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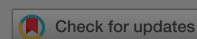
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The 2015 Singapore Swing: Depoliticised Polity and the *Kiasi/Kiasu* Voter

James Chin 

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Abstract

The results of the 2015 Singapore general election (GE) saw the People's Action Party (PAP) reverse the decline in support of the past few GEs. Many writers cited as some of the key reasons for PAP's strong showing: a flight to safety, the superior PAP campaign, the personal popularity of Lee Hsien Loong, the 50 years of Singapore's Independence (SG50) feel-good factor, changes in government policies since 2011, direct government subsidie

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Southeast Asian region was negative and Singapore needed the PAP to steer the country during this period of uncertainty.

Key Words: depoliticisation cultural traits voting pattern social contract Singapore elections

Notes

1. His supporters tried to nominate him for the Noble Peace Prize: ‘Nobel gesture: Singapore’s longest-held political prisoner Chia Thye Poh nominated for Peace Prize’, South China Morning Post, 3 October 2015.
2. ‘PM Lee demands blogger remove post or face legal action’, Today, 20 May 2014. What was interesting about this case was Roy was able to raise more than S\$100,000 from ordinary Singaporeans over the internet for his legal defence fund. In December 2015, the courts awarded \$150,000 in damages to Lee. See ‘Roy Ngerng to pay S\$150,000 in damages to PM Lee’, Today, 17 December 2015.
3. ‘S’pore minister: Luckily, we’re not M’sians’, Malaysiakini, 4 September 2015.
4. Chee defends SDP’s ‘sound policy proposals’, Today, 2 September 2015.
5. ‘External threats aplenty, but a united nation will overcome them: PM Lee’ (p. 3), Today, 9 September 2015.

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