After the Second World War the phenomenon of regionalism has emerged as an outstanding feature of international relations. It has resulted in a change in the unit as well as level of analysis in the study of international relations. Consequently, the nation state no longer is the sole actor of analysis in international relations. Probably, that is why the regional theorists like E. B. Hass, Joseph S Nye, Stanley Hoffman, P. C. Schmitter, Amitai Etzioni, Karl Deutsch, Bruce M. Russett and others have endeavoured to study various regional organisation such as the EC, LAFTA, COMECON, OECD etc., and tried to operationalize the theories of regional integration to discuss, describe, analyse, explain as well to predict the dynamics of these regional organisations. But the experiment towards regional economic corporation in Southeast Asia seems relatively an ignored area of interest and has surprisingly missed the attention of these learned scholars. As a result, whatever literature is available on regional cooperation in this part of the world is either in the form of fragmented articles or passing references to regional economic cooperation in the works on Southeast Asia written from historical and politico-strategic perspectives. Of course, there are a few books available on ASEAN economic cooperation by the Japanese, Southeast Asian, and the American scholars which study ASEAN economic cooperation.
upto the year 1987, but there seems hardly a comprehensive treatise of scholarly magnitude by an Indian author which deals with ASEAN Economic cooperation in an holistic manner. This explains the raison d'être of the present study.

The period of the study is from 1967 to 1991, which may be appreciated in view of the non-accessibility of the latest material on ASEAN. The major part of the study takes the founding date of ASEAN as a starting point of analysis. However, it also attempts to analyse ASEAN from a historical perspective to find out the real motives behind its formation. The attention has primarily been focussed on economic dimensions of ASEAN, although to discover the politico-security linkages of ASEAN, and thus, put the ASEAN economic cooperation in a proper perspective, other aspects of ASEAN relevant to the phenomenon herein investigated, have also been briefly touched upon. While the study is not specifically a theoretical one but rather a case study of ASEAN countries' experiment towards regional cooperation, nevertheless theoretical considerations have, to a large extent, provided insight to it. Further, though data pertinent to the study have been drawn from various sources and incorporated into the study to substantiate the facts rather than make them stand on their own, the study is primarily qualitative and analytical in nature.

The study is divided into nine chapters. The first chapter discusses regionalism in international relations at a theoretical level. The second chapter initiates
Besides and discussion on regionalism in Southeast Asia, it attempts to trace the genesis of regional cooperation in Southeast Asia. In the chapter three, an attempt has been to analyse the inception of ASEAN from a historical perspective to find out its western security linkages and the role of the western powers in its formation. Chapter four discusses the evolution and constellation of institutional structure of ASEAN before and after the Bali Summit. Chapter five studies the formative years of ASEAN and its 'teething problems' during the pre-Bali era. Also, it sets the stage for discussion on ASEAN economic cooperation by providing the basic economic profile of the region and trade patterns of ASEAN countries with the help of simple statistics with a view to determine the extent of economic development of the region. In the chapter six and seven, an attempt has been made to discuss 'regional strategy' for economic development through ASEAN preferential trading arrangements and ASEAN industrialization schemes. Also, they analyse the achievements and effectiveness of this strategy. Chapter eight deals with ASEAN economic cooperation in other areas and very briefly discusses ASEAN's relations with external powers. Finally, in the ninth chapter, the findings of the study are recorded.

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