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## The Pacific Alliance as a Regional Integration in Latin America

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Budapest, 2020/2021

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## **The Pacific Alliance as a Regional Integration in Latin America**

### **1. Introduction**

#### **1.1. Topic justification**

I decided to choose this topic as the focus of my research as I believe that there is not enough emphasis put on the Latin American region not only in the way that we do not learn as much in the university but also as this essay shows the economic opportunities that the Pacific Alliance has to offer to the world. This research will have as a main aim to inform the reader about the current opportunities and benefits that the Pacific Alliance has to offer and also what it has achieved until the last year (2019). Besides, it will show some examples of how countries that already have economic relations with this regional integration, have benefitted until the current dates. It will explain a new form of regional integration in the South American continent that has recently been founded and what their main motivations and aims are. This thesis will ultimately try to achieve a better understanding of the Pacific Alliance, its procedures and, achievements and to show why it would be a great opportunity to have economic relations with them. Hopefully, my writing will give more information to the reader and a new point of view.

#### **1.2. Main motivation**

I choose this topic first because it is very close to me as I am half Peruvian. Besides, in the future, I would like to work either in Latin America or in this field. My thesis will help me to gain more knowledge about these countries and also to know more about this Alliance, as it is viewed as the World's sixth strongest economy.

It is a very actual topic as the first meetings started in 2011. Since then, it has been growing and becoming more and more complex. I would like to search more into the topic and find out the economic impact is having on its member countries and the world, while learning about the new economic opportunities in the Pacific Alliance.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, I have to consider that these countries' economies might face unexpected financial crises. Because of that, my essay will only have information and literature until December 2019.

#### **1.3. Methodology & Literature**

The main method that I followed in order to write my thesis was the comparative analysis using statistical data and also official and public documents from the different alliances to briefly explain how the Pacific Alliance and other ones, such as the ASEAN work. I used this method to compare the different alliance in their economic, political, and social fields while describing

their possible relations or possible cooperation fields. For example, I mainly compared both of these regional alliances in order to understand better the current position and stage of the Pacific Alliance.

My topic and title of my thesis are the Pacific Alliance as regional integration, and that is what my research focuses on. I tried to gather enough literature in order to have a wide range of authors, official documents, and points of view. I was able to do this as I speak several languages and thus I could find sources such as the official Declaration of Lima which was actually written in Spanish, and much more reports, news, speeches that could only be found in that language. In addition, I could also use my English and Hungarian knowledge to find sources in international news or cooperation documents within other alliances. Furthermore, using sources from different countries, with different languages allowed me to write more neutrally and also find different points of view.

The main question that I put as an aim to answer was within other the following: what is the definition of a regional alliance, what are the main economic forces of the countries in the PA, what kind of thinking and ideologies are they following, what are the similarities with other regional alliances, etc. In order to answer all these questions, I believe that following research and a comparative analysis method was the best fit.

To conclude, by using a wide range of literature in different languages, I could write a thesis more neutrally and full of information. Comparing other regional alliances and economic cooperation methods also allowed me, and hopefully the reader, to understand better these kinds of alliances and its benefits and disadvantages as well. But, most importantly, it will give an overall view of the Pacific Alliance.

#### 1.4. Topic: Short summary

This essay, as the title mentions as well, it is about the new regional alliance in South America, formed in 2011 by Peru, Colombia, Chile, and Mexico called the Pacific Alliance. Firstly, I explain the first event which led to the formation of the Pacific Alliance, which happened during the Declaration of Lima. This part mentions the first aim and ideologies on which this regional alliance is based. Next, there will be a little introduction of the member countries of the PA, as well as a brief explanation of the definition of regional integration and how it applies to the Pacific Alliance. This will be further explained in the next chapter, in which the main theme is the current stage of the PA in the regional integration process while comparing it with other ones in South America. The third paragraph will contain the different tasks and working areas



of the PA which, after the comparison from the chapter before, will allow us to see how successful it is being currently. In the next paragraph, the principal trading countries will be introduced and how some of these may have a possibility to integrate into the Pacific Alliance. In the last paragraph, I will focus on the ASEAN regional alliance, which, as it is a much older alliance, will allow us to see the current position of the PA in the regional alliance process while comparing the two of them. In addition, I will discuss the relations between these two alliances. To conclude, in this essay I will try to give a brief and specific overview of the Pacific Alliance while explaining its aims and also comparing it to other countries. Furthermore, you will also find information about the Pacific Alliance's international relations until December 2019.

