



# **Tipping Points and Divergent Paths: Water Strategies in Hong Kong and Singapore**

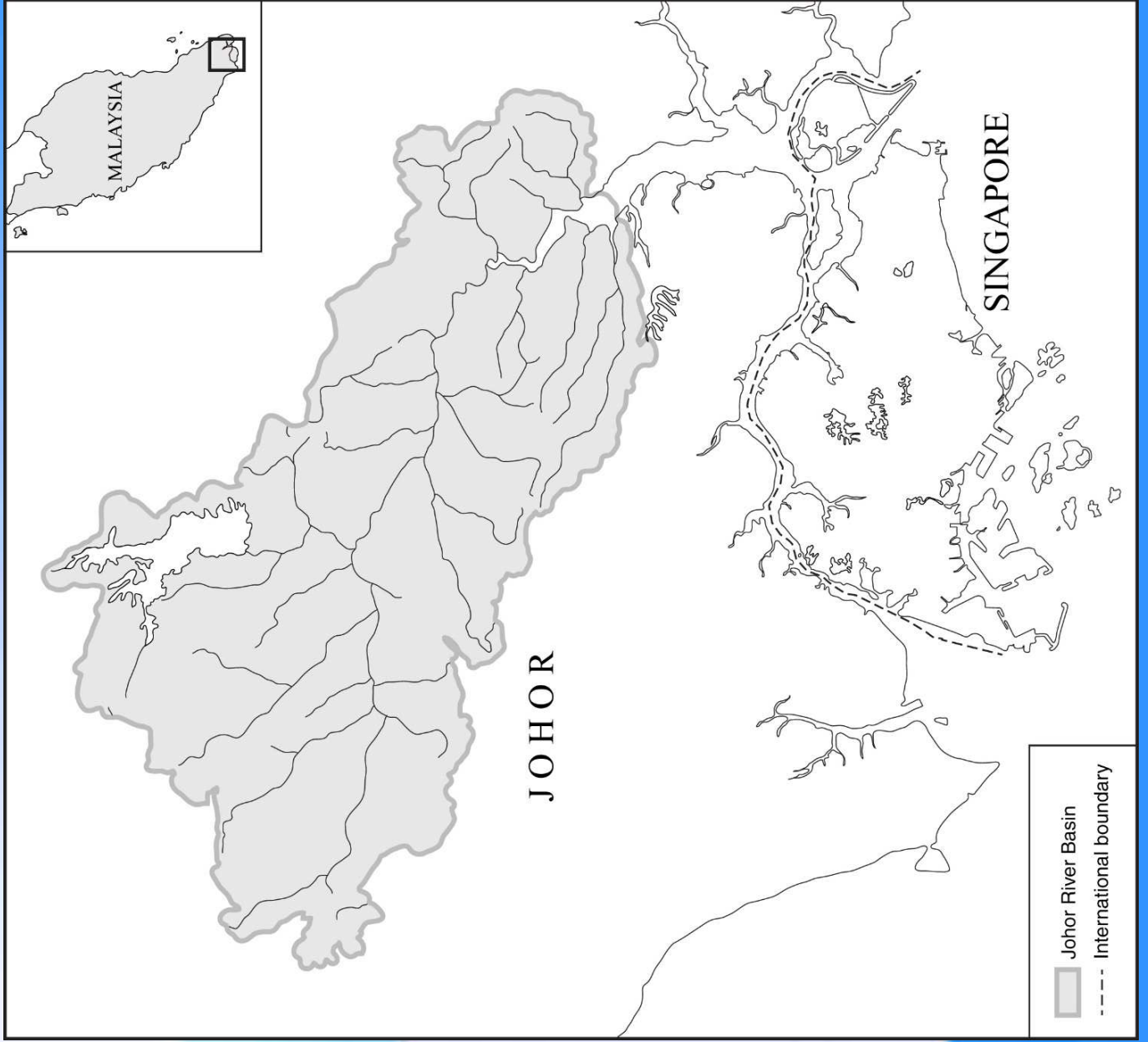
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## Hong Kong and Singapore: Similarities

