

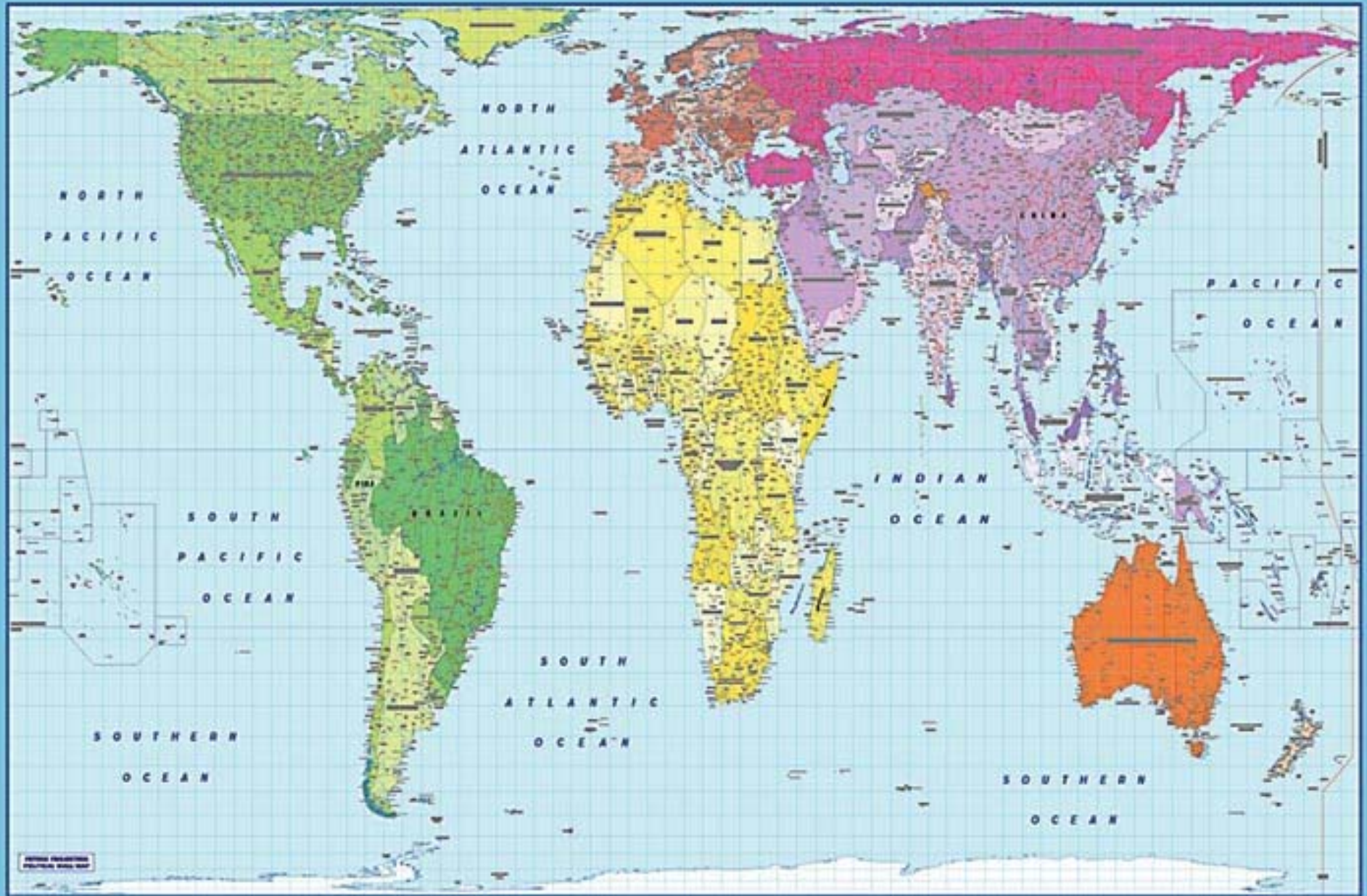
Introducing the Baltic Sea Region in South Asia



