

# Finance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



## The Evolution of Finance from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the present times of the 21st Century

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### Aims/Objectives

To formally establish the evolution and the progress that finance has taken over the past 100 years from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, today. And to formally create a mutual appreciation for the world of finance and its applicability to the fast-paced modern life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Early analysis and active study of Finance can pave the way for the materiality of finance in the future for many years to come.

### Introduction

As we enter the 21st Century, an age of immense complexities, where communication is instantaneous and every day we live in an era of constant developmental change. Finance has taken the pivotal role that significantly affects the human behavior and activity that transcends into the way we think, feel and live every day. Our behaviours can either be run by the world of finance or vice versa in regards to the way we trade and deal with business decisions across the globe.

### Background

Finance is the notion of the management of capital. And what better way than to analyse the different workflows of how finance was run 100 years ago to the present times and to the future, than by analyzing how the Government of a 1st world country like Singapore handled their finances in parliament to build Singapore to what it is today, an illustrious global financial centre, which transformed Singapore from a 3rd world nation to a 1st world country today in the 21st Century. This is in consideration of the progression that finance has taken over the recent century with the advent of technology with globalization.

### Discussions

Over the Summer of 2018, I have worked as a Finance Intern in the Government of Singapore, in one of Singapore's leading Statutory Board and Ministries, The Ministry of National Development. During my attachment with the Government, I was blessed with the opportunity of learning the workflow processes in the finance office which funds some of the other Ministries in Singapore and the projects in which generate revenues for the country such as the upcoming F1 Grand Prix Race in Singapore over the Autumn. This system requires the approval of different cabinets which thus leads to a successful distribution and hence increases the number of completed projects for the prosperity of the country. I have gained invaluable insights and am able to disclose their methods to a certain degree with respect to the confidentiality of my career.

### Outcomes, Results/Findings

Finance today has taken a rather conservative approach to the volatility of changing markets and in recent times the effects of a more populous society in this day and age in the 21st Century. Finance before had a more simplistic system in which controls the way in which people lived and play. It all depends on the way governments run their countries whether in their holistically political environment – being communist or democratic. In the likes of Singapore, Singapore has taken a rather democratic approach towards their country and strives on meritocracy which drives a hardworking and self-sustaining economy/country.

### Conclusions

Finance has always had a relationship with everyone and it indirectly makes the world revolve, and it is a matter of fact that finance has become the single most important driving factor for survival in the modern commercial world. Finance will continue to take this role but however, the very concept of profit should be hugely reduced for the interest of environmental and spiritual solemn. And the role finance will play would be able to balance this trade-off. This is in the best interest of the evolving world and the sustainable world that the UN and the rest of the world are striving towards.

### The Future

What the future holds for finance is how much appetite the world has for its constant development towards the future. A more secure and automatic advancement of trading, coupled with the advent of the artificial Intelligence, virtual reality and augmented reality will pave the way for the future. What can be seen is a constant desire to control a cashless world from the advent of blockchain technologies from 08'. And the evolution of a cashless world – with the likes of China implementing ALIpay in all service But again, the argument on Progression vs Disruptions prevails.

### Acknowledgement

#### How technology is impacting the finance and banking sector

Technology is changing the way businesses operate and deliver products to consumers in many sectors. We have alarms that detect poisonous substances in our air, medical equipment that can identify life-threatening conditions before they become an issue, or smarter computer software to make controlling vital equipment easier than ever before



### References

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