

**Understanding Regional Peace and Security: A Framework for Analysis.
Europe and South Asia**

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The purpose of the research project is to understand regional peace and security by creating a framework that accounts for the regularities that emanate from the uniqueness of each regional security environment. The study of international relations is still dominated by theories that emphasize the structural dynamics of the *global* level. Since the ascendance of neo-realism in the 1970s, the impact of the global structure and the role of great powers have been thoroughly analyzed. Over the last decade global views have also comprised the study of globalization and global civil society. On the other side of the spectrum, the *national* level of analysis has also been prominent in IR theory, with the state being the yardstick by which international relations are understood. Differently, my interest lies in capturing the security phenomenon from a regional point of view. I am guided by the need to further understand several trends that have increasingly marked international relations over the last decades: *regionalization trend, regional zones of peace trend, regional zones of conflict trend, and regional organizations in conflict management.*

The first query is on the most appropriate level to comprehend security. Why is indeed security primarily a regional concern? Why is the attainment of peace and security (as public goods) better facilitated at the regional level?

The second challenge is to unveil the connection points between these four trends in international relations. Certainly each one of these trends has been given an autonomous treatment in the literature. However, despite the abundance, most of literature is oblivious to the way these trends are intertwined.

Coupled with these, if security can be more pertinently understood by focusing on the regional level of analysis, what components make up regional security environments?

And, even more interestingly, are all these constitutive elements unique to specific regional security environments or, as I suggest, can some of their characteristics be appropriately modeled?

Drawing from the public goods literature, the project creates a framework founded on the idea of 'regional peace and security cluster' (RPSC). RPSCs account for the dynamic nature of security environments as they are composed of six variables: regional conflict pattern, regional security pattern, regional peace pattern, agents of peace and security, instruments of peace and security, and regional integration. The model is descriptive and prescriptive.