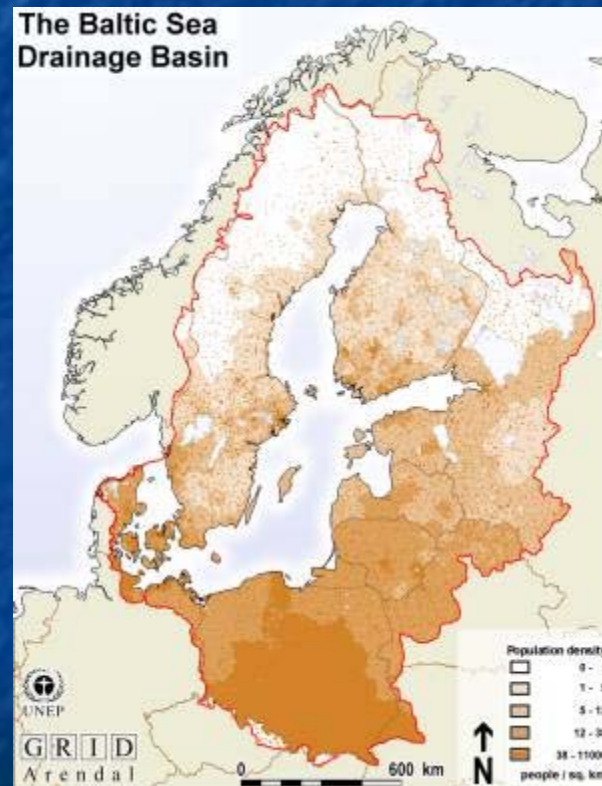
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India

Agenda

- To introduce the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) in South Asia (SA).
- To make a comparative study between the Baltic Sea Region and the South Asian region.
- Why Baltic?



The BSR



The States

- the four Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway
- three Baltic states: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
- Germany, Poland and Russia



The BSR: when, what, how?

- Emergence of this region post Cold War
- Its significance in the new world order: end of East/ West divide
- Its relationship with Russia in the context of Indo- Soviet friendship legacy
- As part of EU eastward enlargement programme

The Royal family dressed in the Swedish National Costume.

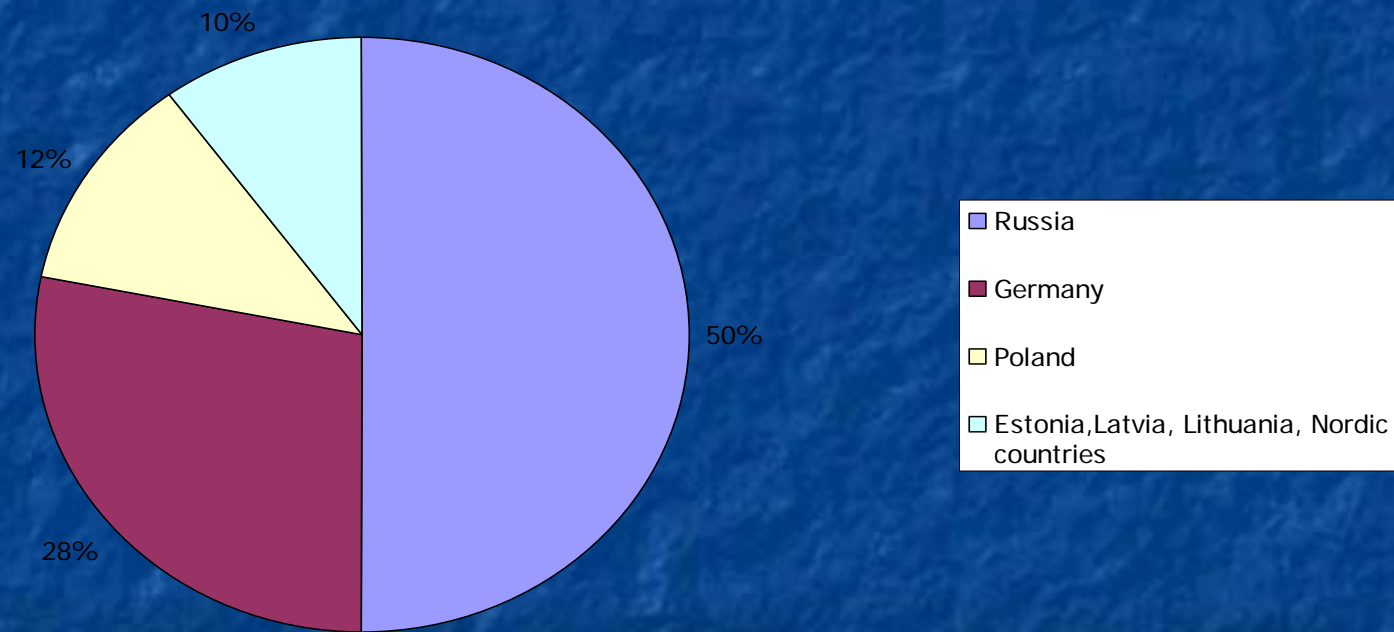


Bo Skräddare

Diversity in Culture

- Multiethnic, Multireligious, Multicultural
- Religions: Lutheran, Catholic, Orthodox
- Languages: Baltic, Finno-Ugric, Germanic and Slavic languages
- Youth culture: music, art, dance