- Both are Asian global cities, similar in size & population
  - Both are former British colonies
  - Both rely on inter-basin transfer from a neighbor
  - Both economies are largely post-industrial
  - Both suffered from serious droughts in 1960s
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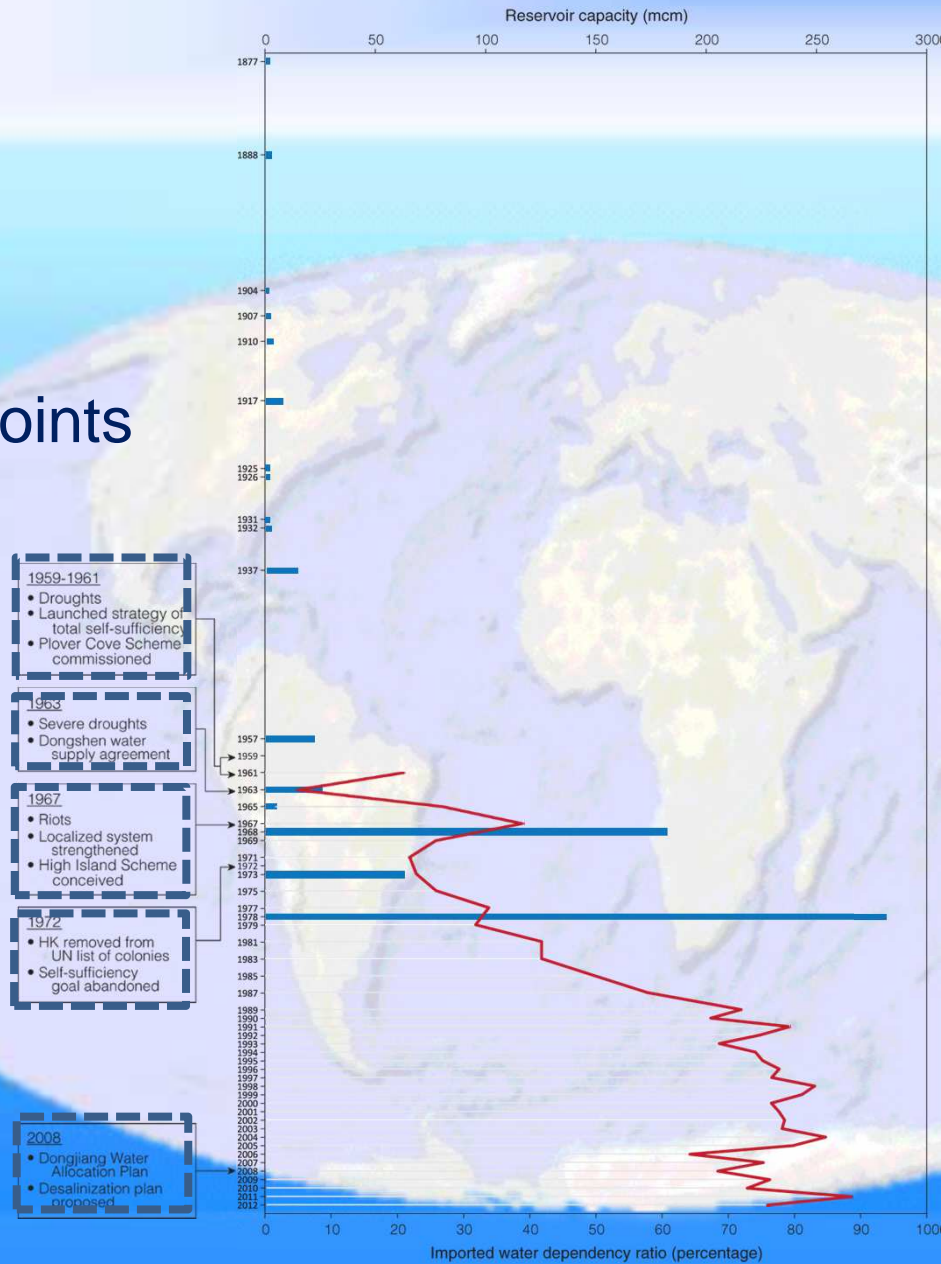






# Hong Kong's Reservoir Capacity and Imported Water Dependency Ratio

Tipping points



**1959-1961**

- Droughts
- Launched strategy of total self-sufficiency
- Plover Cove Scheme commissioned

