

EDITORIAL

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He got his master's degree from the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) and was then awarded with Philosophy of Doctorate degree from Exeter University, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, in the field of Middle East Politics. Additionally, he is a founding member of CESRAN International (www.cesran.org) and serves as the Deputy Director of the organisation. He is currently working at the Middle East Institute, Marmara University (Turkey) and is the head of the Political Economy of the Middle East department in the Institution. His latest interest is in great power politics and the accommodation of rising or regional powers into the world politics and international system. He recently published two edited books on "great power politics in greater Eurasia" and "trends and transformation in world politics". His current research interests focus on changes in international systems and their international and regional implications.

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PRESENTATION AND FRAMING

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Most of the states in the world are members of global institutions, and this has been considered as proof for being accepted as an equal member of international politics and society. This is mostly framed for membership in the United Nations. Every UN member has a vote in the assembly, but in practical and binding decisions are made in the UN Security Council, consisting of five permanent and 10 non-permanent members. Since the UN Security Council has not been able to solve the conflicts in the world, it is criticised as being a platform for great power competition according to their national interest rather than being a source of implementation of international law and justice in the world. Given that this criticism started in the late Cold War era, several states initiated alternate platforms including bilateral agreements, taking actions by themselves if they can and also leading regional organizations to work out as a block to get their voice heard.

Some of them, currently conceptualised as emerging powers, rising powers or middle powers in the literature, have established their own regional institutions. Since the mid-Cold War years, there has been a tendency to form regional organisations in the name of regional economic development and particular identities (primarily regional). It is evident that most emerging powers or a block of states, seeking to provide an alternative way of politics against the Western hegemony or get sick of being stuck between great/super powers, engage with regional organisations. They either form a regional organisation or become a member of regional organisations. The problematic of this special issue is that, suppose membership in a global institution is adequate for states to secure their national interests, especially economic and political interests, in cooperation with a global organization that most of the states are members of. Why are there alternative regional institutions? Of course, there might be different answers to that question. Some believe that the regionalisation of international institutions does not contradict the global ones but actually complete and coordinate each other for specific cases, as global institutions can not cover every single issue which might have a regional origin. However, it is evident, once they look at their charters, that regional dimensions are at the core. Therefore, it can be considered as evidence for the argument that global institutions serve the global powers and do not take national interests or the security of middle or small powers into account. Either way, the proliferation of regional institutions is legitimised and logically acceptable in international world politics. As Panetta (2015: 81) suggests, "the creation of integrated regional areas seems to be the "postmodern passport to globalization", especially from a politico-economic perspective.



In current world politics, security is not just military protection but has been extended to numerous aspects, and there is no way that one or a set of states can provide such security. Therefore, regional integration, economic development, and political and military alliances have played a significant role in the state's foreign policies. Even though these initiatives cannot be considered as regional institutions that would end up as an alternative international system, they can be regarded as a current one. The current international system is a "not yet fully established multi-polarity" as there is no consensus on which states constitute a polarity or how many polarities we have in world politics. It means that almost every single state in current world politics instrumentalises international institutions to protect their national interest and security via bi-lateral agreements, regional organisations and international (global) institutions at the same time. While doing that, they place regional institutions at the centre, do not withdraw from the global institutions, and restrain themselves from signing bilateral agreements for specific issues.

Under these circumstances, this special issue intends to cover emerging powers' policies towards international (global) and regional organisations. Do emerging powers use regional organizations as leverage against the global order or institutions? Are they used as a collaborator between international and regional politics as a sort of check and balance? Or is this an indication of regionalisation of world politics, and thus, emerging powers seek to establish their own sphere of influence? Relying on these questions, this special issue intends to cover emerging powers' efforts to be part of a regional organisation while not withdrawing from the global ones. There might be an issue of definition for what an emerging power is, but most of the literature agrees on an adequate number of candidates, such as India, Russia, Brazil, Turkey, South Africa, Indonesia, Iran, and possible emerging powers can be given space in this special issue.

Receiving 90 submissions to the special issue indicates that there are quite number of academics this dilemma between international (global) and regional institutions. Just 25 of them successfully completed the review process and got accepted to have a place in this special issue. Almost all of the papers in this special issue touch upon an aspect of regional organisations questioning their purpose, influence of their presence in world politics. Several of them focus on a single regional organisation as what they stand for. As editors, we have realised that specific regional organisations have an effect of igniting more collaborations or a conflictual nature against others. That is another aspect that needs to be addressed with another pile of work but it is better just to raise the question of how regionalisation of world politics via regional organizations shares the emerging international system. It is for sure that there is no currently an embedded international system as in the Cold War and how do current world politics accommodate this tendency.

We would like to thank all contributors in this special issue and the Journal administration for letting us work on such a significant issue and provide an opportunity to reach out.