



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Name of Student

Course Title

Date

International Relations

Scenario One: The Formation of ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) was established in 1997.[1] Southeast Asia was experiencing the economic crisis as well as other political challenges that significantly impacted the stability of the countries within the same region.[2] The issues of crisis, as well as the political dilemma, prompted the Southeast Asian nations to form the organization which allows them to consolidate their position at the international level.

This discussion is about the use of multiple international relations theories to offer the explanation why ASEAN decided to pursue regional integration. Four critical theories are used to justify the ASEAN alliance. Major approaches in the international relations namely neorealism, constructivism, neoliberalism, and the global society approach can offer critical information on the reasons why ASEAN adopted the regional integration.[3] Notably, all the theories of the international relations play a critical role in providing justification for the conduct of states in a more rational manner. The different paradigms that offer the explanation on the ASEAN development also comprise the reasons that assist in validating the sustainability of neorealism.

According to the theory, one of the significant driving forces for countries to come together is the ability to take care of their interests at the global level. Individuals who believe in neorealist theory argue that on the international level, the activities of various nations are characterized by anarchy. In the presence of extensive conflict, for instance, when a region is experiencing adverse political strife, the countries involved will remain less stable.[4] In any case, the establishment of ASEAN was viewed as one of the major ways through which the Asian countries could address their issues by getting some guarantee on their security. Again, the integration according to neorealist view helps in facilitating cooperation of the countries not only within the political sector but also within others critical areas such as the economy, which can help them to retain stability in several aspects.

The neoliberalism approach challenges the idea that institutions are vulnerable within the international system. In any case, neoliberalism argues that the states should have the power to cooperate with one another despite the fact that there is anarchy within the international system.[5] Through the influence of norms and institutions, states can achieve effective cooperation among

themselves. For instance, the ASEAN can help the states to acquire the economic and political strength that enforces their position in the international arena.

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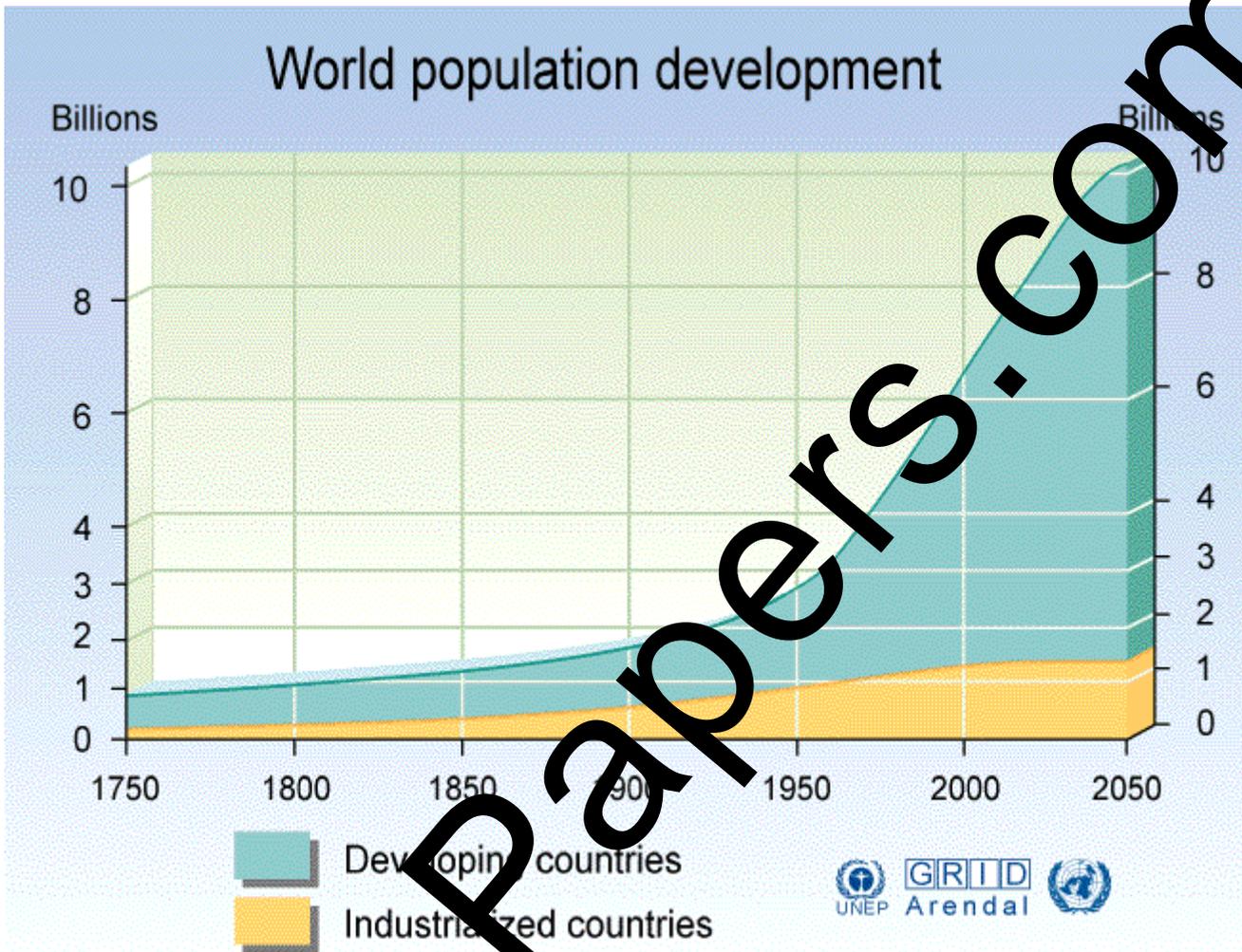
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Hourly wage	Total work hours per year	Maximum hourly budget	Additional employees	Current employees
\$ 25	1,920	\$ 32	25	75
Yearly cost of Mandatory benefits				
Salaries				
Yearly salary cost for new employees	48000			
Yearly salary cost for old employees	63379.2			
Overtime				
Overtime for new employees	84			
Overtime for old employees	12.12			
Canada Pension Plan (CPP)				
Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings	55,300			
Contribution rate	4.95%			
Employer Contribution	2737.35			
Employee Contribution	2737.35			
Total contribution	5474.7			
Employment Insurance				
Employee contribution per \$100 per year		1.7		
Employer contribution per \$100 per year		4.2		
Workplace Insurance benefit per \$100 insurable payroll				
		2.45		
Yearly cost of Optional Benefits				
Employee assistance benefit per employee per month		5		
annual employee assistance benefit for all new employees		60		
annual employee assistance benefit for current employees		60		
Average medical insurance premium per month		15		
Annual Medical Insurance costs for new employees		180		
Annual Medical Insurance costs for current employees		180		
Annual Group critical illness lumpsum new employees		2000		
Annual Group critical illness lumpsum for current employees		2000		
Monthly education and training benefit		18		
Annual education and training benefit		216		

