

Regionalisation of World Politics

Day 36 of your revision. Every organisation, scholar and debate from the Foundation & OGP class on regionalism, set out for fast recall. **Revise → write a little → don't break the chain.**

I Meaning of Regionalism

Regionalism — the effort by states within a geographic area to seek deeper support and collaboration across the social-cultural, political, military and economic spheres, often crystallising into regional organisations. Also called **regional integration**.

Condition and process

Condition — a shared basis of affinity: geographical proximity, cultural or linguistic similarity, common historical experience (colonialism in Asia and Africa), shared economic conditions (underdevelopment in Latin America), or a common sense of threat. **Process** — a blueprint for regional organisation that turns these latent affinities into tighter cooperation.

- Regions are often “**imagined communities**” — politically and socially constructed, not natural or given. A territory that reads as a “region” economically or culturally (e.g. South Asia) may not cohere politically or on security.
- Neighbourhood-based cooperation is old; its notable modern form emerged in the twentieth century, especially after World War I.
- Syllabus scope: **EU, ASEAN, APEC, SAARC, NAFTA** — with BIMSTEC and Central America as comparators.

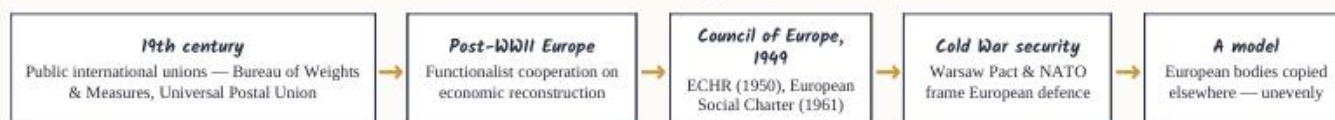
2 Theoretical Traditions

Three stances gave regionalism its legitimacy as idea and project — **functionalist, neo-functionalist, federalist** — supplemented by communication and intergovernmentalist approaches.

Tradition	Core claim	Thinker(s)
Functionalism	<i>A Working Peace System</i> (1943): states should cooperate in technical, interdependent “functional” areas; cooperation breeds knowledge and habits that spill into other domains — a “ philosophy of peace ” in which rising technical and trade interdependence drives regional cooperation.	David Mitrany
Neo-functionalism	Mitrany adapted to Europe: cooperation in one sector yields advantages that push members to widen it — the spillover effect ; for integration to advance, political participation is unavoidable. Path in Europe: ECSC, then EEC.	Ernst B. Haas
Federalist	Backed regionalism because it met the twin needs of decentralisation and integration; European federalists stressed pooling sovereignty — allocating a portion of sovereignty to build and sustain institutions on the EEC model.	European Federalists
Community / communication	Regionalism produces a security community held together by interdependence and collaboration; the degree of integration is gauged from transactions between members. For durability, the cultural and social (non-political) components matter most.	Karl Deutsch; Amitai Etzioni
Intergovernmentalism	International norms are weak; states stay protective of sovereignty. <i>Classical</i> — sovereignty and cooperation are a trade-off; <i>instrumentalist</i> — states commit only when the collective gain outweighs the cost of ceding sovereignty; <i>liberal</i> — integration is driven by national preferences and interstate bargaining, with member states in charge of pace and direction.	Classical · Instrumentalist · Liberal

3 Evolution

From technical unions to a European model for the world



- Council of Europe** pioneered common European norms and rights; the **ECHR (1950)** was the first legally binding regional human-rights instrument, the **European Social Charter (1961)** the first regional human-rights framework.
- Replication was uneven: non-European regions lacked Europe’s homogeneity of growth, ideology, culture and religion, so large continents (Asia, Africa, Latin America) produced smaller, sub-continental and sub-regional bodies.

4 Forms & Features

Membership types (Andrew Heywood)

Transcontinental — APEC, BRICS

Continental — Council of Europe

Sub-continental — SAARC

Three primary types

Type	Content
Economic	Common market / free trade area — earliest form, in post-war Europe.
Political	Preserve and strengthen shared political values (individual freedom, democracy, liberalism); build a common collective image.
Strategic / military-security	Collective self-defence against stronger neighbours — e.g. NATO and the Warsaw Pact .

