

Social Capital in Ten Asian Societies

Is Social Capital a Good Concept to Gauge
Democratic, Developmental and Regionalizing Trends
in Asia?

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Aim

Focusing on

the daily lives

of ordinary people in Asia

–East, Southeast, South and Central –
the AsiaBarometer periodically monitors
their happiness and satisfaction,
their joys and worries,
their anger and sadness,
along with
their place and identity in society,
their trust in other persons,
their confidence in social institutions.





Three Thrusts

- (1) Generating Empirical Data on People's Views and Activities
- (2) Developing Social Science Research Infrastructure
- (3) Building a Community of Scholars in Asia




The AsiaBarometer's Aim

Generating Empirical Data on
People's Views and Activities in Asia
-East, Southeast, South and Central-

Forecasting the Longer Term Trends of Asia
in terms of

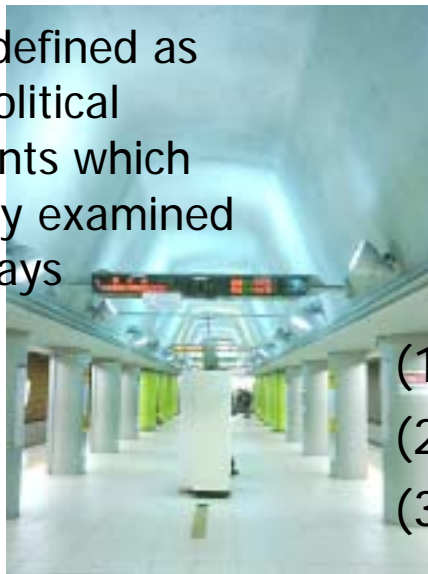
- Democracy
- Development
- Integration





Social Capital can be examined in three broad ways

Social Capital is defined as one of the key political culture components which can be empirically examined in three broad ways



- (1) system support
- (2) communitarian
- (3) emancipative



Social Capital Questions Here Examined

Q9 Do you think people generally can be trusted?

Q10 Do you think that people generally try to be helpful?

Q11 If you saw somebody on the street looking lost, would you stop to help?



Social Capital Questions Here Examined

Q12 If you had no descendants, would you think it desirable to adopt somebody in order to continue the family line, even if there were no blood relationship?

Q13 Suppose that you are the president of a company. In the company's employment examination, a relative of yours got the second highest grade, scoring only marginally less than the candidate with the highest grade. In such a case, which person would you employ?



Social Capital Questions Here Examined

Q14 If the main breadwinner of your household should die or become unable to work due to illness, how would your household maintain the household budget?

Q18 Do you think that on the whole men and women are treated equally in your country?

Social Capital Questions Here Examined

Q26 What should a person who needs a government permit do if the response of the official handling the application is: “just be patient and wait.”





What are the Major Dimensions of Social Capital in Asia?

- (1) General Trust in Humankind
- (2) Trust in Meritocracy and Mutual Utility
- (3) Trust in Society/System



Figure

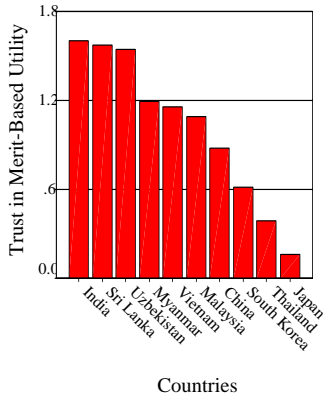
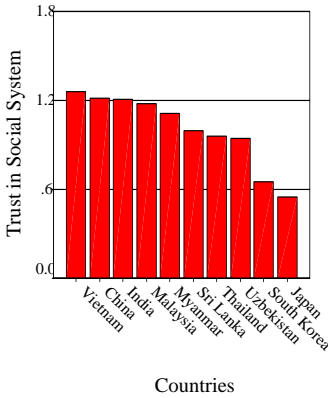
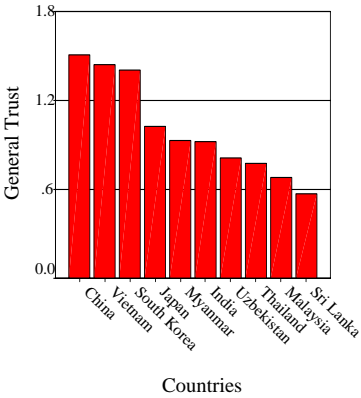




