

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

UPSC 2017 · 15 marks

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?

FLOW SNAPSHOT — how the answer moves

Intro routes R1 EU as deepest integration → Haas's spillover expectation → Britain's 2016 vote moves the other way → cost without refutation; terms of regionalism change / R2 Brexit as the first live test of pooled sovereignty → scale and confidence lost inside Europe → example carried outward

Body flow loss of a major economy and political player → collective strength weakened → **Moravcsik**: exit precedent → Euroscepticism (National Rally, AfD) → **Hix**: new trade barriers + regulatory divergence complicate integration → turn outward: example matters more than the loss → **Thompson**: "regionalism is out, sovereignty back in"; regionalism as ideological contest, not rational choice → with US pressure on NAFTA → protectionism encouraged → weaker projects exposed (SAARC, RCEP) → **Acharya**: separatist / nationalist movements emboldened → ASEAN, MERCOSUR strained → out of the EU but not NATO → economic regionalism separable from security

Counter-view limits of supranationalism real, but retreat narrower than predicted → no domino; pro-EU turn in France → EU firmness makes exit costly → sovereignty pooled, never surrendered; members always free to leave → exit illustrates the design as much as it damages it

Conclusion routes R1 Brexit as a demand for reform → EU deepened after losing a major power / R2 regionalism continues, on more contested terms → sovereignty balanced against collective benefit

The EU is the deepest experiment in regional integration, built on Ernst B. Haas's neofunctionalist claim that cooperation in one sector spills into the next.

Britain's 2016 vote to leave moved the other way. Brexit cast the Union scale of confidence without disproving its logic & changed the terms of regionalism elsewhere.

Andrew Moravcsik calls it an exit precedent, and it has fed the Euroscepticism of National Rally. Simon Hix shows how new trade barriers & regulatory divergence complicate integration.

For world politics, the example matters more than the loss. Helen Thompson calls it as "regionalism is out, sovereignty back in", treating regionalism as a political project shaped by ideological contest, not mere rational choice. With US pressure on NAFTA, Brexit encourages protectionism & threatens weaker projects like SAARC and RCEP.

Amitav Acharya expects it to embolden separatist & nationalist movements, straining ASEAN & MERCOSUR. Britain left EU but not NATO, separating economic exit from security cooperation.

Brexit exposed the limits of supranationalism, though retreat is narrower than predicted. No domino followed: a pro-EU turn in France checked it, and EU's firmness made exit costly. Sovereignty in the EU was pooled, never surrendered; members stayed free to leave & the exit illustrates that design as much as it damages it.

Brexit is viewed as a demand for reform. The EU deepened after losing a major power & regionalism continues on more contested terms, balancing sovereignty against collective benefit.