## 2. The Declaration of Lima 2011 explained

Before incorporating the definition of the regional integration to the Pacific Alliance, the first summit needs to be explained. As mentioned before, the Declaration of Lima or the original name “Declaración presidencial sobre la Alianza del Pacífico”, in English “Presidential Declaration of the Pacific Alliance”, was signed during the summit of Lima on the 28th of April 2011. The presidents Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, for Colombia, Sebastian Pinera Echenique, for Chile, Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, for México, and the Peruvian president Alan García Pérez were the main representatives and signers of this Declaration. In addition, Rómulo Roux, a representative sent from Panamá was sent to be an observer for this event.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1. Map of the Pacific Alliance



*Source: Canada West Foundation*

As stated in the original Declaration, the Summit was called up in order to discuss about conforming to a profound integration area by the process of political, economic articulation, and cooperation in Latin America. So, their main aim by creating the Pacific Alliance was to move towards the free movements of goods, capital, services and people.<sup>2</sup> In order to achieve this, they mentioned that they would rely on the advances of their countries in the development of their products and their economic growth by creating more employments, decreasing poverty, and strengthen their democratization. They also mentioned that they have as a main future trading partner projected in Pacific Asia, which will be further discussed later. In the

<sup>1</sup> Official Declaration of Lima, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Pastrana Buelvas, E. and Castro Alegría, R. (2020). AUGUE Y ESTANCAMIENTO DE LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO.

following semi-chapter, I will give some information about the member countries and how much they could contribute to the regional integration.

## 2.1. Countries

### 2.1.1. Mexico

The United Mexican States is situated in the Southern part of North America. Its population has around 129 million people with their official language of Spanish and their currency being the Mexican Peso. It is a democratic republic organized by three main powers, the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial. The economy of this country the 11th economy of the world and the second-largest one in Latin America, and its GDP represent 1.4% of the global economy.<sup>3</sup> Its main export products are oil, manufactured products, mining, automobiles, and agricultural products.

Due to the closeness of Mexico to the United States, their economies and politics were mostly influenced by them. Because of this, compared to the other countries, seen in the next subchapters, Mexico has had political stability during the last decades. The entrance to the NAFTA agreement in 1994 has also helped the economic stability of the country as well as the foreign trade relations between the United States and Canada. Apart from that agreement, Mexico also takes part of the CARICOM which is a common market in the Caribbean. Thus, we can see that Mexico has potential partnerships with many countries across the continent which would be beneficial to the Pacific Alliance. During the first decade of the 21st century, Mexico has tried to have more economic and commercial partnerships with more liberal countries, instead of the leftist ones. Due to this way of thinking, very similar to Chile, Peru and Colombia is why Mexico would look for an integration in order to improve the relations in the South American region and to find more partnerships in the Pacific-Asian region.<sup>4</sup>

### 2.1.2. Colombia

The Republic of Colombia has a population of around 51 million people, and it is situated in the northern part of South America. Their first language is Spanish, and their official currency is the Colombian Peso. Colombia is a “unitary decentralized republic governed by the standing political constitution of 1991”.<sup>5</sup> The country has also three parts of government, the president,

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<sup>3</sup> World Bank. (2020). Mexico Overview. [online] Available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mexico/overview> [Accessed 20 Oct. 2020].

<sup>4</sup> Larenas, G., Rubio, J. and Flores, G. (2018). LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO: CONSIDERACIONES POLÍTICO-ECONÓMICAS PARA ECUADOR. Ecuador: DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE INTEGRACIÓN MONETARIA Y FINANCIERA REGIONAL, pp.1–39.