Figure 1

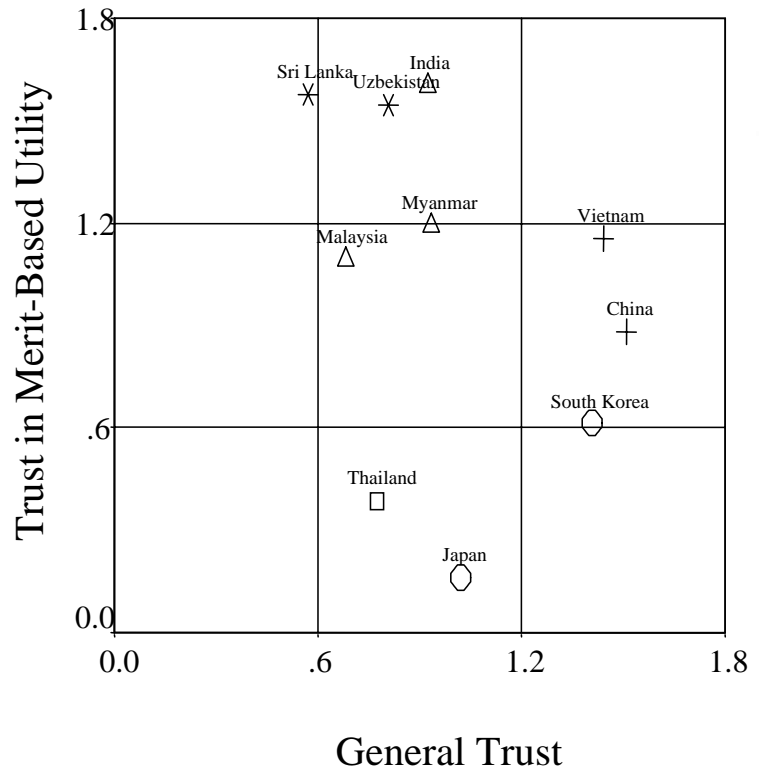
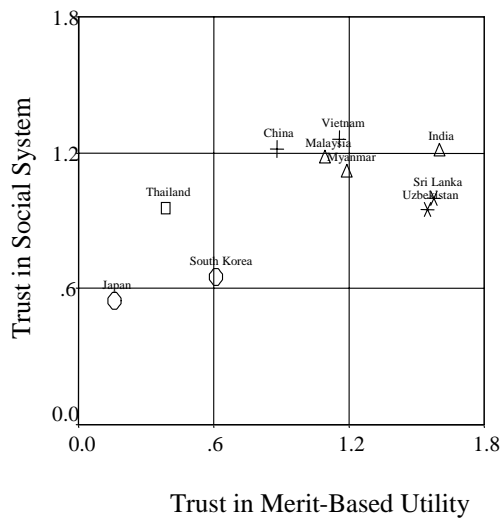
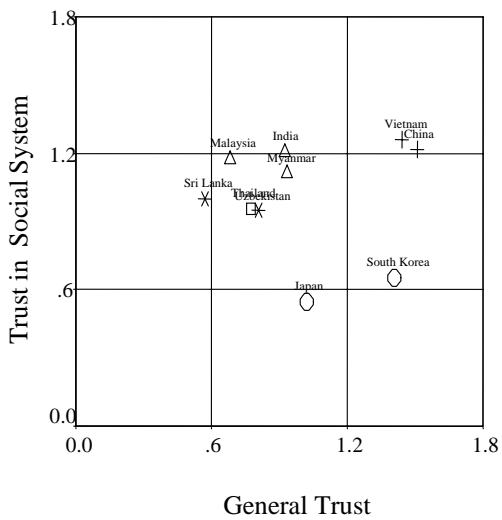


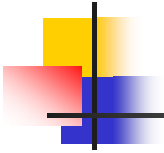
Figure 2





How are the ten countries located along the two major dimensions?

