

Introduction

This thesis aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the nascent concept of regionalism and its implications and development in the Black Sea Region between 1991- 2016, so as to establish the extent to which it has succeeded to serve its function in the region. This will be assessed both on a general level – by emphasizing the experience of regional cooperation among all regional actors between 1991- 2016 and trying to establish its efficiency throughout this period, but also on an individual level- focusing on a single country and its say in the process of regionalism, emphasising how one state might benefit from a cooperative attitude. The study case on this later subject will be done on Romania and its regional experience in the Soviet dissolution aftermath.

The choice of this research topic arose primarily from the desire of achieving a valuable work of great interest, by debating a topical and offering subject. Given the complexity of the events taking place in the region - especially at the moment - special attention should be paid to the ever evolving regional developments, which highly impact the global security. The utmost importance of this particular area and the necessity of keeping pace with the rapid changes taking place in the region was another reason for this choice. Generous by its very nature, this subject enables the assertion of one's own approaches and can be easily debated, arousing the interest and attention, but without imposing generally valid truths.

This study's reference period was not randomly chosen. This time-framework 1991- 2016 was decided on so as to provide the whole picture as clear as possible, emphasising the experience of cooperation in the BSR and its development from the very beginning. Given that the concept of Black Sea Region has been only recently shaped in the early 1990s, this opened the possibility of focusing on the phenomenon in its entire length and width, allowing the development of an all-encompassing study on the matter