Traditional vs new

- **Traditional regionalism** followed a fixed economic ladder: free trade area, common market, economic community, economic union.
- Under **new regionalism**, regional organisations gained a standing distinct from international ones — they “**have changed from objects to subjects**” (**Fredrik Soderbaum and Bjorn Hettne**), no longer rigidly state-centric.

5 New Regionalism

Regionalism peaked in the 1960s–early 1970s, went quiet, and revived from the early 1990s as trade blocs built on preferential rules and exclusive membership — the “**second coming**.”

Context and content

- **Globalisation** is the primary driver; neoliberal policy moved regional bodies from passive objects to active agents, rejecting the over-determination of international institutions — regional bodies read as “**potentially competing structures**” (**Hettne and Soderbaum**).
- Linked to structural change: end of the Cold War, the bipolar-to-multipolar shift, a post-Westphalian nation-state reduced to a non-dominant role, and the decline of Third World solidarity and NAM in favour of neoliberal development.
- **Hettne and Soderbaum**: globalisation of finance, trade, production and technology is a **New International Division of Labour (NIDL)**; the multipolar post-Cold War power structure is a **New International Division of Power (NIDP)**.
- New regionalist sentiment is a higher-level extension of nationalism, filling gaps left by the state's inability to defend interests in a globalised world — “**pooling sovereignty**” (**Andrew Heywood**).

Contours and drivers

- Unlike the simple common-market era, new organisations are complete and wide-ranging — converging political regime, economic interest, security and culture; sub-regional blocs and micro-regions proliferate within macro-regions.
- Tracking a state's path through overlapping deals is hard — **J. N. Bhagwati**'s “**spaghetti bowl**” (cited via Heywood).
- Drivers: wider acceptance of export-led strategies (Japan, then the Asian tigers); ex-communist states using integration to consolidate market transition; the rise of the WTO; the USA moving from sponsor to active participant — all under an acceleration of globalisation, with regionalism reborn to **manage the effects of globalisation** (competitive, not merely protectionist).

6 Regionalism & Globalisation

Central debate: are the two **complementary** (mutually reinforcing) or **antagonistic** (frictional)?

The fault line of the globalisation–regionalism relationship

COMPLEMENTARY

mutually reinforcing; open regionalism as a way station

Panagariya · Fawcett · Hurrell · Nesadurai · Telo



ANTAGONISTIC

dialectic, friction and stress; fragments global trade

Hettne · Inotai · Sunkel · Bhagwati · Hirst & Thompson

- **Building or stumbling blocks?** **J. N. Bhagwati** asked whether regional blocs are “**building blocks**” or “**stumbling blocks**”; regional systems have produced “complex and overlapping bilateral and regional arrangements, each with conflicting and contradictory provisions” (**Heywood**).
- **Open regionalism as a way station.** **Andrew Hurrell** — the region is the most viable level to reconcile global capitalist competition with the need for political regulation (the “**one-world/many-worlds**” relationship); **Richard Stubbs and Geoffrey R. D. Underhill** — a “safer” version of globalisation; **Mario Telo** (citing **Larry Summers**) — regional liberalisation is the best route to globalisation; **Helen Nesadurai** — open regionalism as a “**way station to globalization**” is the dominant model.
- **Regionalisation as response.** *Economic* — RTAs secure markets and give stability unilateral policy cannot. *Cultural* — **Niels Lange**: cultural influence now appears in commodified form (converging consumption, anglicised languages, shared youth culture); **Bennett Collins**: cultural regionalism resists a global identity (rise of the Bloc Quebecois). *Post-COVID* — **Peter Enderwick and Peter Buckley**: weaknesses of globalisation plus pandemic disruption push a stronger regional focus and a rethink of global supply chains.
- **Hirst and Thompson**: “regionalization has become the strongest feature of the international economy rather than globalisation,” even undermining it. **Thomas Christiansen and Edward Best**: regionalism is not a contradiction to globalisation — regions accommodate to it differently.

