

Regionalism in East Asia



- Why do we not see a formal organization of regionalism in this part of the world?
- Why is there not an EU- or NAFTA- equivalent in the region?



East Asia is practically the only major economic area in the world without a formal regional institution overseeing and coordinating activities within the region.

*There are several overlapping regional communities in East Asia that might be precursors to a future East Asian Community, including **ASEAN Plus Three**, **East Asia Summit**, **ASEAN Regional Forum**, and **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation***

IR relevance (1)

World order shifts from a US-centric uni-polar system to a new multi-polar system in which China play a new leading role. China has surpassed Japan as the second largest economy of the world and is now the largest Asian economy

China will seek strategic cooperation with its neighboring countries to secure regional order

How China sees the world



IR relevance (2)

EAST & SOUTH ASIA 2016 GDP GROWTH FORECASTS

China and India will
lead regional
growth

2016 outlook stable
for fourth month
in a row

India 7.5%

China 6.5%

Korea 2.7%

Hong Kong 2.1%

Taiwan 1.9%

**GDP Forecast
6.1%**

**Regional
Inflation
2.2%**

Region's
economy to
decelerate in the
years to
come

FOCUSECONOMICS

FocusEconomics Consensus Forecast for East & South Asia - March 2016

East Asia is the largest source of demand growth and investment capital

Most of the world's savings lies in East Asia. Asian countries see a need to develop a new growth paradigm that shifts away from export demand-driven growth to a domestic and intraregional demand-driven growth.

IR relevance (3)

East Asian economic growth will have a huge impact on global climate change, pollution, and resource depletion.

Regional cooperation could facilitate policy dialogue and allow East Asia to focus on inclusive, sustainable growth.

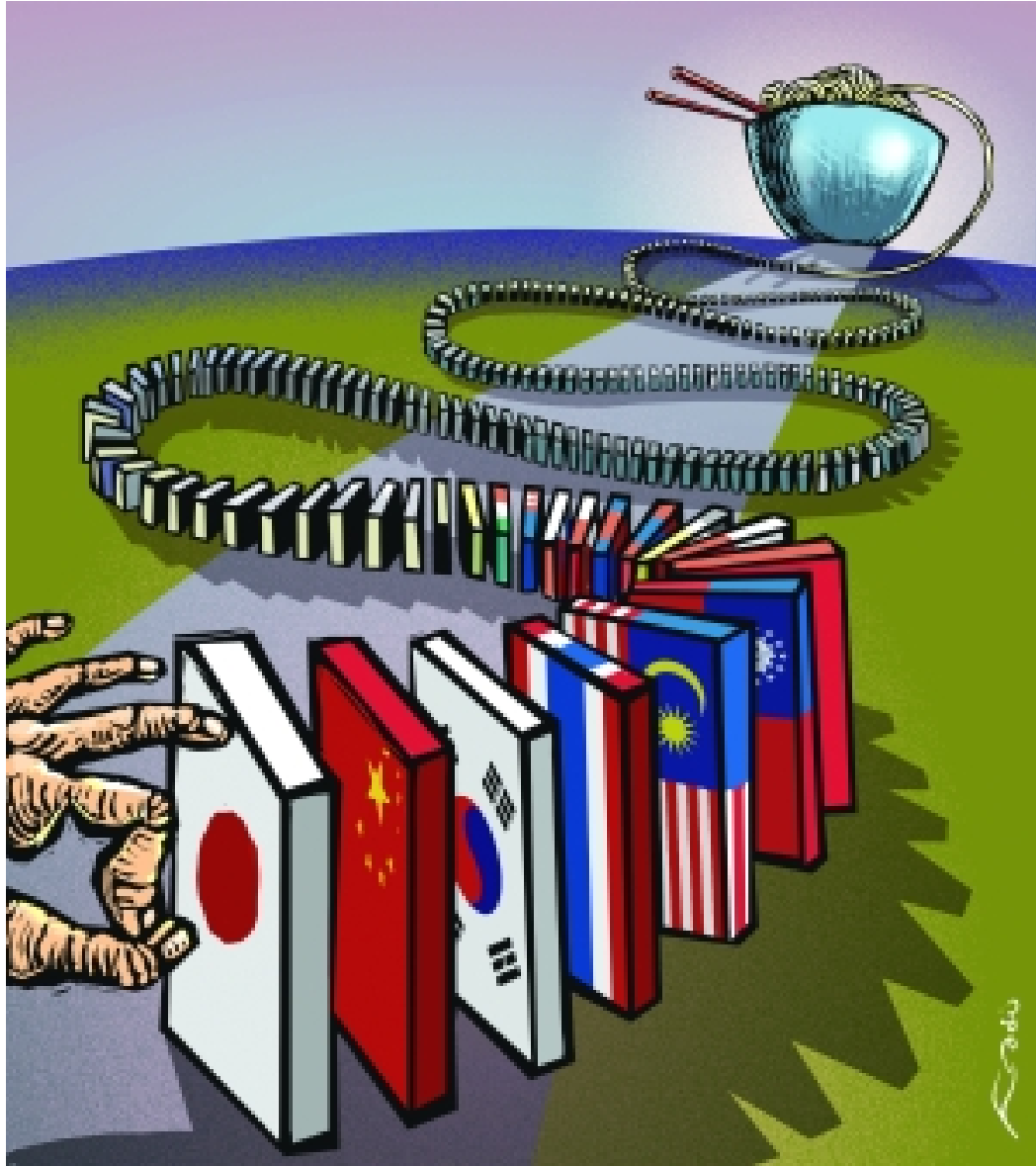


Regionalization

is defined as an increase in the cross-border flow of capital, goods, and people within a specific geographical area.

Regionalism

- a political will to create a formal arrangement among states on a geographically restricted basis.
- intensifying political and/or economic processes of cooperation among states and other actors in particular geographic regions
- Emphasizes geographic proximity, international interaction, common bonds (ethnic, linguistic, cultural, social, and historical), and a sense of identity that is sometimes affected by states outside of the region
- Regionalism implies that political leaders frequently conduct foreign policy and approach their external environment through a 'regional community' perspective



- *intensifying political, economic, and cultural processes of cooperation among states and non-state actors in particular geographic regions*
- the term “**regionalization**” refers to the interdependence among neighbor states based more on **non-political factors**, “**regionalism**” highlights the notion of deliberate efforts to institutionalize the processes of **regionalization politically**

- East Asian regionalism is relatively ‘unimpressive’ in terms of the formal international institutions that scholars of Europe or North America normally consider, but countries in the region are markedly interdependent over a range of different dimensions. The comparative lack of institutionalization does not necessarily suggest that there is less or little regionalism in East Asia.
- Pan Regional : ASEAN Regional Forum, Council Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region (CSCAP), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measure in Asia (CICA), the NorthEast Asia Cooperation Dialogue(NEACD), the Shangri-La Dialogue, The Six Party Talk
- Transregional : Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO), the China-Japan-ROK Summit, the ASEAN Plus Three (ASEAN + 3), East Asia Summit

- “hard” bilateralism and “soft” multilateralism
- “hub-and-spokes” system in which the capitalist countries of the region communicated with each other through the United States
- Korean War and the Asian financial crisis, heavily influenced regionalism in East Asia and historical decision point in which there are clear alternative paths to the future.