Population % in the BSR



Architecture, artefacts



Polity

- Stable democracies
- Vibrant civil society
- Active Local actors
- Formation of CBSS
- Strong public opinion
- "Soft security" zone

Economy

- GDP annual growth rates exceeding 7%
- Highest per capita growth rate in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia among the OECD and EU countries
- In sectors, like banking, advertising or Internet technology, salaries equal to Western levels
- Baltic ports retain their significance as choke points for Russian/CIS hinterland exports
- Vast majority of trade with western Europe

Similarities

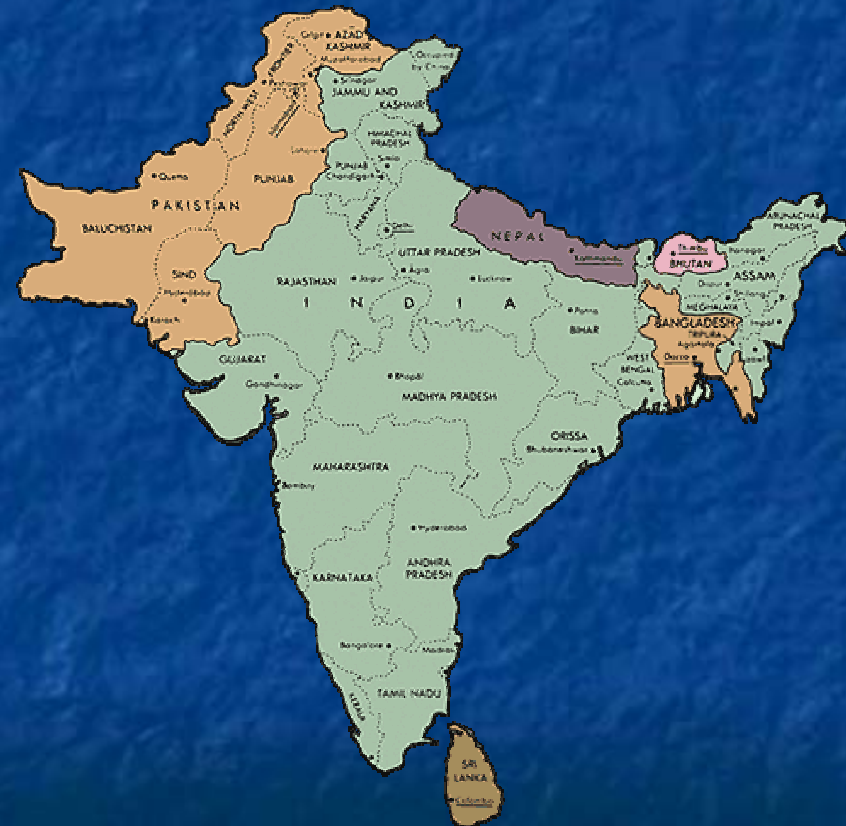
South Asia - BSR

- Similar histories:
parts of the BSR Under Soviet rule for a long period of time/ SA under British regime for nearly 2 centuries
- History of war, conquest and trade in the BSR/ history of partition, bloodshed in SA

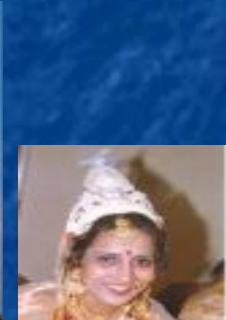
- Both comprise newly independent states
- Geographical commonality: both have a fairly large coastline

The BSR: Baltic Sea

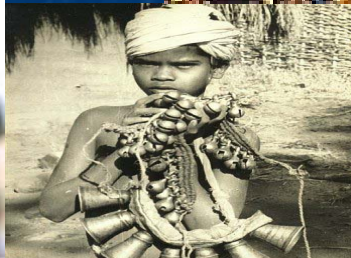
SA : Arabian Sea,
Bay of Bengal, Indian
Ocean



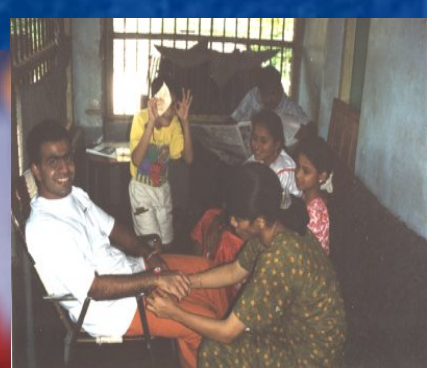
- In terms of diversity in cultures, languages, economies and even political systems.
- multilingual, multi religious and multicultural just like the Baltic



faces of india



Diversity: festivals in India



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Peaceful co existence



- wide disparities in terms of economy, culture, religion and ethnicity within member states.
- liberalization of economies of member states coincided with that of the BSR (end of 1980's – 1990's).
- Similar GDP growth rates ranging from 6 – 8%

The BSR as a case for regional integration

- Creation of a common “Baltic Identity”; the Hanseatic League, the Pomor.
- Cooperation in areas like environment & ecology, culture, trade & industry, economy, etc.
- “New Regionalism” - promoted from below
- Multiplicity of actors – state, NGOs, transnational networks, interest groups, politicians, municipalities.

