

Abstract

In this bachelor thesis, the topic of Vietnam's admission to ASEAN in 1995 is explored. The decision to accept Vietnam into the organization was peculiar given Vietnam's history and the reasons for the organization's creation. The essay aims to answer the question of why the ASEAN members decided to admit Vietnam. Possible reasons for the decision include mutual economic benefit, common security risks, and social or cultural issues. The thesis uses selected theories in international relations to analyze the topic through a chronological-descriptive analysis of various sources, including book sources, articles in periodicals, legislative documents of the organization, and internet sources. The introductory part of the thesis discusses the origin, reasons for formation, and organizational structure of ASEAN. Additionally, three selected theories of international relations are briefly described to examine the possible reasons for and against the admission of Vietnam into the organization. The thesis determines whether these theories are appropriate for this case. The results of this research could provide insight into the admission of other members, such as Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, or explain why East Timor should be admitted in the future, which has unsuccessfully sought membership since its independence declaration in 2002.