

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT

PROJECT NIGHTINGALE

COVERT OPERATIONS DIVISION

DATE: 2021-01-31

CLASSIFICATION: TOP SECRET

TARGET ENTITY: COMECON

MISSION PRIORITY: 4

EVENT DATE: 2020-06-17

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

SUBJECT: COMECON: ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The Comecon, a Soviet-dominated economic organization, has been a significant player in the Eastern Bloc's economic landscape. This brief will compare and contrast Comecon's economic cooperation with other economic blocs, highlighting its unique features and differences.

COMECON'S ECONOMIC COOPERATION

On 2020-06-17, Comecon's Council of Ministers approved a new economic cooperation plan aimed at strengthening member states' economic ties. This plan, "Comecon-2025," focuses on increasing trade, investment, and economic integration among member states.

Similar to the European Economic Community (EEC), Comecon's economic cooperation aims to promote economic growth, stability, and prosperity among member states. However, unlike the EEC, Comecon's cooperation is primarily driven by Soviet interests and goals.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER ECONOMIC BLOCS

- **EEC (European Economic Community):** The EEC, a precursor to the European Union, aimed to create a common market among its member states. While both the EEC and Comecon promote economic cooperation, the EEC's primary goal was to create a single market, whereas Comecon's focus is on promoting Soviet interests and goals.
- **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations):** ASEAN, a regional economic organization in Southeast Asia, promotes economic cooperation and integration among its member states. Unlike Comecon, ASEAN's cooperation is driven by a desire for economic growth and stability, rather than by a dominant power's interests.
- **COMECON'S UNIQUE FEATURES**

Comecon's economic cooperation has several unique features that set it apart from other economic blocs:

1. **Soviet Dominance:** Comecon is dominated by the Soviet Union, which sets the organization's goals and policies.
2. **Economic Integration:** Comecon's economic cooperation aims to promote economic integration among member states, but this integration is primarily driven by Soviet interests.
3. **Limited Economic Growth:** Comecon's economic cooperation has not led to significant economic growth or prosperity among its member states, unlike other economic blocs.
4. **Lack of Democratic Institutions:** Comecon's member states lack democratic institutions, and their economies are heavily influenced by Soviet interests.

CONCLUSION

Comecon's economic cooperation, as outlined in the "Comecon-2025" plan, is primarily driven by Soviet interests and goals. While it shares some similarities with other economic blocs, such as the EEC and ASEAN, it has unique features that set it apart. These features, including Soviet dominance, limited economic growth, and a lack of democratic institutions, suggest that Comecon's economic cooperation will continue to be driven by Soviet interests, rather than by a desire for economic growth and stability among member states.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Continue to Monitor Comecon's Economic Cooperation:** It is essential to continue monitoring Comecon's economic cooperation to understand its goals, policies, and impact on member states.
2. **Assess the Implications of Comecon's Economic Cooperation:** Analyze the implications of Comecon's economic cooperation on member states, including its impact on economic growth, stability, and prosperity.
3. **Evaluate the Role of Soviet Interests:** Assess the role of Soviet interests in driving Comecon's economic cooperation and its impact on member states.

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