7 Regionalism & State Sovereignty

How much sovereignty does integration cost?

ZERO-SUM

binding decisions and supranational bodies erode state autonomy

Court of Justice of the EU; African Union sanctions on defaulting members



POOLED

states merely share sovereignty, shape their destiny, remain free to leave

Brexit illustrates both readings — exit was possible, so sovereignty was not lost

- **Neo-functionalist / neo-liberal institutionalist** — successful regionalism depends on transferring sovereignty to regional institutions; **spillover** then broadens cooperation as policymakers shift loyalties from national to regional levels.
- **Intergovernmentalist** — states stay protective of sovereignty (classical = trade-off; instrumentalist = cooperate only when gains outweigh costs).
- **Reassertion of sovereignty** — US withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (2017) and Brexit; **Helen Thompson**: “regionalism is out, sovereignty back in.” Yet integration continued despite the exits (remaining TPP states negotiated a successor; the EU deepened after a major power left) — predictions of the nation-state’s demise are overstated.

8 Regionalism & Global Governance

Relationship	What it does
Reproduction	Mirrors global governance at the regional level; a means to insert members into the global economy on central neoliberal norms — the regional level as a building block to globalisation.
Resistance	Preserves national policy instruments hard to sustain under globalisation; historically, post-decolonisation projects built on self-determination and anti-colonialism (Ba) and dependency-driven inward regionalism (Fawcett).
Additional goals / developmental	Regional public power used for developmental or strategic ends beyond competitiveness: regional industrial strategy (Hettne); temporary protection to nurture indigenous firms before full openness (Nesadurai).

The UN Charter recognises regional arrangements as a means of maintaining peace and permits regional / collective self-defence until the UN can act effectively.

9 Merits & Demerits

“It is fair to say that when a scholarly interest in integration became active, it had behind it a good deal of criticism of the sovereign state as an institution.” — **J. D. B. Miller**

The claim that the nation-state’s age is over is contestable — nationalism and national interest still guide foreign policy despite flourishing regional bodies.

Grounds favouring regionalism (Leroy-Bennett)

- Interaction is easier among fewer states in a limited area than globally.
- Regional economic units are more efficient and competitive than small states alone.
- Local threats to peace are dealt with more promptly by states of that area.
- Confining states into groupings can maintain a global balance of power.

Criticisms

- **Universalists** — global bodies (UN, WTO) can handle both regional and global issues; regionalism creates insular, inward-looking blocs that entrench dominance by major powers (e.g. China once forbidding outside mediation in Cambodia).
- Regionalism can incite ethnonational conflict when cultural minorities gain external backing (shared Tamil communities across India–Sri Lanka; shared language across India–Bangladesh).
- Regional protectionism undermines free trade and can deteriorate into military alliances, provoke countermeasures and raise tensions.

Consensus- and consultation-based blocs align with the realist concern for a balance of power (**Hans Morgenthau**).

10 The European Union

Widely treated as the “**gold standard**” of regional integration — from a post-war economic pact to a supranational political and economic entity; Nobel Peace Prize, 2012.

The treaty ladder — economics first, then political union



Robert Schuman, Jean Monnet, Konrad Adenauer championed the supranational “**community method**” over the balance-of-power model; **Neil Fligstein** — integration helped produce a “European society.”

Seven core institutions

European Council

European Parliament

Council of the EU

European Commission

Court of Justice of the EU

European Central Bank

European Court of Auditors

Achievements

- **Single market** — the most ambitious element; free movement of goods, services, capital and labour. **Euro** — used by 20 of the 27 members. **Schengen** — passport-free travel across most members plus Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein.
- Human rights and democracy — abolition of the death penalty; Copenhagen Criteria for membership. Enlargement consolidated democracy after communism. Programmes and leadership — Erasmus+, Horizon, the Green Deal (climate neutrality by 2050), CETA with Canada, coordination on the JCPOA.