Why Baltic?

- Favorable climate for trade & investment
- Good educational destination
- Growing tourism

Merits for investment

- Political stability
- Legal security
- Availability of qualified workforce
- Investor-friendliness
- development of private business in these countries supported by extensive assistance in project financing by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- Ease of company administration / transparency

TRANSPARENCY INDEX(2005)

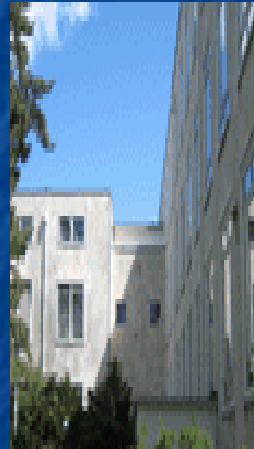
- Finland 9.6
- Denmark 9.5
- Sweden 9.2
- Norway 8.9
- Germany 8.2

Education

- High and internationally recognized academic level of education
- Excellent study options in English for international students
- Focus on internationalization
- A dynamic knowledge and science region
- Efficient and transparent student visa processes
- Strong recruitment
- Scholarships

Universities

- Copenhagen
- Lund
- Oresund
- Malmo
- Tallinn
- Turku
- Tartu
- Humboldt



Disciplines

- Management
- Engineering
- Medicine
- Law
- Social sciences/ cultural studies
- Biotechnology
- Maritime studies

Institutes for collaboration

- Indian Institute of Technology
- Indian Institute of Management
- Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Delhi School of Economics
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- University of Maritime Studies

Tourism in the BSR

- the region has become the most dynamic tourist destination in all of Europe in the last few years
- History, medieval culture and unspoilt nature
- the difference in architecture, mood, style, culture (including pop culture) and even history in the member states



- Eco tourism in Estonian reserved islands
- Aquatic tourism
- Coastal tourism



Explore the Baltic



Tallinn, Estonia

Tallinn: cathedrals
and churches,
romantic little streets,
and a harbour



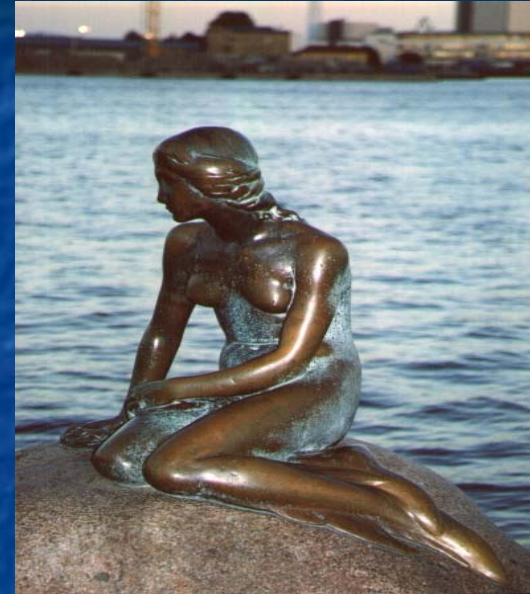
Riga, Latvia

Art Nouveau
architecture, broad
boulevards, and
cosmopolitan flair



Copenhagen, Denmark

The Little Mermaid



Tivoli amusement park



Stockholm, Sweden

Stockholm Harbour



Stockholm Statue



Baltic Offers...

- Better standard of living
- Greater social security
- Better medical facilities
- Better infrastructure: good roads, transport, disciplined citizenry
- Greater life expectancy
- Lower crime rates and corruption
- No caste/ religious discrimination

SA and the BSR: Areas of collaboration

- science and technology,
- digital information and software,
- environment,
- education, energy,
- tourism, transport
- food aid, health,
- developing agriculture,
- bio technology, genetic engineering, medicine
- telecommunication and postal services,
- rural development,
- fighting natural disasters.

Potential for regional cooperation in SA

- Huge human resource
- Establish reduction in import tariffs between member states
- Adopt strategies like place marketing; e.g., the Oresund region in BSR
- Adopt transit facilities between member states
- Launching a common currency
- Greater cooperation with ASEAN like the BSR with EU



Thank you!