

REGIONALISATION IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The end of the Cold War in Europe, apart from the democratic transition process in the former communist countries or ex - Soviet republics, created some suitable conditions for the development of regionalism. Inspired by the successful model of European integration, countries surrounding the Baltic sea, the countries of the southern and the northern coast of the Mediterranean sea and the countries of South Eastern Europe, attempted to approach regionalism as a strategy to achieve regional cooperation for economic and social prosperity across region, enhancing security and pacify ethnic conflicts that surged after the breakdown of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. Each project of region-building is noted for its different features and levels of regionalization, relying on the combination of internal dynamics and external influences. The European Union is seen as the main external factor, in each case, and from the beginning, its engagement was approached with different policies for each region by offering, both incentives and applying conditions. For this purpose, the aim of this paper is to analyze the process of regionalization in South Eastern Europe through a comparative analysis, highlighting the similarities and differences between these three regions. Through theoretical perspectives it will be explained how regionalism is transformed and which approach is more suitable for explaining the regionalization post Cold War in each region taken account the process of regionalization. Thus the regionalization across the Nordic region is known as a multi-level model, with a direction to boost cooperation internally, the Mediterranean regionalization is configured through the North-South approach, with low cooperation and internally and externally driven and supported, while the regionalization in the Southeast European region can be seen between them. The conclusions, will allow us to understand more about the importance that poses the cooperation between countries through regionalization and from where we can choose to approach and compare other cases in future researches.

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