Why it succeeded

- Visionary leaders and the supranational community method; political will to **share sovereignty** and build strong, legally based institutions; consensus, solidarity and tolerance — not isolating a member in crisis (Greece), and transfers to help poorer members catch up.

Challenges

Internal	External
Complex structure (opt-outs; variable integration across Schengen and the Eurozone).	Resurgent Russia — Crimea (2014) and the 2022 invasion of Ukraine; John Mearsheimer reads NATO's eastward expansion as the provocation (realist), while Richard Sakwa stresses Moscow's drive to reassert great-power status; a severe energy shock.
Eurozone crisis (2008–09) — exposed shallow economic and monetary integration; Greece, Ireland, Portugal needed rescues; Joseph Stiglitz — monetary union creates imbalances that hit weaker economies.	Islamic fundamentalism — post-9/11 attacks (Paris, Brussels, London) and the migration-security dilemma; Tariq Modood and Fatima El-Tayeb caution against conflating Islamic faith with terrorism.
Brexit (2016) — limits of supranationalism, persistence of sovereignty. Populism / Euroscepticism — National Rally (France), AfD (Germany), Law and Justice (Poland).	US protectionism — Trump-era tariffs, Paris withdrawal, strained transatlantic bond. Strategic autonomy — European Defence Fund, PESCO.

II ASEAN

Promotes economic and political integration and regional peace in Southeast Asia — motto “**One Vision, One Identity, One Community.**”

Foundation and the ASEAN Way

- Established by the **Bangkok Declaration (1967)** to build a common front against communism; a Cold War product initially focused on security. Headquarters Jakarta; three pillars — Political-Security, Economic, Socio-Cultural.
- The **ASEAN Way** — consensus over majority rule, non-interference, respect for sovereignty; grounded in **Panchsheel** and portrayed as “Asian values.” Entrenched by the **Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC), 1976** and **ZOPFAN (1971)**.
- Economic integration — **AFTA (1992)** cut tariffs and lifted intra-regional trade (**Robert Keohane's** neo-liberal institutionalism); **AEC** single market and production base; **RCEP** extends integration to major Asia-Pacific economies. Wider architecture — ARF, ASEAN Plus Three, East Asia Summit, ADMM+. Own **Charter (2008)**.

EU vs ASEAN

Basis	EU	ASEAN
Character	Supranational — binding law, single market, monetary union	Intergovernmental — prioritises sovereignty
Decisions	Qualified majority	Consensus (the ASEAN Way)
Currency	The euro	No single currency — currency-swap arrangements
Diversity & engine	Franco-German engine; urgency of overcoming their hostility	Wide diversity (Singapore vs Myanmar); largest economies (China, Japan, India, South Korea) outside; no dominant engine

As a third-world model, successes and challenges

- **Kishore Mahbubani** (with **Jeffery Sng**), *The ASEAN Miracle* — ASEAN practises “**Pragmatic Regionalism**”, building its own model rather than imitating the EU; a “beacon of hope” and an example of **soft regionalism**.
- **C. A. Fisher** — ASEAN defied all scepticism; the region once called the “**Balkans of Asia**” became a zone of peace. No war between members since founding. **Amitav Acharya** — **norm localisation** and **norm subsidiarity** explain its durability.
- Challenges — consensus can block decisive action (Rohingya crisis, Myanmar); persistent non-tariff barriers and low intra-ASEAN trade; US-China rivalry

and Indo-Pacific militarisation (QUAD, AUKUS); the South China Sea dispute; the February 2021 Myanmar coup and a stalled five-point consensus.

India and ASEAN — the Act East ladder



12 APEC

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, established **1989**; permanent secretariat in Singapore; **21 members**, called “**economies**” because cooperation is trade- and economics-focused. It calls itself “the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.”

Open regionalism

Outward-looking, flexible, consensus-based and non-discriminatory; **no customs union or common external tariff** — each state keeps its own trade policy. This contrasts with the EU’s rule-dense, supranational **deep integration** (single market, customs union, monetary union, free movement).

