

Abstract

(博士論文要旨)

Globalization and New Regionalism in South Asia

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Regions are one important site in the contemporary world in which the contending forces of globalization and localism/localization, integration and disintegration and distant and proximities are interconnected. Some say we are living in a regionalized world. An increasing number of countries are relying on regional integration to mediate the forces of globalization and localism/localization. Against this backdrop, the study introduces a framework for understanding the novelty of regionalism (new regionalism) in South Asia by relating it to processes and changes led by contradictory forces of globalization and localism. The basic purpose is to investigate how new regionalism and localism are emerging as a response to the challenges of globalization. Empirically, it aims to explore the new regional dynamics and forces, their linkages with globalization by studying South Asian regional trajectories, growing power of local forces and inter-regional cooperation. It explains the emergence of new regionalism in South Asia as well as understanding state-society relations in which state and civil society actors are dialectically connected. A theoretical assessment of these observations demonstrates that new regionalism gives a new perspective for understanding regional integration process in South Asia. It combines the elements of old regionalism and new regionalism. It combines issues and interests of various actors in the process ranging from trade to ecology. Influenced by the forces of globalization and localism, South Asia's regionalism goes beyond organizational ethnocentrism, i.e. SAARC or trade-based agenda of cooperation, i.e. SAFTA or statism in regional governance. It is not only states, but also the civil society actors who are contributing to regional cooperation from different platforms/spaces often with similar objectives. Finally, the current landscape of regional integration process in South Asia indicates a complex whole in which the region has to emphasize the forces of globalization, new regionalism and localism. Negligence to any of these forces would create a jumble for the region only to jeopardize peace, democracy and development or to continue to remain in the explosive seat of poverty, nuclear bombs and militancy.