

C-2 Regional Cooperation in a Globalizing World

Chair: **Lee Kendall Metcalf**, Florida State University lmetcalf@fsu.edu

Lori Nincehelsner, Florida State University lnincehelsner@comcast.net

The Arab League: A Failed Dream

Abstract:

The Arab League began shortly after World War II. It was the dream of the creators that the Arab League would become something similar to what the European Union is today. While the European Union has made progress toward cohesion, the Arab League has not been able to follow that path. The EU is not perfect and has not always been successful, however the Arab League has never succeeded in unifying the Arab states, has never provided a channel for communication and has never gained international respect in the way the EU has. This paper examines why the Arab League failed to become a unifying organization for the Arab states by contrasting and comparing it with the European Union.

Aziza Arifkhanova, Florida State University aa04@fsu.edu

The Origins of the Schengen Agreement

Abstract:

Signed in 1985 by France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, the Schengen Agreement had a significant impact on the integration of the European Community/European Union, particularly by providing for the gradual abolishment of border controls to facilitate the free movement of persons within the “Schengenland,” i.e. the area of the states participating in the Schengen Agreement. Initially an intergovernmental agreement, later it was incorporated into the E.U.’s framework under the Amsterdam Treaty. Now the Schengen acquis, consisting of the set of rules of all the agreements, conventions, accession protocols, decisions and declarations accepted by the Schengen bodies, has become an integral part of 15 countries, two of which are non-E.U. states. It allows people, who reside or visit any of these 15 countries, to freely travel and move within each other’s internal borders. This thesis’ main purpose is to explore the major factors and people who initiated and influenced the acceleration of removing the border and customs controls. Also, the thesis will describe the political and economic implications of the consequent development of the Schengen Agreement.

Erik Hudak, Florida State University ech03@fsu.edu

NAFTA: A Look at its Successes and Shortcomings, and Impacts on Future Negotiations

Abstract:

This paper focuses on the past, present, and future of the negotiations surrounding the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the effects of globalization on the parties to the agreements. It will explore the past negotiations, analyzing the international and domestic concerns that came into play—concerns that led to the creation of the side agreements. Through this exploration, the paper will explore the role of American lobbying interests in impacting the foreign policies of other nations.

The paper will also look at whether NAFTA has been successful at achieving its intended goals—whether free trade has been beneficial to the parties involved, and whether there is the potential for benefits in the future. The analyses will explore issues of globalization, and will serve as a lens by which to gauge the continued relevance of Wallerstein’s world system theory. Lastly, the paper will discuss the implications of NAFTA on future negotiations for free trade treaties, especially for the Free Trade Act of the Americas. The FTAA (and the Central American Free Trade Act) represent dramatic increases in the number of countries participating in or entertaining free trade agreements with the United States. The analysis of the efficacy of NAFTA should help to determine whether these agreements are worthwhile for the parties involved. This paper utilizes international affairs sources as well as legal scholarship on the NAFTA. Thus, it hopes to address the idea of interdisciplinarity that is the theme of the conference.

Matthew T. Hood, Florida State University mth04e@fsu.edu

Drug Trafficking in Mexico

Abstract:

In this paper the intent will be to examine the nature of the current trade of narcotics between Mexico and the United States. The historical origins of the trade beginning in the last century will be examined, as well as how the current demand for drugs in the U.S. is fueling the trade. Also, how the drug smugglers conduct their business and the success of government authorities in their attempts to stop them. The trade is remarkable for the amount of violence and corruption it spawns and this aspect will also be explored. Also, the recent Mexican military crackdown on drug producers and traffickers and its components and implications will be examined. Finally, how the trade is damaging Mexico's legitimate tourist economy and how the disease of baseness and violence connected with the drug trade will continue to spread in the future.

Discussant: **Raju Parakkal**, Florida International University raju.parakkal@fiu.edu