<sup>5</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

who works as Head of State and government, and the bicameral parliament made up by the Congress which consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The economy of the country lately has been known thanks to its stability and growth which demonstrates a favourable economic environment. Its main export products are petroleum, coal, coffee, bananas, and gold.

Colombia's 1980s was a little bit different from the other member countries of the Pacific Alliance. It was mainly known due to the economic, political and social problems generated by the drug trafficking and guerrilla wars happening in the country at that time. Due to this, Colombia asked for the help of the United States in order to fight these. Afterwards, the country became close to the political and economic ideologies of the U.S. as they maintained close economic and commercial relations as well. Similarly, to Mexico, Colombia decided to have more partnerships with liberal countries in South America, leaving the leftists aside such as Venezuela or Cuba.<sup>6</sup> Consequently, Colombia moved towards countries such as Mexico, Chile and Peru with they had similar ideologies. From here is when the first ideas of the Pacific Alliance were discussed.

### 2.1.3. Chile

The Republic of Chile has approximately a population of 19 million people and it is located on the southern edge of South America. As in the countries mentioned previously, its main language is Spanish which is common in all the countries which form the Pacific Alliance. Chile is a democratic republic organized into three branches, which are the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial. The Chilean economy is well-known for being a thriving emerging economy in Latin America. Because of its economic growth and social development, it was the first South American country in the OECD (Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development). The main export products of Chile are copper, fish, and wine.

During the 1980s Chile was under the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. His foreign policy was managed by his army led government and they had almost no international relations and foreign trade during his regimen. In addition, during his dictatorship there was no political participation, free trade or business, as everything was privatized, and he constantly broke the Human rights.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Larenas, G., Rubio, J. and Flores, G. (2018). LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO: CONSIDERACIONES POLÍTICO-ECONÓMICAS PARA ECUADOR. Ecuador: DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE INTEGRACIÓN MONETARIA Y FINANCIERA REGIONAL, pp.1–39.

<sup>7</sup> Larenas, G., Rubio, J. and Flores, G. (2018). LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO: CONSIDERACIONES POLÍTICO-ECONÓMICAS PARA ECUADOR. Ecuador: DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE INTEGRACIÓN MONETARIA Y FINANCIERA REGIONAL, pp.1–39.

During the 1980s, Chile suffered an economic crisis which led the country into misery, which eventually led to the opening of the economy and slowly have a free market. Due to the previously mentioned problem, that during the regimen of Pinochet, many Human Rights were broken by the government, and the European Community and the United States decided to act and end the dictatorship.<sup>8</sup> The years after this, slowly the country reopened again to the international market and started taking part in multilateral organisms such as the SELA or Latin-American Economic System and have trade with countries such as Argentina, Colombia, Bolivia and Mexico. Afterwards, they reincorporated to the United Nations in 1996 which led to the consolidation with the international community, such as the European Union and the United States.<sup>9</sup> Consequently, Chile started to open commercial relations to the Asia Pacific, which is important because of the Pacific Alliance, and mostly China, with which (from the PA member countries) Chile has the most commercial partnerships.<sup>10</sup> So as we can observe from this information, Chile has slowly become more and more open to the international market after the end of Pinochet's dictatorship. The most important commercial relation which needs to be highlighted is with China, and there will be more information about this in Chapter 4.

#### 2.1.4. Peru

The Republic of Peru is a country situated in South America with a population of around 33 million people. Its political system is a democratic republic and it is also organized by the three branches mentioned in the other countries, such as the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial branch. The Peruvian economy has been having an average annual growth of approximately 5,9% which is primarily because of its investment in its main sectors as the mining industry, which also represents a big part of the country's exports. Other importation export products are textiles, chemicals, machinery, and fish.

Important to note, that as well as Chile, Peru also had a military dictatorship until the 1980s, and from here, we can observe how similar their histories are. After this, Peru was in a deep

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<sup>8</sup> Larenas, G., Rubio, J. and Flores, G. (2018). LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO: CONSIDERACIONES POLÍTICO-ECONÓMICAS PARA ECUADOR. Ecuador: DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE INTEGRACIÓN MONETARIA Y FINANCIERA REGIONAL, pp.1–39.

