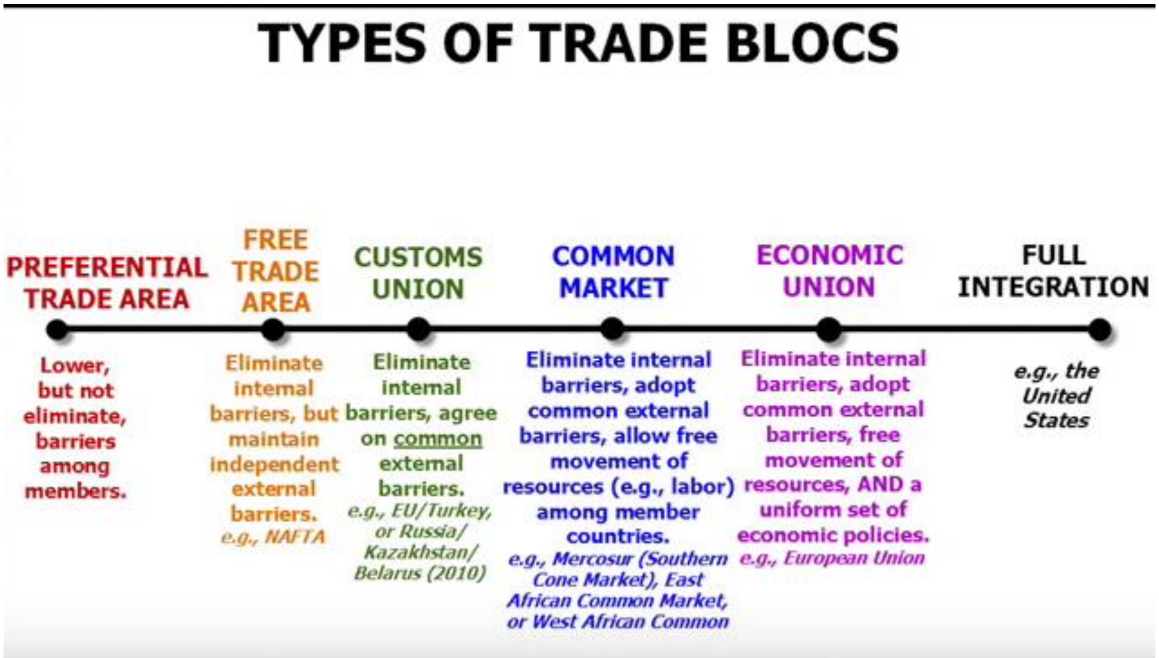
Webnote 441

Syllabus reference: 4.4: Economic Integration-comment



Economic Integration[1]

Globalization-to make worldwide in scope or application

Free Trade Areas-(FTA'S)-an agreement in which to or more countries reduce trade barriers and tariffs among themselves. The free trade area does not try to set uniform tariffs for non-members.

Customs Union- an agreement in which two or more countries abolish tariffs and trade restrictions among themselves and adopt uniform tariffs for non-member countries.

EU

The most successful example of regional cooperation in the world today is the European Union (EU). The EU started out as a customs union. In January 1993, the EU became the single largest COMMON MARKET- in terms of population and output- on the world, although the US has since caught up in GNP. The EU is a single market because there are no internal barriers regulating the flow of workers, financial capital, or goods and services. Current members are 25 and include the original 15- Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece,

[1] Adapted the Wilsonian era of Economic Thought

Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom- plus ten new members in 2004-Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia are up for membership in 2006.

ASEAN-another regional cooperation group is the Associations for Southeast Asian Nations. It is a ten nation group working to promote regional peace and stability, accelerate economic growth, and liberalize trade policies in order to become a free-trade area by 2008.

Economic Integration-For	**Economic Integration - Against**
Evaluate:	**Evaluate:**
1. Lower (no) tariffs therefore lower costs of production 2. Larger markets: -lager firms with economies of scale -lower costs (AC) -lower prices -higher profits -consumer, producer and society surplus increase 3. Eu model very successful with a policy of common economic policies euro currency and common monetary policy 4. Better access to economic aid and	1. loss of sovereignty 2. nations lose control of macroeconomy management e.g. -ability to protect domestic industry -this may result in unemployment in the domestic economy - lose control of

loan facilities e.g. Greek bailout **5. Possible diagrams to use:** • **Supply and demand to show fall in costs for firms= bigger markets** • **Tariff reduction impact on costs and resulting in bigger markets** • **LRAC to show economies of scale** • **Consumer\producer/ society surplus diagram to show stakeholders winning from larger markets due to economic integration.** **6. Other?**	**monetary policy (EU)** **3. Other**