

External Powers and the Regional Cooperation in South Asia:  
Sino-US equation

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## Crux of the Research

Cooperation takes place and is success whether there is presence of conflicts and the volume of intra regional trade is not high if the need for cooperation in any region coincides with **systemic** and **idiosyncratic** factors.

# Case Studies

- Western Europe  
**Conflict:** France and Germany  
**Cooperation:** European Coal and Steel Community
- Southeast Asia  
**Conflict:** Indonesia-Malaysia and Malaysia-Phillippines)  
**Cooperation:** Association of Southeast Asian Nations



## Why countries cooperate?

- If they depend on each other for their security needs (Europe)
- If there is a genuine outside threat to the region (Southeast Asia)

## Why external powers encourage cooperation?

- Complementarity of interests (Europe)
- Threat for domination (Southeast Asia)

South Asia

Conflict: India-Pakistan

Cooperation: SAARC ???



# Complementarity

- **Extremism**
- **Terrorism**

# Common threat to the region

Lack of development in essence of every meaningful definition of the word



# Options for South Asia

Two based on:

Economic considerations (regional states plus US-China)

Security considerations (Regional States esp. India)

Missing elements

Idiosyncratic Factor

The background is a smooth blue gradient. On the left side, there is a bright, glowing area that resembles a sun or moon reflecting on water, creating a shimmering effect. The rest of the background is a deep, uniform blue.

Thank You!