

Introduction to Regional Studies

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1. Definition

- Regional studies is an interdisciplinary field examining the geographical, cultural, economic, political, and social characteristics of specific world regions.

2. Why Study Regions?

- Regions often share history, culture, or economic ties that make them meaningful units of analysis beyond individual countries.

3. Interdisciplinary Nature

- Draws on geography, history, economics, political science, sociology, and anthropology to build a full picture of a region.

4. Defining a Region

- Regions can be defined by physical geography (e.g., the Horn of Africa), political boundaries (e.g., East African Community), or cultural ties (e.g., the Swahili Coast).

5. Applications

- Informs international relations, business expansion strategy, development policy, and humanitarian response planning.