

**SEC. 3 IHC: REASONS FOR SEPARATION**

## **REASONS FOR SEPARATION**

### **Political Differences (GROUP 1)**

Under the terms of the Merger Agreement of 1963, Singapore saw itself as a special political entity as it had a Prime Minister too, making it different from the other member-states of Malaysia which only had chief-ministers. The Federation, on the other hand, saw Singapore as just one of the 14 component of Malaysia. Apart from this constitutional difference, there was a significant difference in the manner in which politics was conceived by PAP and UMNO.

What did the PAP believe in? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the Alliance believe in? \_\_\_\_\_

The irreconcilable political differences the Alliance and the PAP manifested just five days after the formation of Malaysia in September 1963. What happened during the 1963 elections?

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What happened in the 1964 Federal Elections?

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**How did the political differences lead to the Separation in 1965?**

## **Economic Differences- (GROUP 2)**

Right up to the eve of the signing of the Malaysia Agreement in July 1963 the disagreements between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur over financial matters have appeared insoluble. Even when there was supposed to be agreement, differences crop up over taxation. An early difference is the question of **who is to collect Singapore's taxes**. Malaysia's Finance Minister, Tan Siew Sin argued that the central government will do it and Singapore will be given a portion of the revenue. Singapore on the other hand, said that the responsibility for collecting revenue was still theirs. This disagreement was settled, by Singapore collecting her own revenue and give **40 percent towards Federal Reserve's- but new ones crop up**.

What were the specific examples of the economic differences between the Federal Government and Singapore?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

How did these contribute to the Separation?

What caused the Singapore Riots of 1964?

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION (GROUP 3)**

Read this carefully. It may help you answer some of the questions.

On 21 July 1964 fighting broke out between Chinese and Malays during a Muslim procession in Geylang to celebrate Prophet Muhammad's birthday. As news of the fighting spread, riots broke out in other parts of Singapore. A week of rioting followed and the government was forced to impose a curfew. The disturbances were brought under control, but not before 23 people had been killed. In early September, there was further communal violence in which 12 people were killed.

#### **Study Sources A, B and C:**

**What do the sources suggest was the cause of the separation of Singapore from Malaysia in 1965? Explain your answer.**

**Source A:** *From a Brief History of PAP, written by Minister of culture S. Rajaratnam for the PAP 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 1964*

Soon after the elections of April 1964 a hatred campaign against the PAP began. In newspapers and speeches, critics accused the PAP of being anti-Malay and called for the arrest of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. This persistent fanning of communal feelings soon sparked off serious riots in July.

**Source B:** *From a radio broadcast by Lee Kuan Yew on the evening of 21 July 1964*

Sometime after 5pm, the procession of some 2500 Muslims passed by the Kallang Gas Works in a mainly Chinese area. A member of the Federal Reserve Unit (police sent down from peninsular Malaysia) asked a group who were falling behind the main procession to catch up. Instead of being obeyed, he was sent upon by this group. Following this, other disturbances occurred as more groups became unruly and attacked passers-by and innocent bystanders.

The disturbances have spread rapidly throughout the Geylang area. Who or what started this situation is irrelevant at this moment. But all the indications show that there has been organizations and planning behind this outbreak to turn it into an ugly communal clash.

**Source C:** *From a speech made by Tunku Abdul Rahman in Singapore in 21 September 1964. He was commenting on the racial disturbances in July and September.*

The trouble might have been due to the fact that the Malays in Singapore had felt neglected. Perhaps they thought that under Malaysia they were entitled to better treatment which did not come about. On top of all this, they were being driven from their homes which they had owned to make way for new flats and so on. When I came to Singapore the last time I promised I look into the position of the Malays and the less fortunate people. I said I would see whatever the central government could do to ease their suffering.