- Achievements — the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan cut business transaction costs; the Single Window and the **APEC Business Travel Card** eased cross-border trade; structural reform, connectivity and capacity-building; every economy has an equal voice, decisions by consensus.
- India — its proposal was backed by the US, South Korea, Australia and Papua New Guinea; membership was withheld partly because India lacks a Pacific coastline; India received its first **observer** invitation in November 2011.
- Criticism — uneven growth, inflation, ageing populations; US-China friction and the “America First” turn threaten the rules-based order APEC champions; FTAs may constrain national environmental, labour and health law, and affected Pacific Island states can be excluded from decisions.

13 SAARC

Founded with the **SAARC Charter, Dhaka (1985)**; Secretariat in **Kathmandu**; it operates in a conflict-prone region often called the “**arc of instability**.” Foundational principles: **Panchsheel** and **consensus** (unanimous decision-making).

“I dream of a day when, while retaining our respective national identities, one can have breakfast in Amritsar, lunch in Lahore, and dinner in Kabul.” — **Manmohan Singh**

Impediments to functionality

- **Structural asymmetry** — a “negative mindset” that challenges India’s regional weight; India seen as a “**bullying big brother**” and “imperialist power” — the “**big brother, small brother**” syndrome (Sikkim’s integration, Bangladesh’s creation, the IPKF, Nepal/Bhutan blockades), while India fears smaller states will “gang up.”
- **India–Pakistan** — **C. Raja Mohan** calls Pakistan the “**camel in the caravan of SAARC**,” slowing the traffic; Pakistan’s “identity crisis” fears that fulfilling SAARC would be a de facto nullification of Partition.
- **Economic asymmetry** and inward-looking self-reliance — SAFTA languishes; intra-regional trade stays below 5%. **India–China rivalry** and China’s strategic entry deepen tensions. Institutional paralysis — **S. Jaishankar** calls SAARC a “**jammed vehicle**”; no summit since 2014.

Improvements, revival and measures needed

- Trade — SAFTA, SAPTA (preferential), SATIS (services). Institutions — Development Fund, SAARC University, Arbitration Council, SARSO (standards), Food Bank, Milk Grid, disaster agency, Film Festival, Federation Games, SAARC satellite.
- No member has withdrawn; BIMSTEC and BBIN offer avenues but cannot fully supplant SAARC. India convened a video conference of SAARC leaders during COVID-19 (2020); the Himalayan environmental crisis strengthens the case for revival.
- Measures — shared values and a transnational conception of nationhood; no internationalising of bilateral issues; India’s **proactive leadership**; fast-track SAFTA, a unified power grid, freer movement of people, joint action on terrorism and narcotics; a “**SAARC Minus**” concept for flexibility; **Modi** — “collaboration over confusion, preparation over panic”; a revived **Kautilyan**, pragmatic approach.

14 NAFTA & USMCA

The **North American Free Trade Agreement** (US, Canada, Mexico) came into force in **1994** — the first time two developed countries negotiated a trade pact with an emerging-market nation; combined GDP over US\$20 trillion by 2018. Trade rose from about \$290 billion (1993) to over \$1.1 trillion (2016); Canada and Mexico became the top two US export destinations.

NAFTA’s limitations

- Job losses and wage stagnation in US automotive and textiles — **Dani Rodrik and Joseph Stiglitz** noted relocation to lower-wage Mexico.
- Weak labour and environmental enforcement — **Robert Kuttner**: NAFTA incentivised a “**race to the bottom**.”
- **ISDS** let corporations sue governments over public-welfare policy, undermining sovereignty (**Joseph Stiglitz**). **Robert E. Scott**, *The High Price of Free Trade* — higher trade but job losses, deficits and downward wage pressure.

