

Non-Traditional Security Issues in Southeast Asia and limited public participation

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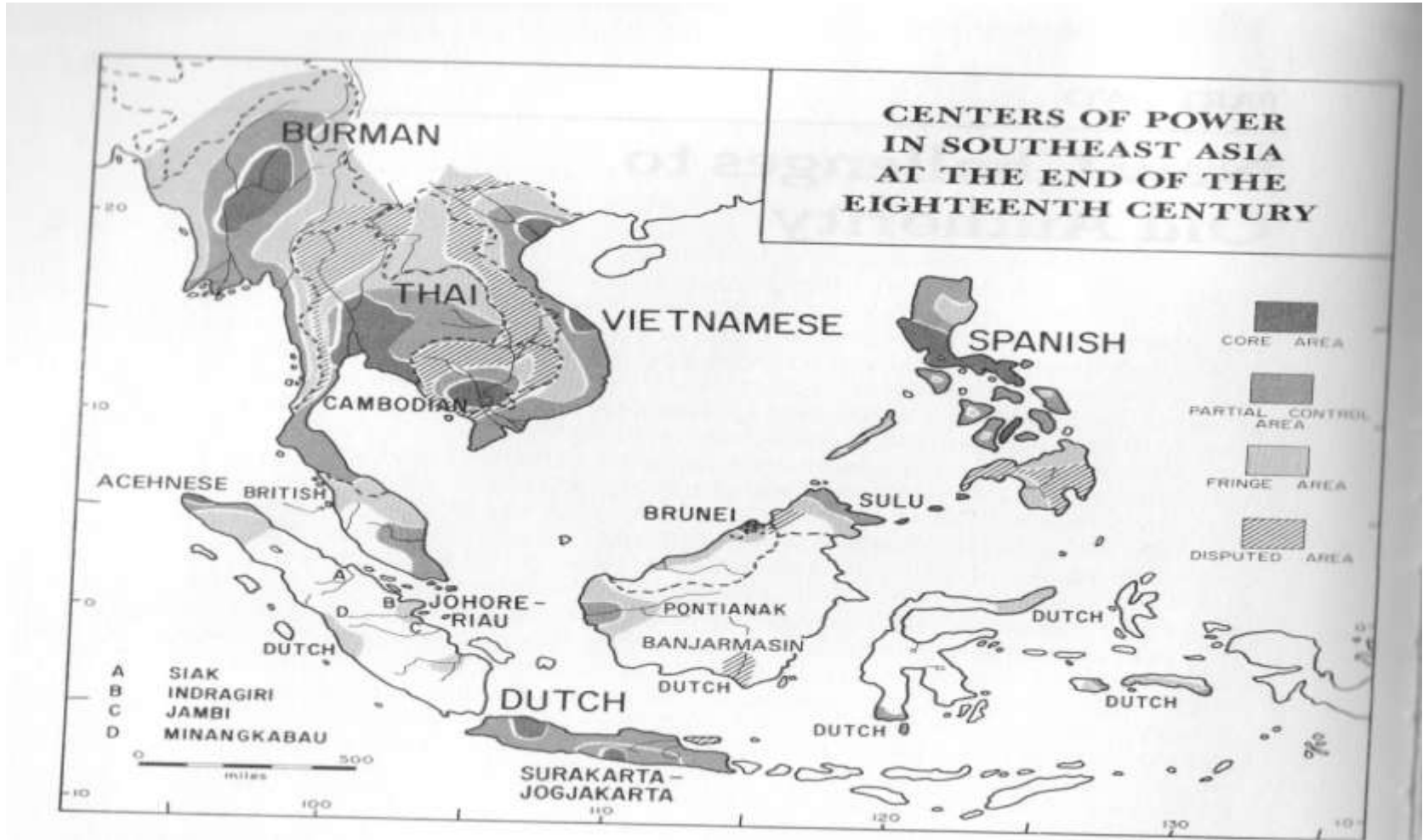
Southeast Asia



Two Different Formation Patterns of SE Asian Nations

- Island SE A (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and E. Timor) : Product of Colonialism
- Inland SE A (Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR) : Product of land-based kingdoms.

