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Question : The economic models of <sup>Cooperation</sup> EU and ASEAN are seen as examples of best practices. The basic premises of these organizations is the establishment of a mechanism for trade liberalization and realizing the region's latent trade potential. Explain<sup>in</sup> the context of this statement that why regional co-operation failed in the region in general and for Pakistan in particular?

The Asean which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia Pacific post colonial states. The motto of ASEAN is "One vision, one identity, one community".

Objectives of ASEAN:

To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development for

for peaceful and prosperous  
community of Southeast Asian  
nations.

To promote regional peace and  
stability through abiding  
respect for justice and rule of  
law and adherence to the principle  
of United Nations Charter.

To promote active collaboration  
and mutual assistance on matters  
of common interest in economic, social,  
cultural, technical, scientific,  
and administrative fields.

To collaborate more effectively  
for the utilisation of agriculture  
and industries, the expansion

of their trade, the improvement  
of transportation, and the  
communication facilities and  
the raising of living standards  
of ~~living~~ people.

To maintain close and beneficial  
cooperation with the existing

international and regional  
organisations.

## EU

The EU is the largest trade bloc in world. It is the world's biggest exporter of manufactured goods and services and the biggest import market for over 100 countries.

Free trade among its members was one of the EU founding principles -

EU is in prime position when it comes to global trade. The openness of our trade regime has meant that EU is the biggest player on the global trading scene and remains a reliable partner to do business with.

Trade: EU-Singapore free trade agreement, signed in 2018, makes it easier for EU firms to export more to Singapore, helps protect people's rights at work and environment and opens up

Singapore markets to EU  
companies for service and government  
contracts.

EU accounts for the around  
15% of world's trade in goods.

China, US and EU are the  
three largest global players  
in the international trade.

### International Diplomacy and development

EU countries acting in  
unison have much more of voice  
on world stage than 27 nations  
of varying size acting separately.  
Taken together, the EU institutions  
and national governments are  
the world's leading donor  
of development assistance  
and work collectively to  
promote good governance, fight  
hunger and preserve natural  
resources.

# Failure of Regional cooperation

## Human rights:

ASEAN human rights body has criticized for being weak and ineffective. Some of its member countries, such as Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam, have repressive governments and ASEAN have been criticized for not taking the strong actions againsts human rights violations. Additionally, when it comes to issues like deporting Uighurs and other prosecuted groups back to china, ASEAN has been divided into how to respond, with some members favouring more active stance and others seeking closer ties with china.

## Trust deficit:

The south china sea dispute is a significant regional <sup>security</sup> concern. ASEAN members states including Vietnam and Philippines, have clashed with china over territorial claims in the south china sea. This dispute have revealed tensions within ASEAN and

organization's limited ability  
to influence the situation.

Some South China Sea claimants  
such as Vietnam and Philippines, have  
sought closer defense ties with US in  
response to their concerns. This  
includes the joint military training  
and weapons purchases, despite  
ASEAN's aim to reliance on the  
foreign powers.

### Post 9/11 era:

The September 11, 2001,  
terrorist attacks and subsequent wars  
in Iraq and Afghanistan further strained  
US-ASEAN relations. In Muslim  
majority ASEAN nations like Indonesia,  
Malaysia, and Brunei, public  
opinion turned against US policies,  
making it difficult for leaders  
to maintain close ties with US.

US officials reduced their presence  
in Southeast Asia and it contributed

## Lack of consensus on expanding ASEAN membership.

Several ASEAN countries like Singapore, Malaysia, <sup>and</sup> Vietnam have raised concerns over joining <sup>of East Timor</sup> ASEAN. Their objections include fears of straining relations with Indonesia, worries about East Timor's political instability, and concerns about country weak economy and diplomatic capacity. Indonesia supports East Timor's accession. But ~~in~~ despite Indonesia backing, Timor's membership poses significant challenges for ASEAN. These include domestic instability and economic struggles. Although country's oil reserves in East Timor Sea contribute to its economic growth. East Timor population size is a factor that might affect its capacity to engage actively in ASEAN.

## Outdated Model of leadership

The model of leadership



in ASEAN is outdated, while the current secretary-general, Surin Pitsuwan, is accomplished. He lacks international influence and recognition of some Southeast Asian leaders. It means that during regional crises or disputes, it is unclear that who speaks on behalf of ASEAN to the world.

Low profile of ASEAN secretary general also affects the organization's interaction with major industrial powers and US-congress. High profile officials and leaders often don't engage with ASEAN at the same level

as they would with other international organizations.

The secretariat itself seen as under equipped to provide high-quality analysis, advice or leadership on critical regional issues.

## Integration Dilemma:

The EU faces the challenges of deciding whether to prioritize widening or deepening (greater integration among existing members) after Brexit.

There are currently 27 member states.

## European Boundaries Challenges

The boundaries of Europe both geographically and culturally, poses a challenge, especially regarding the potential enlargement to countries with muslim majorities in the Turkey and western Balkans.

## Climate Change

The EU has ambitious climate goals, aiming to be a leader in climate goals & policy. However, it faces challenges related to its own emissions, while being the third largest emitter globally. Per capita emissions in the EU countries are high compared to most developing countries.

# Russian Aggression

Russia's Actions in

Ukraine and other regions pose a threat to European security and integration. The situation has led to security dilemmas and

the need for a stronger EU security role. <sup>Additionally, was a security</sup> As result, EU

faces various economic risks, ~~although specific~~ including economic crisis, trade tensions and impact of global economic trends.

## Challenges faced by Pakistani diaspora in EU countries:

The Pakistani community has become an important part of European's workforce but faces difficulty <sup>fully</sup> integrating into mainstream European society.

- Muslim communities, including the Pakistani diaspora, share concerns such as the wearing of hijab, the construction of mosques, and the need for political representation.
- France pursues an aggressive assimilation policy, aiming for immigrants to adopt French culture and values. Many European countries have historically considered Muslim minorities as temporary and not worked on their integration.

## Impact of depictions of prophet Muhammad.

The publications of caricatures of prophet in a Danish newspaper had negative impact on the integration process in various EU

member states with muslim minorities

This event led to tensions and  
protests