<sup>9</sup> Larenas, G., Rubio, J. and Flores, G. (2018). LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO: CONSIDERACIONES POLÍTICO-ECONÓMICAS PARA ECUADOR. Ecuador: DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE INTEGRACIÓN MONETARIA Y FINANCIERA REGIONAL, pp.1–39.

<sup>10</sup> Larenas, G., Rubio, J. and Flores, G. (2018). LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO: CONSIDERACIONES POLÍTICO-ECONÓMICAS PARA ECUADOR. Ecuador: DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE INTEGRACIÓN MONETARIA Y FINANCIERA REGIONAL, pp.1–39.

economic and political recession which would affect the country in the following years.<sup>11</sup> During the 90s and under the presidency of Alberto Fujimori the country received help from the IMF and the World Bank which helped the economy to start again. In addition, as the country reopened, new markets were found as well as international investments started to flow into Peru. Moreover, Peru also started to take part in international organizations which helped to consolidate the politics for trade and to also starts cooperating with its neighbouring countries, from which the first ideas of an alliance started to appear.<sup>12</sup> In 2006, during the presidency of Alan García, the country started to make stronger ties with Chile and Colombia because of the similarities in their ideologies and trading ideas as well. Their main interest in allowing foreign trade with the Asian Pacific countries became as the root for the Pacific Alliance during the following years.

Table 1. Economic Information of the Pacific Alliance member states

Countries	Population (millions) 2019	GDP 2019 US Dollars (millions)	GDP/capita (2019)
Chile	19.1	281,660	25,155
Colombia	51.1	323,802	15,643
Mexico	129.1	1,258,286	20,410
Peru	33.0	226,848	13,380

*Source: WorldBank and Worldmeters*

In this table, we can observe the information of the above-mentioned countries of the Pacific Alliance in the year 2013. The information of GDP and the international commerce is important to mention as during this thesis it will be used on a constant basis to compare the Pacific Alliance with other regional alliances or just the countries which with they have commercial or any kind of economic relations, for example, China, Unites Stated of America, the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

<sup>11</sup> Larenas, G., Rubio, J. and Flores, G. (2018). LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO: CONSIDERACIONES POLÍTICO-ECONÓMICAS PARA ECUADOR. Ecuador: DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE INTEGRACIÓN MONETARIA Y FINANCIERA REGIONAL, pp.1–39.

<sup>12</sup> Larenas, G., Rubio, J. and Flores, G. (2018). LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO: CONSIDERACIONES POLÍTICO-ECONÓMICAS PARA ECUADOR. Ecuador: DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE INTEGRACIÓN MONETARIA Y FINANCIERA REGIONAL, pp.1–39.

Table 2. Observer Countries of the Pacific Alliance

ASIA	AMERICA	OCEANIA	EUROPA	AFRICA
China	Canada	Australia	Germany	Marrocco
South Korea	Costa Rica	New Zealand	Austria	Egypt
Indonesia	Ecuador		Belgium	
Japan	El Salvador		Denmark	
Singapur	United States		Spain	
Thailandia	Guatemala		Finland	
Kazakhstan	Honduras		France	
Philippines	Panamá		Georgia	
OTHERS	Argentina		Greece	
India			Hungary	
Turkey	United Arab emirates	Lithuania	Italy	
Israel	Armenia	Norway	Netherlands	
Haiti	Azerbaijan	Romania	Poland	
Paraguay	Belarus	Serbia	Portugal	
Dominican Rep.	Croatia	Slovakia	United Kingdom	
Trinidad y Tobago	Czech Republic	Slovenia	Switzerland	
Uruguay	Ukraine		Sweden	

*Source: Pacific Alliance. (2018)*

In addition, I still need to mention some countries which also take part in the entire process of regional integration. In Table 2. I listed the observer countries of the Pacific Alliance. There is a great potential for cooperation between these observer countries and the Pacific Alliance, however, until the last year, it was not entirely finished the process as, for example, even more countries have been integrated into this list, during the last year, which is mentioned in the