From the constructivism perspective, states tend to focus on the role, n

orms, and ways through which they can build their identities. The direction that a country takes to define their way in which they conduct activities is significantly influenced by the manner in which the majority of the leaders see the entire international system. In relation to the formation of ASEAN, the countries that are members of the organization focus on the notion of attaining common goal and identity.^[6] Nonetheless, the ASEAN has remained united over the years because the countries are driven by the common agenda. In the modern society, ASEAN has

managed to overcome certain issues such as insecurity and economic difficulties. Based on the views provided by different theoretical approaches, especially the neorealism theory, it is more likely that members of the ASEAN will pursue matters that enable them to remain united in the future. The main reason why deeper integration should work is because of the sense of security that individual countries receive under the organization.



Scenario Two: Globalization and “Erosion of the State”

Globalization is one of the fundamental areas of concern among many countries. The concept of globalization has been a topic of discussion in many fields. [7] It has attracted several researchers to look at the matter from the different standpoints. In the study of international relations, investigators seem to pay a lot of attention to globalization and seek to define whether it is influencing the nation-state.

Political factors related to globalization play the significant role in undermining the establishment of the nation state. The expansion of globalization across the world is one of the reasons why there is a weakening of the sovereign status of many countries. Notably, nation states usually have the legal authority to handle matters that are internal in ways that they best understand. In any case, the fact that a country has the full authority to conduct its activities, for instance, to make choices in the political direction, is an indication of sovereignty. One of the critical things that happened over the years due to globalization is the rise of various organizations at the international level that perform important roles in matters of governance. The organizations play significant roles across multiple sectors, for instance, economic, cultural and even technological. This has the capacity of undermining the roles of the nation state. In such cases, the international organizations are allowed

to conduct specific government functions, and to that extent, it undermines the potential of various countries to have independent nation state functions.

In the modern society, many international organizations have acquired the power to develop specific policies in multiple areas of the economy. The globalization factors have influenced the establishment of the organizations such as the World Trade Organization, World Bank, The United Nations and European Union.[8] Notably, some of the organizations have played the roles that would otherwise be the function of the state. Activities such as carrying intervention in areas of regional conflict as well as the disarmament are among the activities of the international groups that appear to undermine the existence of Nation-State across the world.[9] In some cases, the international organization can develop certain policies that regulate the level of government involvement in specific areas of interest. Apparently, the power of international organization also seems to be increasing in terms of managing various affairs that were previously under the direct control of the nation state, for instance, peacekeeping mission and weapons inspection.