How USMCA (in force 2020) countered NAFTA

Lever	Reform
Labour	Mexico required to protect unionisation and wage bargaining — Robert E. Scott : mitigates the “race to the bottom.”
Environment	Stronger commitments (marine litter, air quality, wildlife) with better enforcement.
ISDS	Narrowed and eliminated between the US and Canada — a win for national sovereignty.
Rules of origin	75% North American vehicle content (up from 62.5%) plus a minimum-wage-rate component — steering production to higher-wage US/Canada.
Dairy & digital	More US access to Canada’s dairy market (Mary E. Burfisher); new-age data-flow and localisation provisions (Susan Ariel Aaronson , <i>Data is Different</i>). A 16-year sunset clause with six-yearly review.

Assessments — **Gary Clyde Hufbauer** (*NAFTA Revisited*): auto rules and wage provisions reshape production. **Jeffrey J. Schott** and **Monica de Bolle**: rules-based trust and rare bipartisan support. **M. Angeles Villarreal** and **Ian F. Fergusson**: USMCA keeps North America competitive amid China’s rise.

15 BIMSTEC

The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation** links South and Southeast Asia — seven members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka (South Asia) and Myanmar, Thailand (Southeast Asia).

Evolution

- **Bangkok Declaration (June 1997)** created BIST-EC; became BIMST-EC after Myanmar joined, then **BIMSTEC** after Nepal and Bhutan joined in 2004. The **BIMSTEC Charter** and the **Bangkok Vision** mark a shift from loose consultation to rules-based regionalism; first Secretary-General, Sri Lankan diplomat **Sumith Nakandala**; Secretariat in Dhaka.
- **Constantino Xavier and Riya Sinha** — the Bay of Bengal was among the world’s most interconnected regions until the early 20th century, but “the region’s sense of community has almost completely eroded” after the 1940s.

Significance and challenges

- Aligns with India’s **Act East** policy; bridges SAARC and ASEAN; supports connectivity (Kaladan Multimodal, the Trilateral Highway, the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement); a counter to China’s Indian Ocean expansion and the **Belt and Road Initiative** (BRI projects in every member except India and Bhutan).
- Challenges — India’s pivot from SAARC is partly to isolate Pakistan, so BIMSTEC often revives only during India-Pakistan tension; a “sluggish” pace (Charter after two decades); an under-staffed, under-funded Secretariat; poor transborder connectivity and low intra-regional trade; no FTA yet; setbacks from the Rohingya crisis, the India-Nepal border issue and the Myanmar junta.
- Way forward — a comprehensive **BIMSTEC FTA** meeting the “convergence criteria”; removal of regulatory obstacles to FDI; integration into global supply chains through a rules-based trading system.

16 Central America

- A paradox — few, small states with a shared colonial history and high common identity, yet consistent failure to reach proclaimed regional goals.
- Historical arc — the Federal Republic of Central America (1823–39); the Central American Peace Conference (Washington, 1907) and a short-lived Central American Court of Justice (1908–18); **ODECA (1951)**; the **Central American Common Market (CACM), 1960** (in crisis by the late 1960s); a Central American Parliament in the 1980s peace process.
- **SICA** (Central American Integration System) — four subsystems (political, economic, social, cultural); institutions centred on presidential summits; the Parliament is directly elected but powerless; Costa Rica has not joined. Economic institutions — CAMC (monetary), CABELI (development bank), SIECA; by 2018 a customs union among the **Northern Triangle** (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador).
- Difficulties — division despite unionist mythology, elite resistance, Costa Rican isolationism, civil conflict, the Nicaragua crisis (2018), widespread poverty and weak institutions. Progress remains patchy and piecemeal; strong EU support persists.

17 Comparative Assessment

Pair	Contrast
EU vs ASEAN	EU is intrusive and supranational (conditionalities, binding law, qualified majority, single currency); ASEAN follows the ASEAN Way (Panchsheel, non-interference, consensus, currency swaps). Both are communities and stabilising forces; ASEAN, unlike the EU for much of its history, adopted a formal Charter.
ASEAN vs SAARC	Both are third-world integration projects; if ASEAN is the most advanced example, SAARC is the least — S. Jaishankar (“jammed vehicle”) and C. Raja Mohan (“camel in the caravan”) mark the contrast.