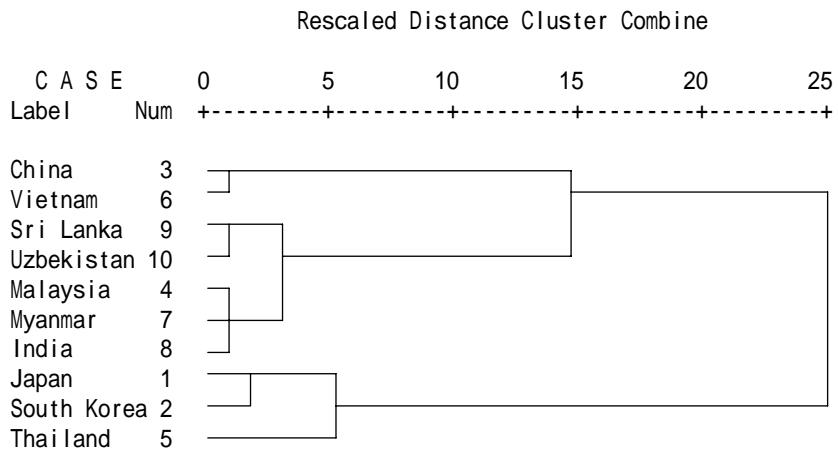
- (1) Confucian-heritaged
- (2) English speaking
(or former British colonial heritaged)
- (3) Communist



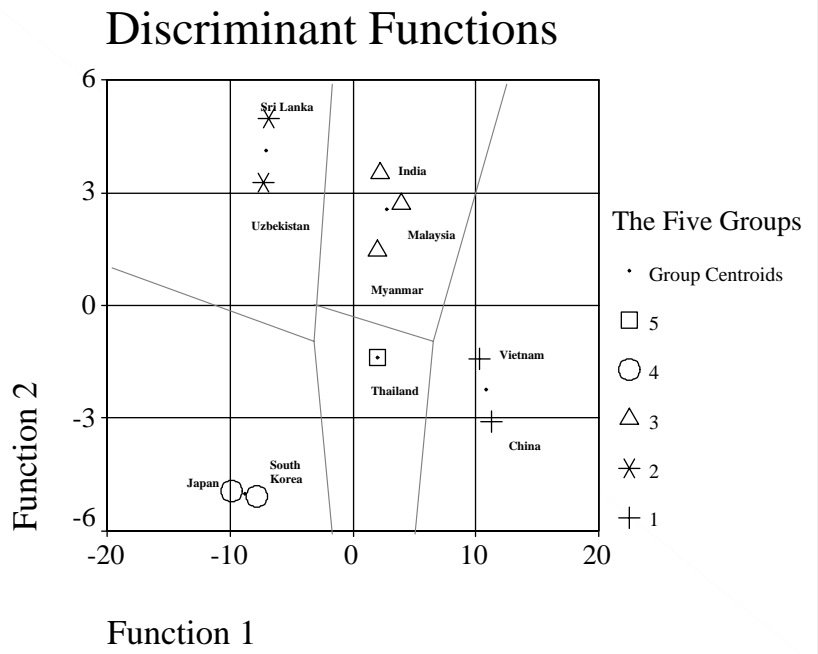
Figure

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Dendrogram using Ward Method



Figure





The Next Task Confronting Us

To Relate the above to

- (1) Democracy indicators
- (2) Developmental indicators
- (3) Interdependence/Integration
Indicators



Preliminary Conclusions

- (1) Social Capital is a good concept to gauge the democratic, developmental and regionalizing prospects of Asia
- (2) The AsiaBarometer is a fascinating, rich and useful laboratory where much needed empirical data are produced regularly