**1963**

- Severe droughts
- Dongshen water supply agreement

**1967**

- Riots
- Localized system strengthened
- High Island Scheme conceived

**1972**

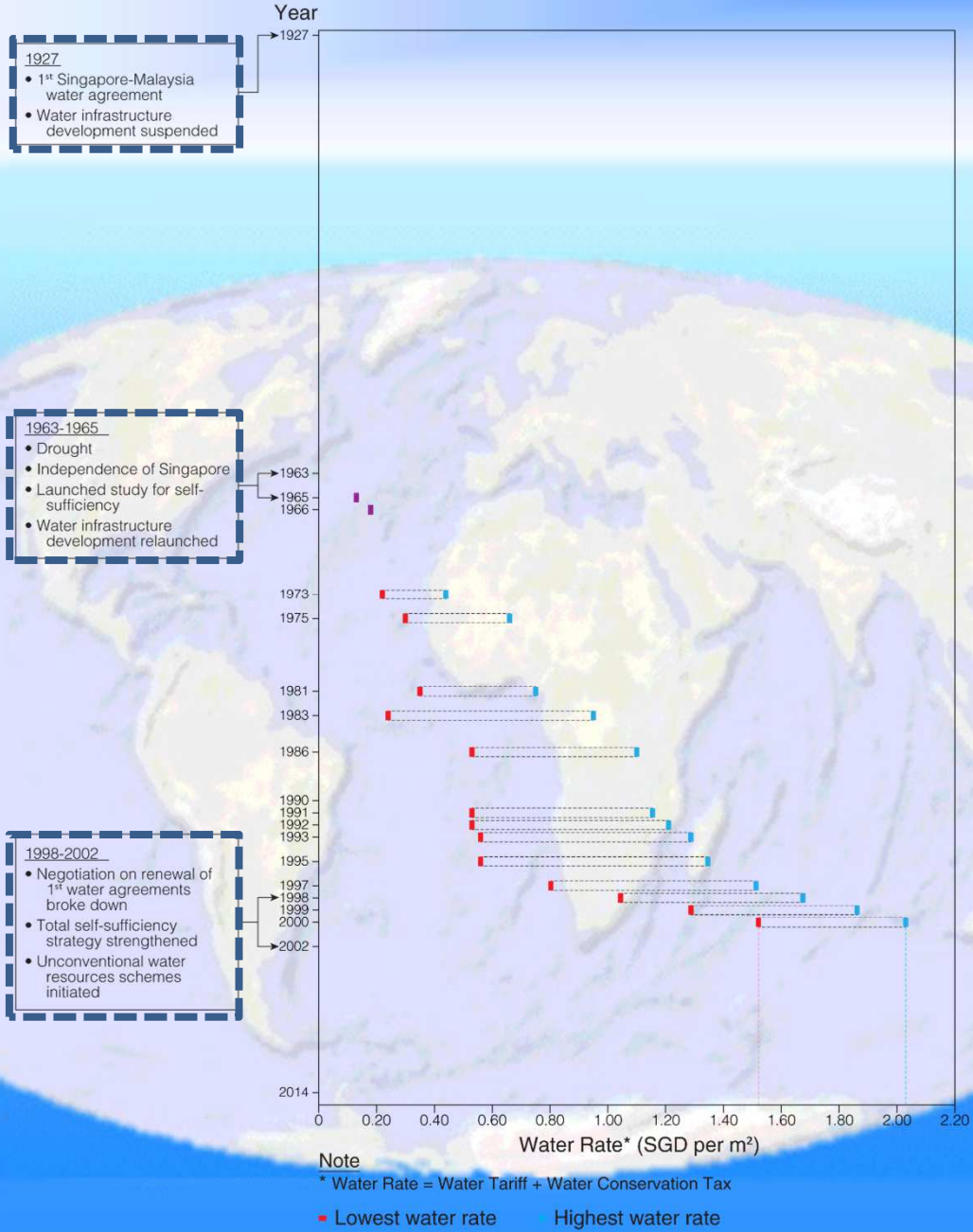
- HK removed from UN list of colonies
- Self-sufficiency goal abandoned

