
International Organizations

International Organizations

- ❖ Sovereign states join together to create organizations
- ❖ Underpinned by international institutions
- ❖ Have grown substantially since the late 1970s
- ❖ Span a wide range of scopes and issue areas
- ❖ Provide public goods (peace, rules based order, trade) to states and societies

UN

- ❖ UN is the archetypal international organization
 - ❖ Global in scope
 - ❖ Addresses political, economic, social, and military sectors
 - ❖ Based on the institutions of sovereignty, multilateralism, diplomacy
 - ❖

EU



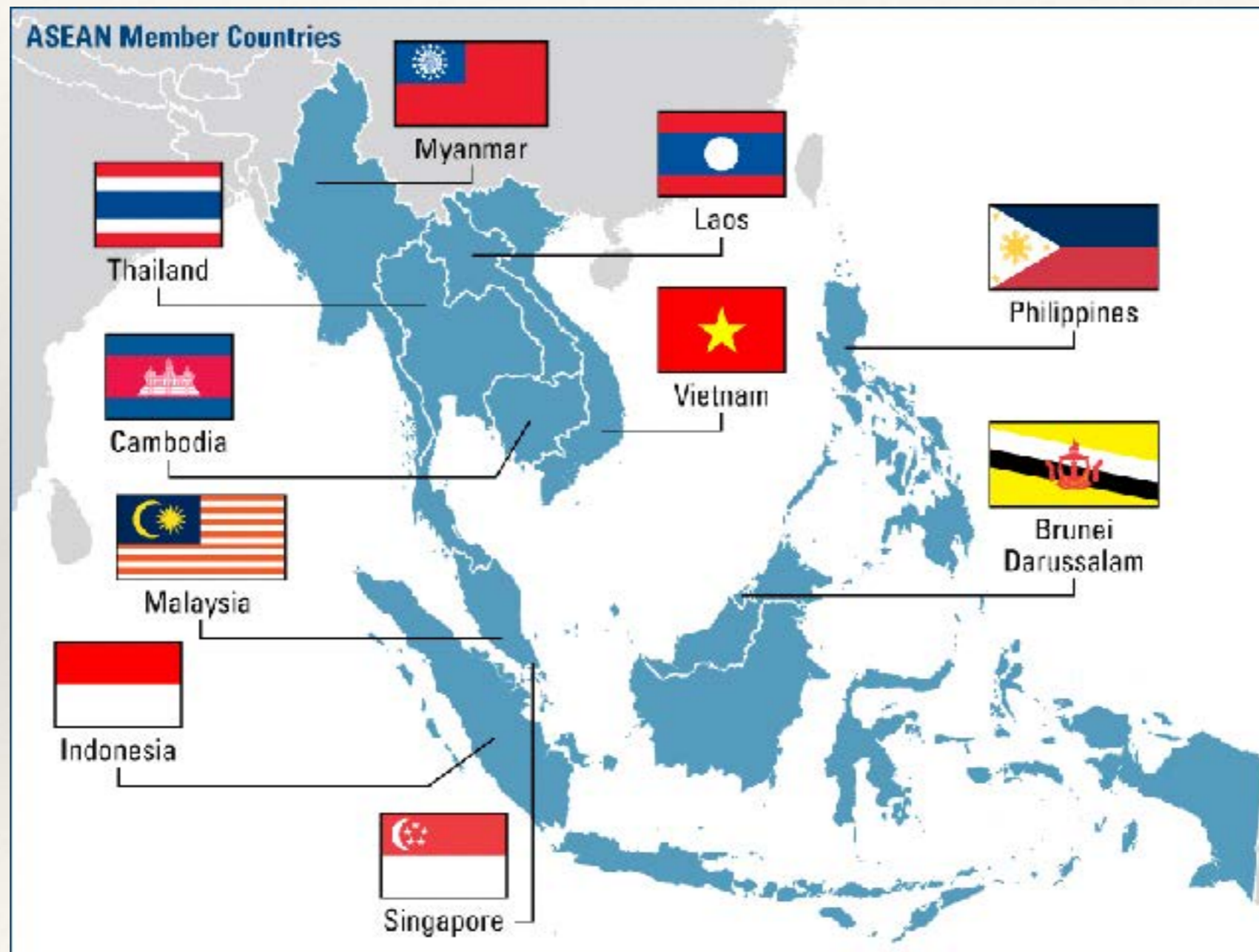
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IR Theory and IOs

- ❖ Realism
 - ❖ IOs serve powerful states and their interests
 - ❖ Do not have independent capabilities and do not change behaviors of powerful states
 - ❖ Exist as long as they serve the interests of powerful states

IR Theory and IOs

- ❖ Liberalism
 - ❖ IOs serve rational interests of all states
 - ❖ Facilitate communication, transparency
 - ❖ Reduce transaction costs
 - ❖ Enable collective action by establishing shared rules
 - ❖ Institutions can result in spillover that propels cooperation into new areas
 - ❖ Beginnings of domestication of the international?

IR Theory and IOs

- ❖ Constructivism
 - ❖ IOs shape states' conceptions of appropriate behavior
 - ❖ Propagate norms
 - ❖ States are influenced by culture of IOs
 - ❖ IOs can reshape how states understand themselves (North Atlantic identity) and how they understand the world

IR Theory and IOs

- ❖ Marxism / Gramscianism
 - ❖ IOs advance the interests of capital / bourgeoisie
 - ❖ Propagate ideas and norms that serve the interests of the wealthy
 - ❖ Who is developing? What does that mean? How to 'fix'?

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