

A WORLD OF REGIONS

REGIONALISM

Regionalism is defined as a political and economic phenomenon that favors a specific region over a larger area. It is a political ideology that can be motivated by shared identities, ethics, religion, ecological sustainability, or health. Formation of regionalism is observed to be inspired by socially emergent issues that needs to be addressed.

Basic features of regionalism include a group of countries located in the same geographically specified area.

REGIONALISM VS REGIONALIZATION

REGIONALISM

The expression of a common identity or purpose or political will among countries in a specific region. It entails cooperation, coordination, and the establishment of formal institutions or agreements to address shared challenges or promote mutual interests.

REGIONALIZATION

Refers to the process of creating or strengthening economic, political, or cultural ties within a specific geographic region involving the increased interdependence and integration of countries within that region through various means such as trade agreements, alliances, or cultural exchanges.

WHY FORM REGIONS

The motivations for forming regions vary, and it serves as a way of coping with globalization for both lesser-developed and developed countries. Forming alliances between neighboring countries is also a tactic used by the developed countries in terms of protecting or solidifying their strengths.

- [1] Military defense
- [2] Polling of resources
- [3] Protecting a country's independence from superpower politics
- [4] Mitigating economic crises

NON-STATE REGIONALISM

Involves countries forming alliances based on common motivations, irrespective of their geographic proximity.

However, regionalism faces challenges:

- [1] Resurgence of militant nationalism and populism
- [2] Continuing economic crises
- [3] Sovereignty and regional stability
- [4] Differing vision of what regionalism should achieve

GLOBAL DIVIDES: THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH

GLOBAL SOUTH

Metaphor for interstate inequality and a concept created by the West, particularly referring to countries colonized by the Spaniards in the southern part of the American continent, collectively known as Latin America.

The division is characterized by socio-economic and political disparities primarily focused on the southern hemisphere, comprising Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. The term also denotes developing countries compared to the rich, industrialized nations in the Global North.

The term "Global South" is not geographically rather, its usage denotes a mix of political, geopolitical, and economic commonalities between nations.

GLOBAL SOUTH OR THIRD WORLD?

The terms Global South and Third World are conceptually similar, both referring to conditions typically found in developing countries.

Until then, the more common term for developing nations was "THIRD WORLD". The term was coined by Alfred Sauvy in 1952, in an analogy with France's historical three estates: the nobility, the clergy, and the bourgeoisie.

The term "First World" referred to the advanced capitalist nations; the "Second World", to the socialist nations led by the Soviet Union; and the "Third World", to developing nations, many at the time still under the colonial yoke.

THIRLD WORLD

Countries that had yet to industrialize fully

SECOND WORLD

A term used during the Cold War for industrial socialist states under the influence of the Soviet Union. Positioned between the impoverishment characterizing developing nations and the affluence associated with developed nations

FIRST WORLD

Countries that are characterized by stable democracies, the rule of law, a capitalist economy, and a high standard of living.

GLOBAL NORTH

Encompasses the developed societies of Europe and North America. It is characterized by established democracy, wealth, technological advancement, political stability, an aging population, zero population growth, and dominance in world trade and politics. Members of the Group of Eight (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, Russia, and the United States) are part of the Global North.

ASIAN REGIONALISM

Asian regionalism is a recent concept among continental communities. Nevertheless, what fortifies Asian nations is the establishment of collaborations and cooperation founded on mutual respect.

For instance, the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), as a regional bloc, demonstrates full respects for the sovereignty and independence of its members through consensus and consultation.

ASPECT THAT LEAD TO A GREATER ASIAN INTEGRATION

- [1] Integration has been market driven
- [2] Formal institutions such as Asian Development Bank were established
- [3] Economic grants and overseas development assistance are made available by better Asian economies
- [4] Production networks have expanded
- [5] Cooperation among the ASEAN and East Asian countries, Example: ASEAN + 3 (China, Japan, South Korea)
- [6] ASEAN follows a consensus rule as an approach to decision making.

GLOBALIZATION and REGIONALIZATION are the same for they refer to integration. Their difference lies on the scope. Globalization is worldwide, while regionalization focuses on a specific geographical region.

WORLD OF IDEAS

RELIGION

One of the binding forms of networks that have intensified people's sense of community across the world.

STUDY OF RELGION involves the study of religious practices, customs, beliefs, and rituals in the context of social structures such as religious institutions, education, community, and family.

WHAT IS RELIGION?

According to **EMILE DURKHEIM**, religion is a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things. These beliefs and practices relative to sacred things. These beliefs and practices bring together its adherents into one single moral community.

ELEMENTS IN DEFINING RELIGION

- Beliefs that some things are sacred, set apart from the ordinary things
- Practices (rituals) centered on the things considered sacred
- A moral community (a church) resulting from a group's beliefs and practices; there is a function – the formation of solidarity

Example: Filipino people are socialized in the practice of religion – not just on the beliefs on the doctrines. Fiestas, prosisyon, and the likes.