Two Patterns of SE Asian formations



Thus, a great diversity in SE Asia

- Geographic
- Ethnic
- Religious
- Linguistic
- Ecological
- Economic
- Political/Administrative

Troubles in “Decolonizing” Muslim Areas? Wars, IDPs, Environmental and health crises.... Also in SE Asia



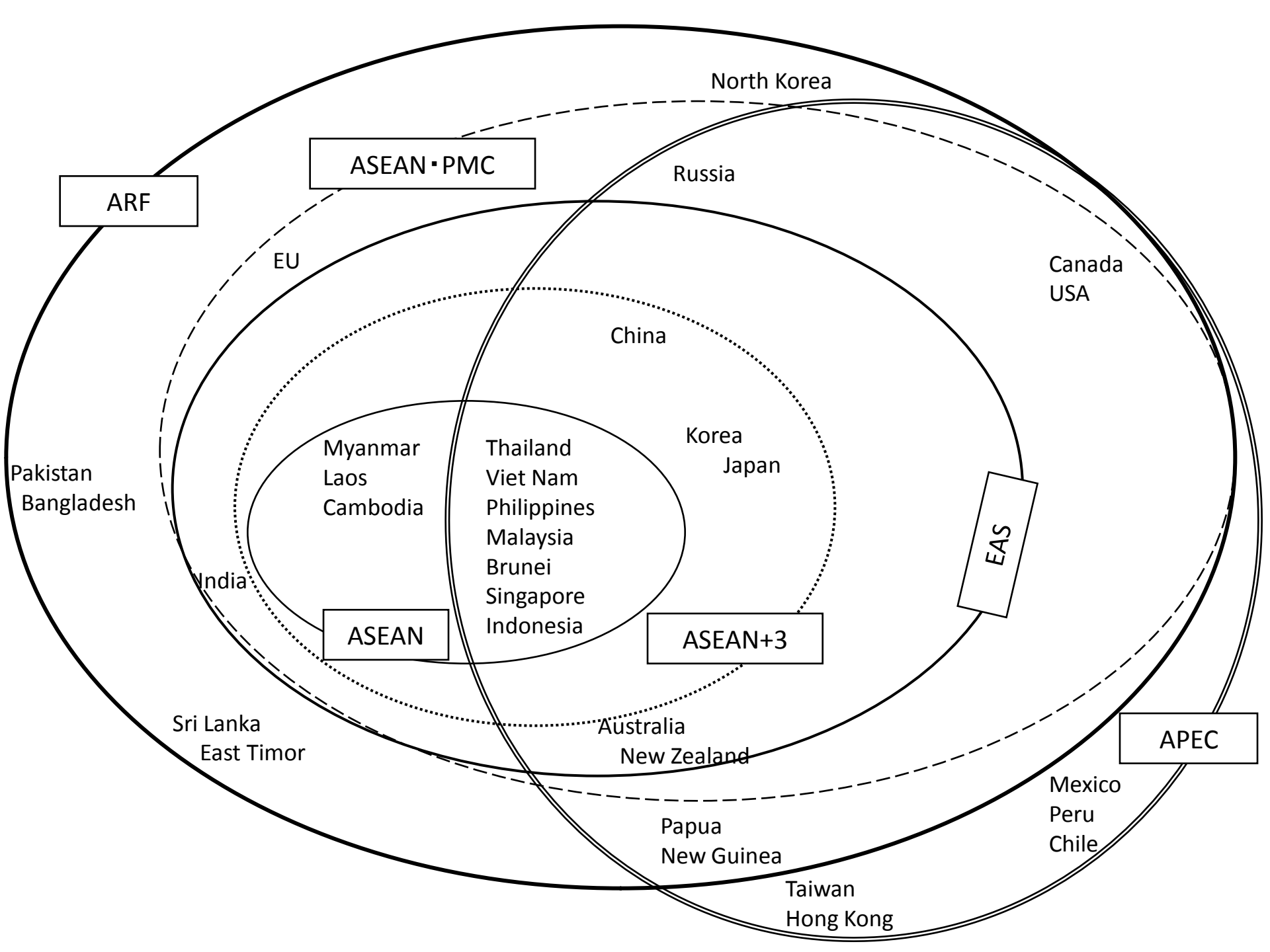
- African East-West Line (Southern Sudan, Northern/Southern Nigeria, Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya)
- Central Asia (Chechen, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan)
- India/Pakistan Border
- Eastern Indonesia
- Southern Thailand/Malay peninsula
- Mindanao/The Philippines
- Former Yugoslavia War

