



## Personal Notes

### Biographical Details

- First Prime Minister of Singapore, governing for three decades.
- Lee is recognised as Singapore's founding father, credited with rapidly transitioning the country from a developing third world country into a developed first world country within a single generation.
- Lee oversaw Singapore's transformation from a crown colony with a natural deep harbour into a developed country with a high-income economy.
- Lee's rule was sometimes criticised particularly in the West for curtailing some civil liberties. They include control of state media, repudiating the idea behind public protests, as well as filing lawsuits against some political opponents who he perceived had defamed him. An advocate for Asian values, he argued that such disciplinary measures were necessary for political stability which, together with a strong rule of law, were essential for economic progress.

### Salient Points of Lee Kuan Yew's philosophy

- **Asian Values**

**Asian values**, refers to a set of values promoted since the late 20th century by some Asian political leaders and intellectuals like Lee Kuan Yew as a conscious alternative to Western political values such as human rights, democracy, and capitalism. Advocates of Asian values typically claimed that the rapid development of many East Asian economies in the post-World War II period was due to the shared culture of their societies, especially those of Confucian heritage. They also asserted that Western political values were unsuited to East Asia because they fostered excessive individualism and legalism, which threatened to undermine the social order and destroy economic dynamism. Among Asian values that were frequently cited were discipline, hard work, frugality, educational achievement, balancing individual and societal needs, and deference to authority. Critics of Asian values disputed their role in economic growth and argued that they were being used to protect the interests of East Asia's authoritarian elites.

Proponents of Asian values made several related claims. They asserted that Asian values were responsible for the region's