From the economic viewpoint, globalization has influenced countries to engage in foreign investments as well as use some leading technologies to change their industrial structure in multiple ways.[10] At the domestic level, the country controls fundamental areas of the economy through designing and adopting policies that meet their goals without having to operate under the instruction of other international bodies. Notably, because of the globalization, many organizations at the global level have acquired the specific economic power that seems to undermine the foundation of the nation-state. To some extent, numerous countries have reduced the level of control on matters of domestic economy because of the globalization effects. In fact, the idea of globalization emphasizes the concept of the market economy that focuses more on the concept of the free market. The organization such as World Trade Organizations has put a lot of emphasis on managerial authorities that undermine the foundation of the nation-state in many ways. One of the points that seem more convincing is the expansion of the political responsibilities among various international organizations. Once the transnational bodies acquire some political responsibilities, they can develop policies that undermine the direct involvement of a country on various matters.

Scenario Three: The Success of Social Movements at International Level

The transnational social movements and advocacy network are one of the key aspects in the international relations.[11] The activities of those particular groups significantly influence the way in which various countries conduct specific actions on the international stage. One of the critical areas where transnational social groups provide a lot of benefits includes expanding accountability on how leaders participate in the politics of a country and even beyond the specified borders.

Notably, influencing the government to change their stand regarding particular issues is critical because it can ensure that the country engages only in activities that uphold the widespread interest at the international level.[12] Besides, advocacy and transnational movements can ensure that all the individual states involved at the international level have the capacity to increase their level of accountability. It becomes relatively straightforward to have states that are more stable when they are democratic and have human rights as a priority. During the year 1975, for instance, the Soviet Union adopted accommodative policies towards its neighbors through citing the Helsinki Accord.[13] Several scholars have extensively argued that Helsinki Accords is one of the initiatives

that was developed through the effort of transnational social movements with the aim of promoting human rights.

The transnational network and social movement contributed to developing proper behavior among states officials as well as ensuring that policy change takes place within several areas of operation of the state.[14] In any case, the way in which countries respond when there is a political crisis in neighboring countries depends on several factors. One of the fundamental elements that influence how countries react to any related situation is based on findings that were published by advocacy groups. It is significant to take action after evaluating independent reports before intervening in affairs that are beyond the domestic boundaries.[15] Again, the effective strategies used by the advocacy groups at the international level, support the empowerment of people from particular groups such as professionals in various fields. The opinion presented by special envoys will impact shaping the new political system of the international stage.

To summarize, the transnational social movement has the capacity of promoting the goals and policies that encourage the development of political space. The advocacy groups (social movements) have played a critical role in ensuring that there is the expansion on matters of transparency and new political opportunities that help countries within the international stages to improve the welfare of the domestic population as well as cooperation among various countries thus promoting harmony.

Scenario Four: Clash of Civilizations

The basic argument of Huntington is that conflicts in the future are likely to occur, separating civilizations. He uses some broad concepts which are effective in understanding what actually civilization is and its impact on the society. These concepts include language, history, religion, customs, and institutions. The use of these concepts is regarded as the most important differentiators of civilization which are highly problematic.[16] The best description that could be used in defining the term 'civilization' would be theoretically simple, inherently problematic, and naturally subjective.

Conflicts are likely to occur along cultural fault lines which have an impact on civilization. This argument can be linked to the conflicts which have risen in Russia and Ukraine and among the Shias and Sunnis in Iraq and Syria. There is an evidence of cultural connections among these communities, but they have been separated by various aspects (fault lines in this case) which include mentality or ethnic differences. [17]

Development can be hard in an environment full of conflicts. [18] The thesis of Huntington can be very unsafe especially in a situation whereby the aim is to establish peace between conflicting countries. This policy has taken a prescription for policy making especially through judging the reactions of people around the world. This is the main reason why the propositions of Huntington are not widely used around the world.

According to Huntington, the fault line that exists between civilizations and differences in political ideologies had an impact on the general life quality.[19] Civilization had different values on the existing relationships between God and Man, husband and wife, as well as differing views which are directly related to the importance of rights as well as responsibilities, liberty, and authority. [20] There is an aspect, which was introduced by Huntington, and is known as civilization identity. The civilization identity focused on providing an attachment and sense of belonging between two or more individuals.

Finally, even though there have been a variety of arguments connected to the issue of western civilization and conflicts, it would be better to understand the origin of the confrontation that can be seen between Russia and Ukraine and among the Shias and Sunnis in Iraqi and Syria. Having an understanding of these aspects is important because it will help in the process of providing a lasting solution to these types of conflicts. The "Clash of civilization" by Huntington appears to be an eye opener to the potentials that exist in civilized nations and what needs to be done in order to end conflicts. As proposed by Huntington, it is possible to deal with this through strengthening the fault lines that exist between people from different cultural backgrounds. This will also help in strengthening the ties that exist between various individuals.

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