

# Regionalism in Comparative Perspective

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# Outline of the Lecture

- Regionalism as a phenomenon
- Pre-modern regionalism
- Post-WWII regionalism
- 'New regionalism'
- Regionalism in comparative perspective

# Regionalism as a Phenomenon

- Regionalism between the state and the global
  - Regionalism vs. sovereignty?
  - Regionalism vs. globalisation?
- Who is behind regionalism? (Actors)
  - Regional states
  - Extra-regional state(s)
  - Non-state actors (e.g., civil society, NGOs)
  - International organizations

# Regionalism as a Phenomenon

- Comparative Regionalism
  - Distinctive models of regionalism in different parts of the world
  - The successful, the failed, and the stagnant...
- Diversity vs. Generalization
- Different waves of contemporary regionalism
  - Post-WWII and decolonialization
  - Post-Cold War

# Pre-Modern Regionalism

- Regionalism in the Post-Middle Age Europe
- The Hanseatic League (12c-17c)
  - An *alliance* based around the Baltic and the North Sea
  - Members were independent town-cities
  - Monopolizing trade along the coast of Northern Europe





# Pre-Modern Regionalism

- Regionalism in the Post-Middle Age Europe
- The Zollverein (19th century)
  - A German customs union prior to its unification
  - Internal customs removed
  - Protectionist tariff against outsiders



# Post-WWII Regionalism

- Regional agencies which were subordinated to the East-West conflict (1950s)
  - Regional security pacts: the NATO, the Warsaw Pact, the SEATO, etc.
  - Other regional groupings: the Organization of American States (OAS), the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity, etc.
- Attempts to create common market and free-trade associations (1960s)
  - Proposals for NAFTA, LAFTA, PAFTA, etc.

# Post-WWII Regionalism

- The Third-World Regionalism
  - The 'Southern' coalitions in world politics, some of which were not necessarily region-based
  - The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)
  - The Group of 77 (G77)
  - The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
  - The Organization of African Union (OAU)
  - The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Ideological or ideational region(s)/grouping(s)



# Post-WWII Regionalism

- The independently formed sub-regional economic or security organizations
  - The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
  - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
  - The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
  - The South African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC)
  - The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

# ‘New Regionalism’

- The background of ‘New Regionalism’
  - The end of the Cold War
  - Economic globalization
  - The failed attempts of ‘third-world regionalism’
  - Democratisation and its impact
- Some key characteristics of ‘New Regionalism’
  - Governance vs. Government
  - Process vs. Structure
  - Open regionalism vs. closed regionalism
  - Network vs. Alliance

# Regionalism in Comparative Perspective

- The historical background of regionalism
  - Limited coordinative instruments and cooperative areas in different historical periods
- The external context of regionalism
  - The influence of global economic and political environment
- The grouping dynamics of regionalism
  - The main objectives
  - The member states (equal or hierarchical, full members or observers, inter-member coordination)
  - The institutional/legal settings