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Research Essay: Forecasting Alliances

The bilateral trade is considered as a crucial determinant of cultural proximity. Although empirical testing and quantification are considered difficult because of the absence of elusiveness and observed ability concept. In this paper, we are going to analyze political alliances based on geographic and cultural proximity for acquiring major goals. In this research essay, we will also discuss trade volume's positive effects while controlling cultural proximity standards measures.

It is observed widely that cultural proximity played a major role in determining the trade flows among countries. Various factors represent cultural ties which include common religion, language, and ethnicity such factors identify cultural proximity it also reflects some of the trade developing factors which include the cost of communication.

**Russo-Latin American Military and Political Alliance**

For the closer inter-governmental and military ties, Russia is developing the military buildup with America. It also has collateral benefits which include Russia nominated advisers in the military headquarters and defense ministry who would determine the influence tactics, the doctrine as well as made purchasing decisions(*Russo-Latin American Arms Sales*). In 2014, the defense minister of Russia announced the military bases used for refueling Russian planes and this negotiation is between Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaraguan. Though Russia is also becoming a military threat for America because of its military equipment sale to Latin America. America kept a close eye on Russian military equipment sales in the region. The administration of George W. Bush also questioned this by saying it is not helpful in the regional stability terms.

**Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

The cultural proximity theory is mostly used to explain the consumption of transnational media which are similar in religion, ethnicity, geography, and language(Lu et al.).The cultural elements also include lifestyle, organizational affiliation, and personal experiences. The Shanghai Corporation is the intergovernmental organization that is composed of Russia, China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. The major aim of this organization is to demilitarize border it also consists of increase counter-terrorism and Military Corporation with intelligence sharing. It also consists of regional economic initiatives such as the economic belt of Silk Road. SCO is considered as a strong and unified organization however, this young organization is underfunded and also has limited powers in taking independent decisions(*Shanghai Cooperation Organisation*). With these challenges, however, SCO broadened its mandate currently and added the programs of economic development and joint security. Its major priority programs are deepening economic ties and Energy Corporation which also include widened development banks. However, SCO still lacks in considerable essential factors for becoming a secure institution. In addition, the SCO state members also have differences that include contradictory economic and political interests. The SCO intensified security policy which leads to the cautious development of a fully established security organization. In case it is the member state desire, this development would still require several years in becoming the East of NATO(*The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: Towards a Full-Grown Security Alliance? | Clingendael*).

Although the current rest in the US and Russia relationship, as well as the modernization partnership with the EU, failed to leave an impact on Russia’s neighborhood policies. However, the EU is well advised to engage Russia constructively including the neighboring countries(*Russia | Fact Sheets on the European Union | European Parliament*). The relation between EU and Russia is regarded as the strategic partners and for strategic relation, it is required common values and goals. Whereas, it also needs joint road maps and action plans.

**Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**

This group is based on the 14 major oil-exporting countries which were founded for the petroleum policies contribution(Chen). The objective of OPEC is to manage the supply of oil and also set the world market price for oil. It is also developed for avoiding the fluctuations which might affect the oil-producing and purchasing countries. Although, it is noted that the world's largest oil-producing countries that are United States, Russia, and China are not included in the OPEC members as they are free to pursue their objectives(Chen).

**BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa)**

These countries are considered to be the dominant manufactured goods suppliers as well as the raw materials from 2050(Majaski). For the flow of resources, China and India have a significant interest in safe and secure sea lines for the fulfillment of their energy requirements. Controlling or securing oil resources within BRICS required a stable flow of energy sources in BRICS. In short BRICS countries have various significant territories of maritime collectively and individually. The collective role provides longer sustainable advantages which for a longer time to these countries. As energy is not only the fundamental tenet for the BRICS member economic status in the future but also considered as the critical aspect of security.

The discussion on impact and responsibilities of BRICS on the international system is still ongoing as it revolves around the politico-economic impacts. The rise of China to become the future superpower holds various indicators regarding the possible military confrontation. Although, defending or protecting the communication in sea line which will sustain its economic growth become the major focus of its navy. While India's economic growth is dependent on the sea so the main priority of India is the stability of the Indian Ocean. Unfortunately, China does not have good relations with India and the other main and strong member of BRICS is also raising competition between these countries.

The above all are examples hypothetical unions brought together in a result of cultural and geographic proximity. Though all of the countries have some political and military concerns with the other country which might affect their coalition such as the case of India and China in BRICS.

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