

Student: [REDACTED]

Mentor: [REDACTED]

Institution: University of Arkansas

Classification: Senior

GPA: [REDACTED]

Area of Study: International Relations/European Studies, Political Science

Title of Project: European regionalism and the European Union

Abstract:

The European Union is vastly changing not only how states interact with one another on the European continent, but also how states interact with regions within themselves. The idea of a nation-state, which dates back to the Peace of Westphalia, is beginning to fail in many modern European states. This breakdown of the state is not from external conflict or rapid inner turmoil, but has slowly emerged from regionalism.

One of the key principles of the European Union is the idea of Subsidiarity, which encourages national governments to allow decisions to be made at the best and often most local level. This concept, along with the overall European Union focus on regions has encouraged regionalism in many European states. The United Kingdom and France are the two best examples of regionalism and the response to regionalism currently within the European Union. The United Kingdom is slowly beginning the process of devolution and is starting to work with its regions as a way of continuing its "statehood". France on the other hand is subjugating its regions and trying to hold on bitterly to its national sovereignty. One of these philosophies will prove better than the other.

The research in this paper will explore these two nation-states and their history with regionalism both before and after the European Union. The paper will then determine what role the European Union has played in encouraging regionalism and what role it will continue to play, and if increasing regionalism benefits the supra-nationalist European Union.

Research Proposal:

The modern definition of a nation state was created with the signing of the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. This series of peace treaties ended the Thirty and Sixty Years War and left a lasting impact upon International Relations, still being felt today (Flinders, 2004). The idea of a nation state has dominated Europe and the world ever since, from France to Germany, all the way to the United Kingdom. The reign of the nation-state may be at an end though. With the advent of the European Union and [its increasing focus on Subsidiarity] increasing supra-nationalism in Europe, devolution is beginning to occur on the European Continent. Regions are feeling under-represented by their government and feel disenfranchised. Their discontent can only manifest in more devolution of national sovereignty (Keating, 1985).

I propose to study this increasing regionalism in Europe and how it relates to devolution and supra-nationalism. I will be using the Assembly of European Regions definition of a region for the basis of my research. From there I will specifically look at the United Kingdom and France. In the United Kingdom, I will research devolution from the Parliament of Great Britain to local Parliaments in Scotland and Wales. In France, I will study the role regional languages have on a desire for independence and the role the concept of Subsidiarity plays in regionalism in France. After analyzing two distinct states in Europe, I will analyze what their regionalism means for the European Union, and if increasing regionalism is good or bad for the supra-national European State.

The sources I will be using will vary greatly. For my research on Great Britain I will be using a variety of contemporary sources dealing with the upcoming referendum on Scottish Independence including an interview with former first minister of Scotland Henry McLeish. I will also bring in sources dealing with the history of Scottish independence movements and why

this particular movement is different (Keating, 2005). With the French languages and regions. I hope to use primary French sources as a means to look into the differences in dialects of French based on regions and how that affects the rule of Paris. With the variety of sources listed I should be able to see a cross section of European attitudes toward regionalism and be able to determine if increasing regionalism has a positive or negative impact upon the growth of the European Union. Another goal I have is to extend my research beyond the European Union and provides possible future implications of regionalism on the North American continent. specifically dealing with Texas and Quebec (Marquardt, 1994).

The research conducted before the SURF grant-funding period will only serve as background. A majority of the substantial research will take place during the SURF period from January to May 2014. During the month of October, my plan is to do background research. This research will focus on the beginnings of the modern nation-state and the development of the nation-state from the 17th century to now. I will also be putting together background research on devolution in Great Britain and the Scottish Independence Movement. In addition to studying Great Britain, I will be exploring French regionalism and the history of regions in France. Finally, I will research the origins of the European Union and its principle of Subsidiarity and focus on European regions. At the end of October, an annotated bibliography for all background information will be completed.

Much of November will be spent writing the first section of my research paper. This first section will be the background information. All of the necessary research will have been completed, so this month will be mainly dedicated to creating content. My hope is that my background portion will account for 20 pages of my total paper. In addition to writing, November will be spent doing preliminary research on current issues facing

regionalism in Europe, and how that regionalism plays out in the larger European Union. My goal is to have a rough draft of my background section completed before the end of November to submit to my advisor for review.

Timeline:

January 2014:

At the beginning of the month of January, I will have completed all of my research section of my paper and will have submitted it to my advisor for review. While out on holiday break, I plan to finish my research on regionalism in modern Europe and complete an annotated bibliography to aid in the creation of content. This research will be focused on three main points, the United Kingdom, France, and the European Union as a whole. While I will have already started the process of researching, these two months will provide ample time to focus in on key subjects and explore more in depth regionalism on the European continent.

February 2014 - March 2014:

At the conclusion of the month of February, my hope is to have a draft of the second section, the actual research of my project completed. I will then work with my advisor to edit my draft and work toward my finished paper. At the same time I will be continuously be reading and researching the latest information on regionalism and developments related to my topic, including interviewing Henry McLeish, a former First Minister of Scotland, on devolution inside the United

Kingdom and how that relates to Scotland. During the month of March, I hope to have my entire project completed and ready to be reviewed fully by my advisor. After it has been deemed satisfactory I will begin preparing for presentations.

April 2014:

This month I plan on presenting my thesis at least two times. One presentation will be for the honors thesis portion of my project, and I will be graded on that presentation and will be given notes on how to improve. I plan on my second presentation to be to a group or organization that specializes in European Affairs or International Relations. I will hopefully be able to use the allotted travel expenses to attend a conference that will be suitable to present my research.

Works Cited

- Bache, Ian, and Matthew V. Flinders. *Multi-level Governance*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004. Print.
- Cameron, David M. *Regionalism and Supranationalism: Challenges and Alternatives to the Nation-state in Canada and Europe*. Montreal, Quebec: Institute for Research on Public Policy, 1981. Print.
- Keating, Michael, and J. Barry Jones. *Regions in the European Community*. Oxford [Oxfordshire: Clarendon, 1985. Print.
- Keating, Michael. *The Government of Scotland: Public Policy Making after Devolution*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2005. Print.
- Marquardt, Paul D. "Subsidiarity and Sovereignty in the European Union." *Fordham International Law Journal* 18.2 (1994): 616-40. Print.
-