

## Abstract

This thesis, "Building the Sense of Nationhood through History Textbooks : A Case Study of Singapore's Lower-Secondary School Textbooks", analyzes the role of Singapore's lower-secondary school textbooks in building the sense of nationhood since the early 1970s.

In order to strengthen the sense of nationhood, the harmony and energetic multiracial society of Singapore have been continuously emphasized in those textbooks. Since the 1980s, the strong social spirit of the Singaporeans and the constructive role of the People's Action Party in the survival and success of the nation have been noticeably focused on.

In this thesis, the growth of the individualistic middle class who prefer a more active role in the country's politics is explained as a reason for the above phenomenon. In Singapore where "Asian Values" are glorified and observed, western individualism is considered not to be in harmony with such values. Besides, the increasing number of well-educated Singaporeans who have emigrated to work overseas has been considered as a sign of long term economic vulnerability. For these reasons, strengthening the sense of nationhood of young Singaporeans through history textbooks has been done in order to preserve national stability and prosperity.