Non-Traditional Security Problems – and they are often addressed regionally

- “Human Security” issues (1994 UNDP): unchecked population growth, disparities in economic opportunities, migration pressures, environmental degradation, drug trafficking, international terrorism....
- SE Asian Problems: Refugees, Internally displaced peoples (Mindanao, Southern Thailand, Poso in Indonesia), human trafficking, terrorism, drug trafficking, environmental degradation, avian flu (top 2 infected nations are Indonesia and Vietnam)

Great Resolutions, Declarations, but Hard to Implement....

- Transboundary Haze
- Sustainable environment
- Terrorism
- Immigration
- Drug Trafficking
- “Recalling..”
- “Welcoming..”
- “Encouraged..”
- “Determined..”
- “Reiterate..”
- “Launch..”
- “Establish...”
- “Endorse...”
- “Commit...”



ARF

ASEAN+PMC

North Korea

Russia

EU

Canada
USA

China

Pakistan
Bangladesh

Korea
Japan

Myanmar
Laos
Cambodia

Thailand
Viet Nam
Philippines
Malaysia
Brunei
Singapore
Indonesia

EAS

India

ASEAN

ASEAN+3

Sri Lanka
East Timor

Australia
New Zealand

APEC

Papua
New Guinea

Mexico
Peru
Chile

Taiwan
Hong Kong

ASEAN Political /Security Community by 2015?

- How effective is it to have “a community” when each country is having problems of its own?
- THE problem of non-interference doctrine
- Troubles with Myanmar (acute military dictatorship)
- A huge perception gap between elites and people re: “ASEAN”
- As mentioned earlier, there is a real lack of enforcement mechanism – declaration is one thing, but enforcing vision is another

Are people relevant in tackling non-traditional security issues?

- Dictatorship/authoritarianism may be faster and effective to act.
- Majority of SE Asians don't know issues well anyway.
- Democracy reflects people's needs.
- SE Asian people are the most affected.
- People understand the extent of non-traditional security issues.

2 Cases of Public Participation: mostly 2nd track initiatives

- ASEAN people's Assembly (1st time in Nov. 2000) organized by ASEAN-ISIS, funded by Japanese ODA, CIDA, OSI, TAF, and continue to the 9th meeting this year.
- Issues taken up: women's empowerment, Freedom of speech, human rights issues, good governance, human security issues, environmental degradation, ASEAN community building
- Southeast Asian Conflict Studies Network organized by Dr. Zam Askandar, Univ. Sains Malaysia (Penang) in 2001, funded by SIDA.
- Issues taken up: regional conflict (Aceh, Papua, Maluku, Mindanao, Southern Thailand), causes, solutions, emergency responses, victims care.
- Put together wide varieties of NGOs from the region.

2nd Track Approach will continue

- Nature of non-traditional security issues requires professional inputs from thinktanks
- Weak bureaucratic capabilities
- Forging linkages (for confidence building, preventative diplomacy, alliance, dialogues) via 2nd track is least costly (mostly done in English and on internet) both intra-ASEAN and with non-ASEAN nations.
- 2nd track can identify common norms and values and share information without state constraints
- But the downside is 1st track-2nd track linkage is fragile – political leadership may act against 2nd track depending on issues.

But, again, limited public participation from this 2nd track approach

- Back to the enforcement problem (state capacity)
- Public participation is required to tackle non-traditional security issues – i.e. haze, terrorism, piracy...

Toward 2-3 track linkages

- Fill in the huge gap between 2 and 3 tracks
- Problem of great diversity while increasing state capacity to enforce “declarations” and “visions”
- Rustow’s classic thesis – national unity is the only precondition for democracy – begs for democratic state strength for enforcement
- There may be different approaches between Island- and Inland SE Asia

Using Social Linkages

- State strength is limited, then, what could be an alternative?
- 4 key actors: government offices, education institutions, religious/social organizations, media industries
- These 4 need to act at the same time: i.e. Aceh (2000-2004) and Mindanao cases – grave inconsistencies of the government offices, and media (discriminatory languages and public ignorance).

Thank you