

ABSTRACT

While the Asian Century is in full swing, an increased number of economies are in a stage of rapid growth in the Indo-Pacific region. While the boundaries of the Indo-Pacific could be determined through a political, economic, or geographic perspective, this research paper will make use of the politico-economic angle. ASEAN+6 and RCEP both are cooperating towards growth in the region. This research paper will make use of the World Systems Theory, categorizing the ASEAN+6 states in both present and future. As the World Systems approach is usually utilized to divide the world's countries into three different tiers of economic classes, narrating towards the global north and south, this research paper will be categorizing the present semi-periphery and core countries and forecast the future semi-periphery and core countries within the Indo-Pacific utilizing measures including human development index & GNI per capita. As this paper is predicting a shift in the economic hierarchy, trade balance and supply chain for the upcoming decades within the region, it will equally examine the effects on the region & Indonesia, providing an Indonesian perception regarding future changes and emphasizing on political stability. Thereby state identity will be another factor to be shortly examined. Essentially, the development notions of this paper outlines a paradigm shift of the world systems approach, predicting that several core states will be emerging in the Indo-Pacific, changing the paradigms of the economic global north & south narration.

Keywords: Asian Century, ASEAN, ASEAN+6, RCEP, World Systems Theory, State Identity, Core countries, Semi-periphery countries, Periphery Countries