Comments on Morales and Sato papers

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General comments

• Two papers are continuation of discussion on political economy (politics?) of regionalism

• Focus on government-based institutions of cooperation in Western Hemisphere and East Asia

• Neither is portrayed as particularly effective at this point of time
Isidro Morales

Contested Regionalisms in the Americas. The US and Brazilian Approaches. Convergence or Contestation?
Main points

- Two different approaches in WH re integration.
- Brazil: Political vision, centered in South American bloc, aimed to improve negotiating position. Positive list approach. Dispute settlement limited to states.
- The two appear highly incompatible.
Questions on US

• Much more coherent than reality. Many US visions: Executive vs Congress; business vs labor; large vs small business

• To what extent have NAFTA institutions really worked?

• Who has benefited, and what does this suggest for future?

• How much space for more agreements?
Questions on Brazil

• What is economic content of Brazil vision?
• Will Brazil’s private sector go along with government’s strategy? Assumption that Brazil’s interests same as partners’.
• What will be impact of Venezuela membership in Mercosur?
• Will Mercosur and CAN survive (as separate or as unified organization)?
Questions on WH

• Where are two visions leading the region?
• Will there be an FTAA? With what characteristics?
• What does the idea of a “Washington-Brasilia axis” imply?
• What does the Western Hemisphere experience imply for East Asia?
• What are the implications for WTO?
Koichi Sato

The ASEAN Regime:
Its Implications for East Asian Cooperation.
A Japanese View
Main points

• ASEAN is “core actor” of EA cooperation, but lacks common factors found in EU

• Main functions: avoid conflict and carry out “conference diplomacy” (5 characteristics)

• East Asian Study Group (2002) presents vision of EA cooperation

• Japan and China are twin engines of cooperation; Japan should open economy
Questions on ASEAN

• In what sense is ASEAN really the core actor in EA economic cooperation?
• What is the importance of “conference diplomacy”?
• What is meant by saying that ASEAN is an “unreliable institution”? (p.7)
• How important is it that the economic goals of ASEAN have not been achieved?
Questions on ASEAN + 3

• How does statement that Japan and China are “twin engines” of cooperation fit with idea of ASEAN as “core actor”?

• How will conflicts between Japan and China affect regional cooperation?

• Is recommendation that Japan open its economy to regional products realistic?
Comparisons/Conclusions

• Two papers appear to present different trajectories in two regions.

• In WH, two competing visions leave doubt about future of hemispheric integration.

• In EA, apparently less conflict, but unclear if intra-regional relations so harmonious.

• Many issues of national interest remain in both cases.