**2008**

- Dongjiang Water Allocation Plan
- Desalination plan proposed

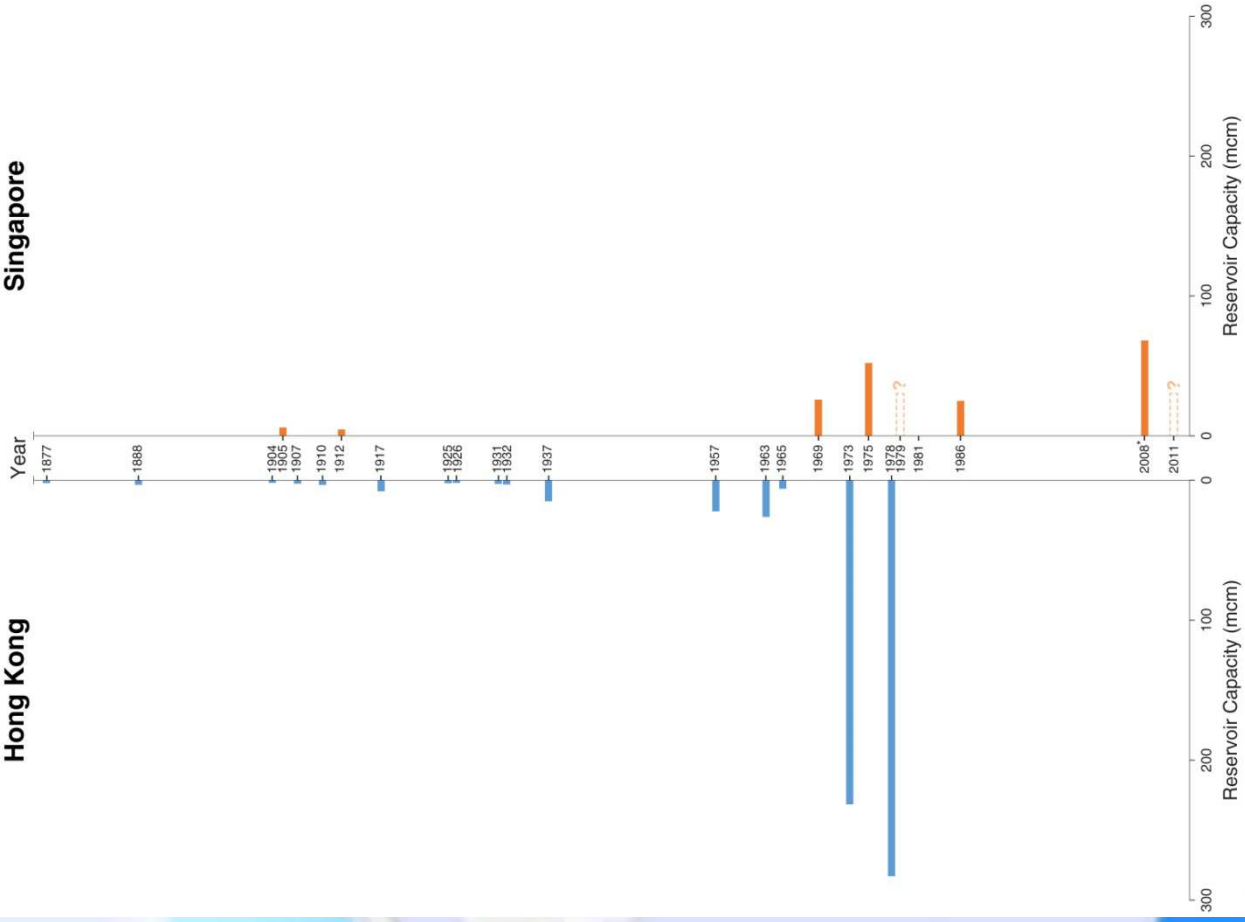
# Tipping points

## Domestic Water Rate in Singapore



## Hong Kong

## Singapore



### Note

\* The storage capacity was estimated according to PUB's reported total daily water demand and official statement that the reservoir supplies 10% of Singapore's water demand.

# Hong Kong and Singapore: Divergent Paths

- 1980s-present:
  - HK's imported water dependency ratio went up
  - Singapore's dependency ratio came down
- 1990s-present:
  - HK's per capita freshwater consumption went up
  - Singapore's came down





Domestic water consumption in Hong Kong and Singapore (1998-2012)

