

“Development Strategy from Thought to Action” Study Group Syllabus

Study Group Facilitator: Karim Sarhan, Fellow - Center for International Development at Harvard;
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Dates: Wednesdays: February 22, March 1, March 8, and March 22

Time: 12-1 pm ET, *lunch will be served*

Location: Harvard Kennedy School, Rubenstein 429 - Perkins Conference Room

Study Group Description:

What is Strategy?

What is Grand Strategy of Development?

What was the Grand Strategy of Development of each of China, South Korea and Singapore?

This study group will introduce you to the fundamentals of strategic thinking and how to bring them to the field of development. You will experiment in a safe space designing and thinking about implementing a development strategy for your country.

Audience:

Learners and practitioners who are passionate about the topic of economic development. Open only to Harvard affiliates with a Harvard I.D.

Expectations:

Attending the four sessions.

Schedule:

1. Wednesday, February 22: What is Strategy? What is Grand Strategy of Development?

The word “strategy” is used by different people to mean different things. Some use it to refer to a specific plan or policy. We will investigate the origins of strategic thinking in the military field to understand the real meaning and function of strategy. Building on this meaning and function, we will introduce the “Grand Strategy of Development” framework.

Recommended Readings:

Gray, C. S. (2010). *The Strategy Bridge: Theory for Practice*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 1: The Theory of Strategy I, and Chapter 2: The Theory of Strategy II.

Gaddis, J. L. (2018). *On Grand Strategy*. Penguin Books. Chapter 1: Crossing the Hellespont, and Chapter 8: The Greatest President.

2. Wednesday, March 1: What was China's Grand Strategy of Development?

What was the main economic direction taken by China to achieve its significant economic growth?
How to understand China’s experience through the Grand Strategy of Development framework?

Recommended Readings:

Qian, Y. (2003). How Reform Worked in China. In *In Search of Prosperity: Analytic Narratives on Economic Growth* (pp. 297-333), Princeton University Press.

Ang, Y. Y. (2016). *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*. Cornell University Press. Introduction, and Chapter 2: Directed Improvisation.

Schell, O., & Delury, J. (2014). *Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-First Century*. Random House Trade Paperbacks. Chapter 11: Black Cat, White Cat.

3. Wednesday, March 8: What was South Korea's and Singapore's Grand Strategy of Development?

What was the main economic direction taken by each of South Korea and Singapore to achieve their significant economic growth? How to understand the experience of South Korea and Singapore through the Grand Strategy of Development framework?

Recommended Readings:

Studwell, J. (2013). *How Asia Works: Success and Failure in the World's Most Dynamic Region*. Grove Press. Part 2: Manufacturing.

Kim, B.-K. (2013). The Leviathan: Economic Bureaucracy under Park. In *The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea* (pp. 200-232), Harvard University Press.

Lee, K. Y. (2011). *From Third World to First: Singapore and the Asian Economic Boom*. HarperCollins. Chapter 4: Surviving without a Hinterland, and Chapter 10: Nurturing and Attracting Talent.

Schuman, M. (2009). *The Miracle: The Epic Story of Asia's Quest for Wealth*. Harper Business. Chapter 3: Minister Mentor's Asian Values.

4. Wednesday, March 22: Strategy from Thought to Action:

What are the key requirements for translating the development strategy into a reality on the ground?

Recommended Readings:

Ang, Y. Y. (2016). *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*. Cornell University Press. Chapter 4: Franchising the Bureaucracy.

Han, S. (2014). Operation of the Economic Planning Board in the Era of High Economic Growth in Korea. *Ministry of Strategy and Finance & KDI School of Public Policy and Management*.

Schein, E. H., & Schein, P. (2017). *Organizational Culture and Leadership*. Wiley. Chapter 5: A Developmental Government Organization in Singapore.