The EU remains the benchmark; other regions adapt rather than blindly imitate its model.

18 Conclusion

Regionalism is here to stay, but its content has changed decisively between its first and second incarnations. New regionalist arrangements are rarely imposed from above; they usually emerge through a **bottom-up strategy** coordinated by national and regional interest groups defending sectoral, national and regional interests against the disruptions of unchecked globalisation. On this reading, regionalism and new regionalism function as “**building blocks**” — reconciling the pressures of global competition with the need for political regulation, and serving as a first step toward wider inter-governmental coordination in a world not yet ready for global authority.

19 Power Quotes

"Since the world is too wide to have a universally accepted world government, a region with its homogeneity can have access to the solution to the problems of the region." — **Inis Claude, Swords into Plowshares**

Regional organisations "have changed from objects to subjects." — **Fredrik Soderbaum and Bjorn Hettne**

The region is the level to reconcile "the changing and intensifying pressures of global capitalist competition... with the need for political regulation and management." — **Andrew Hurrell**

"Regionalism is out, sovereignty back in." — **Helen Thompson**

Pakistan is the "camel in the caravan of SAARC." — **C. Raja Mohan**

SAARC is a "jammed vehicle." — **S. Jaishankar**

"When ASEAN... was born on the 8th of August 1967, it was destined to fail." — **Kishore Mahbubani**

20 Scholar Index

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21 Previous Year Questions

General regionalism

UPSC 2016 · 15m How does regionalism shape the world politics? Explain with examples.

European Union

UPSC 2017 · 15m How has 'BREXIT' affected the regionalisation process initiated by European Union and what could be its likely impacts in the regionalisation process of world politics?

UPSC 2022 · 15m The Russian-Ukraine crisis has cast a dark shadow on the energy needs of the member states of the European Union (EU). Comment.

UPSC 2023 · 15m Account for the rise of the European Union as a highly influential regional organisation.

UPSC 2024 · 15m Do you agree with the view that the EU has thus far proved to be the most successful experiment in the regional integration processes? Account for its successes and also some of the recent challenges that it is faced with.

UPSC 2025 · 15m "Trump's return to the White House is a jolt to push the European Union to invest in its own defence and economic and technological revival." Comment.

ASEAN

UPSC 2020 · 15m Critically analyse the role of ASEAN in the promotion of regional peace and security through economic cooperation and trade.

UPSC 2021 · 15m Explain the success of ASEAN as a regional organisation.

UPSC 2025 · 15m How successful has the 'ASEAN Plus Three' been in addressing regional problems? Support your answer with specific examples.

SAARC

UPSC 2016 · 10m "Sometimes we visualize that SAARC's efforts come to halt because of various impediments to regional cooperation." Elaborate with reasonable examples of impediments.

UPSC 2018 · 15m "Since its inception the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has failed to deliver on its promises." What initiatives should be taken to reinvigorate the organization?

NAFTA & USMCA

UPSC 2017 · 10m American President Donald Trump's proposal to withdraw from the 'NAFTA' would bring unforeseen consequences to the regionalisation of world politics. Elaborate.

UPSC 2024 · 15m What were the limitations of NAFTA? How did its replacement by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement counter them? Explain.

BIMSTEC

UPSC 2019 · 10m Evaluate the role of BIMSTEC in multi-sectoral technical and economic cooperation.

22 Practice — write before the evening

1. Do you agree that the EU has thus far proved to be the most successful experiment in regional integration? Account for its successes and its recent challenges. **UPSC 2024 · 15m**
2. What were the limitations of NAFTA? How did its replacement by the USMCA counter them? Explain. **UPSC 2024 · 15m**
3. How successful has the 'ASEAN Plus Three' been in addressing regional problems? Support your answer with specific examples. **UPSC 2025 · 15m**

Model answers to today's questions post tonight on [@psirbyamitpratap](#).

See you tomorrow with Day 37 — Contemporary Global Concerns.