

Case Studies in Regional Studies

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1. Purpose of Case Studies

- Applying regional studies concepts to real examples deepens understanding of how theory plays out in practice.

2. Example: East African Community (EAC)

- Demonstrates both the benefits (expanded trade, infrastructure cooperation) and challenges (political tension, uneven implementation) of regional integration.

3. Example: The Horn of Africa

- Illustrates how geography, colonial history, and resource competition combine to produce complex, long-running regional conflicts.

4. Example: The Swahili Coast

- Shows how centuries of trade and cultural exchange created a shared regional identity spanning multiple modern countries.

5. Analytical Approach

- Effective case study analysis combines historical context, geographic factors, economic data, and political dynamics rather than relying on any single lens.

6. Lessons for Policy

- Case studies help policymakers understand what integration or conflict-resolution strategies have worked (or failed) elsewhere before applying similar approaches.