For him, the world's religions are **[1]** so varied that they have no specific belief or practice in common; **[2]** that all religions develop a community centered on their beliefs and practices; and **[3]** that all religions separate the **SACRED** from the **PROFANE**.

SACRED represented the interests of the group, especially unity, which were embodied in sacred group symbols, or totems. An aspect of life having to do with the supernatural that inspires awe, reverence, deep respect, even fear.

PROFANE, on the other hand, involves mundane individual concerns or aspects of life that are not concerned with religion or religious purposes but, instead, are part of the ordinary aspects of everyday life.

CONNECTION BETWEEN RELIGION AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURES

MAX WEBER's PROTESTANT ETHICS AND THE SPIRIT OF CAPITALISM. The Roman Catholic belief system encouraged followers to hold on to their traditional ways of life, while the Protestant belief system encouraged its members to embrace change.

Theorized how the moral principles of disciplined Protestantism connect to the rise of modern capitalism. Weber argues that the religious beliefs of Calvinists and similar groups significantly influenced the development of a capitalist mindset.

THE CALVINIST TRADITION: the doctrine of **PREDETERMINATION**; The belief that God has planned and willed all events, often in relation to the ultimate destiny of each person's soul. Calvinists sought confirmation of God's favor by associating it with financial success, considering it a sign of divine approval.

PROTESTANT ETHIC refers to the importance places on diligent labor, frugality, and effectiveness in one's worldly pursuits.

SPIRIT OF CAPITALISM the desire to accumulate capital – not to spend it, but as an end in itself – and to constantly reinvest it.

RELIGION AND GLOBALISM vs. GLOBALIZATION

The religious are concerned with spreading holy ideas globally, while the globalist wishes to spread goods and services.

RELIGION	GLOBALISM
A Divine Entity that defines and judges' human action in moral terms, what is good or bad.	A globalist is not worried whether he will end up in hell or heaven.
Religious people are less concerned with wealth and all that comes along with it.	Globalism deals with how much of human action can lead to the highest material satisfaction and subsequent wisdom that this new status produces.
When a religious person aspires to be a saint.	The globalist trains to be a shrewd businessperson.
Religious people are ascetic because they avoid anything material for simplicity. From what clothes should be worn and food to eat.	Globalist deal more in the seal trade, raise the profits of private enterprises, improve government revenue collections, protect the elites from being excessively taxed by the state and naturally enrich themselves.

RELIGION AND GLOBALIZATION

GLOBALIZATION has freed communities from the constraints of the nation state but in the process, it threatens to destroy the cultural system that binds them together, RELIGION seeks to take the place of these broken “traditional ties” to either help communities cope with their new situation.

GEMEINSCHAFT type of society in which life is intimate; a community in which everyone knows everyone else and people share a sense of togetherness, sharing similar beliefs and practices, has a traditional tie in the community.

GESELLSCHAFT, a type of society that is dominated by impersonal relationships, individual accomplishments, and self-interest.

Religion can provide the “moral codes” answering problems like people’s health and personal happiness. Religion is not the regressive force that stops or slows globalization, it is a pro-active force that gives communities a new and powerful basis of identity. It is an instrument with which religious people can put their mark in the reshaping of this globalizing world.

CONFLICT OR PEACE?

According to Jayeel Cornelio, religion create this US vs THEM mentality. The solidarity it provides a double edge sword.

WHY DO RELIGIONS DIVIDE?

Many Filipinos are aware that being religious is not necessarily something to celebrate, as it has the potential to harm people.

Example: In a study conducted by Dr. Cornelia and Dr. Aldama, two-thirds of Filipinos believe that religion brings more conflict than peace and almost believe that individuals with strong religious beliefs tend to be more intolerant.

In a micro perspective Religion is influenced by their interactions in daily lives and attitudes. From a macro perspective, there is a totalizing claim of religion in the country (THEOLOGICAL NATIONALISM), making it challenging to go against the teachings of the religion.

VIOLENT EXTREMISM the convictions and behaviors of individuals who endorse or employ violence to attain ideological, religious, or political objectives.

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE, no law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

The government functions autonomously, free from the impact of religious entities, and prevents religious groups from having unwarranted authority or sway in governmental matters.

Ex. Church of the Quantum Siopao protest of their perception that the university violated the constitutional provisions on the separation of the church and state by allowing Catholic relics to be displayed around the school premises.

Its disciples, the Siopaoists, demanded that the image of the Almighty Quantum Siopao be displayed around the campus for equality of representation, arguing that if UP, a government institution, would allow one religion to display their religious relic in campus, it should also allow relics from all other religions to be displayed as well – that, or none at all.