

CAPITALISM IS BEST COMPLEMENTED BY MERITOCRATIC POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT

HOW TO CONFIRM THE ATTRIBUTES OF SOUND POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

“Merit” pertains to the ability to perform a task well. Thus, when picking a criterion for meritocratic political recruitment, it is key to consider what is the task and which qualities are vital for excellent performance. The task of political representation is multifaceted, complex, and it varies across time and place, but it might be narrowed down to some twelve qualities¹ within at least, five key roles for elected officials and all top rulers:

I. NAVIGATOR

- 1. Able to steer the country towards a just and humane society and knows how to get the country there.*
- 2. Has specific plans of action in solving problems like poverty, education, or corruption.*
- 3. Is decisive when faced with complex issues and hence, must be intelligent.*

II. MOBILIZER

- 4. Must be good at building alliances to achieve consensus*
- 5. Must work well with Congress and Senate*

III. SERVANT LEADER

- 6. Must serve the people with a caring heart*
- 7. Must put the public interest first before vested interests*
- 8. Works hard and well to achieve the goals of government*

IV. INSPIRATIONAL LEADER

- 9. Must know how to work well with the press*
- 10. Can inspire unity, trust, and optimism among the people by being a good and moral leader*

V. GUARDIAN OF NATIONAL WEALTH AND RESOURCES

- 11. Allocates and uses the country's resources properly*
- 12. Demonstrates strong political will, and can make right decisions for the common good, even if the decision is unpopular*

Frederick Hayek once said “Capitalism is the only system of economics compatible with human dignity, prosperity, and liberty. To the extent we move away from that system, we empower the worst people in society to manage what they do not understand.” Yet, for capitalism to work, meritocracy must be applied rigorously to society’s rulers, whether they are elected officials, public employees or external providers under their charge. Meritocratic selection based on individual skills, integrity and performance can balance democratic institutions by ensuring a leader’s abilities and efficiency align with our society’s long-term collective interest.

WHY WESTERN DEMOCRACY IS UNDER SIEGE FROM ASIAN CAPITALIST MERITOCRACY

In an electoral democracy, accountability to the electorate may cause a problem of competence when politicians primarily interested in reelection, use their power and authority to achieve collective short-term interests that increase their chances of getting re-elected while avoiding issues that might negatively affect that outcome. Over the long-term, this dynamic increases the risk that democratic elections cease providing substantive checks on the ability and integrity of the politicians involved and thus, end up leading to ineffective or even harmful governance.

ASIAN CAPITALISM PROVES MERITOCRACY CAN WORK, EVEN WITHOUT DEMOCRACY

Meritocracy is so relevant to the creation of economic well-being across society, that even a flagrant dictatorship like China, enjoys a higher pace and degree of wealth creation than countries like the US, where political freedom is extensive, but where meritocratic governance is not as pervasive. In fact, western media has so far ignored that since Asian economies began adopting the capitalist model, the main competition between Eastern and Western economies is based on the benefits of Meritocratic Capitalism versus Popular-Elections Capitalism -run by Special Interests.

WHY WESTERN CAPITALISM MUST ADMIT THAT MERITOCRACY IS A KEY INGREDIENT

Meritocratic-leadership, not exports, as claimed by Western powers, is the magical ingredient that sparked the 1960s Asian economic miracle in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea and eventually China. Conceivably, the most relevant common denominator among these nations’ sudden economic success might be traced to their deeply-rooted Confucian political traditions. Yet, to this day we continue blaming their success and our lack of it, on the symptom (cheap exports), not on their meritocratic social fabric, a much deeper and harder to replicate political governance factor.

BASED ON THESE FINDINGS, OUR JOB IS TO COMBINE MERITOCRACY AND CAPITALISM

As Westerners, we have a duty to research and propose what governance reforms could be established to subordinate political actors to a meritocratic system. One of our first tasks is to develop a sustainable meritocratic system of governance capable of addressing long-term priorities over short-term electoral outcomes. We should research the political governance processes in place in those Asian economies that have reached the highest levels of economic development since World War II. Studying, even blatantly undemocratic economies, such as China, whose meritocratic traditions survive more than a century after abolishing [Keju](#) (a public exam process used for 1,300 years to select public officials) will particularly help our findings.

WE PROPOSE TO START WITH VENEZUELA, THE PERFECT CASE FOR MERITOCRACY

The most important task we face is to begin the process of launching a political-meritocracy process in countries where meritocratic governance is most needed. On this front, we believe Venezuela stands to benefit the most, due to the political and economic upheaval it currently faces, and because [one of its leaders’](#) political trajectory happens to impeccably fit all twelve attributes listed above, which we believe are absolutely required to fulfill the difficult task of reestablishing long-term order in that country from a meritocratic perspective.