

Exchange rate regimes=>

- Fixed exchange rate – HK\$, CHF
- Floating exchange rate – US, Japan, Euro
- Intermediary regimes
 - Fixed with periodic adjustments (China)
 - Managed float (US, Japan, etc. at times)
 - Trading band or target zone (Singapore)

How to fix rate=>

- ❖ If fixed rate is ABOVE market equilibrium, i.e. price floor => $Q_S > Q_D$ => surplus
<e.g., Thai government wants THB @ B25/\$ but market equilibrium is B30/\$>
- FX intervention => CB buys THB vs. US\$
 - Depletes FX reserves
 - Equiv. to capital inflow on the Financial Account
- Change S&D conditions => raise interest rates => $D \uparrow / S \downarrow$
- Impose capital control => prevent residents from moving money offshore => $S \downarrow$

- ❖ If fixed rate is BELOW market equilibrium, i.e. price ceiling => $Q_D > Q_S$ => shortage
<e.g., Chinese gov wants RMB @ ¥6.5/\$ but market equilibrium is ¥5.5/\$>
- FX intervention => CB sells RMB vs. US\$
 - Accumulates FX reserves
 - Equiv. to capital outflow on the Financial Account
- Change S&D conditions => lower interest rates => $D \downarrow / S \uparrow$
- Impose capital control => prevent foreigners from moving money onshore => $D \downarrow$

Pros/cons of fixed exchange rates =>

- ❖ Pros
 - Certainty about future value of $X\Delta$ rate => increased two ways trade
(important for countries with higher percentage of trade/GDP)
 - Commitment to maintaining low and stable inflation
- ❖ Cons
 - Monetary policy cannot be used to manage domestic AD => loss of sovereignty
 - Cost of carrying FX reserves (China!)
 - Capital controls => black market, red tape, etc. + distortions