“Others” part of the table. The overall comments of these observer countries were positive and thus it has also attracted global interest.<sup>13</sup>

## 2.2. Regional Integration

In order to explain better the work and aim of the Pacific Alliance, the meaning of a regional integration needs to be explained. This can be defined as the process by which countries agree to co-operate in order to achieve wealth, economic stability, and peace. It involves a written agreement, in this case, The Declaration of Lima, that discusses the integration in detail, as well as its aims and how it will be managed and composed. Usually, it involves the process of slowly removing trade barriers between these countries. Afterwards, it would consist of the economic and political integration of these countries. The economic one would involve the removal of all barriers and so the movements of labour, goods, and capital are all free. The final levels of integration would consist of custom unions and adopt a common currency with its monetary policy managed by only one central bank for these countries. Another part of the final regional integration would be also having a political integration slowly at the same time the other policies are started being incorporated. This would consist of having common policies in the social concept as in the education, health, and benefits for the population. At the end of the integration of all these parts, these nations would almost form a “new country” with all common economic and political policies as well as with a common currency but with a certain level of national sovereignty.

## 2.3. Pacific Alliance and Declaration of Lima

### **Definition**

The Pacific Alliance can be defined as an initiative for economic and commercial integration in Latin America<sup>14</sup>, a part of a process that helps the globalization of these countries while using the opportunities found in them in order to be on the international market. These opportunities come from the new production processes and plans which could improve the economic conditions of work in many of these countries.

As mentioned before, the Pacific Alliance is a regional unification made by Colombia, Mexico, Chile and Peru established on the 28th of April 2011. It is also a trade and economic integration which aims to have a free movement of goods, services, capital, and people within these

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<sup>13</sup> Torres Jarrín, M., Luca, G. and Ramirez, J. (2018). Global Policy Perspective Report Pacific Alliance & Observer Countries An Agenda for cooperation. [online] Available at: <https://www.oecd.org/latin-america/home/Global-Policy-Perspective-Report-Pacific-Alliance-and-Observer-Countries.pdf> [Accessed 23 Nov. 2020].

<sup>14</sup> Pastrana Buelvas, E. and Castro Alegría, R. (2020). AUGE Y ESTANCAMIENTO DE LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO.



countries. Together, with these countries, the Pacific Alliance represents the 8th economy of the world. *The four countries gather a population of 225 million persons and have an average per capita GPD of USD 18 000. In addition, the population is mainly young and constitutes a qualified labour force as well as an attractive subset of consumers whose purchase power is in constant growth.*<sup>15</sup>

Its principal objectives are the construction of an area of integration in order to allow to circulate products, services, capital, and people freely<sup>16</sup>; to grow and develop in their own economic areas while reducing poverty; and to become a platform for politics,<sup>17</sup> economic integration, and commercial integration while focusing on the Asian-Pacific region as a main trading area.

Its major negotiation issues in order to function are the free movement of services and capital as well as trade and integration. As stated by the Declaration of Lima on the 28th of April 2011: *“To encourage the regional integration, as well as a higher growth, development and competitiveness”* of these countries, the different working areas are necessary to implement and to develop. This integration would also have the main objective to not only have an economic unification but also a strong political communication and common commercial relations with the world with a main focus on the Asia-Pacific region. As previously mentioned, the four main countries which signed the Declaration of Lima are Mexico, Colombia, Chile, and Peru. And as mentioned before, all together, these countries form the 8th world economy.<sup>18</sup>

Figure 2. Structure of the Pacific Alliance



<sup>15</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

<sup>16</sup> Pastrana Buelvas, E. and Castro Alegría, R. (2020). AUGE Y ESTANCAMIENTO DE LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO.

<sup>17</sup> Pastrana Buelvas, E. and Castro Alegría, R. (2020). AUGE Y ESTANCAMIENTO DE LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO.

<sup>18</sup> Felipa, P.B. (2015). La Importancia De La Alianza Del Pacífico. Pensamiento Crítico, 20(2), pp.37–52.

As seen in the figure above, the structure of this integration has four categories. The first one functions as the main organ of the decision-making part. It is composed of the four presidents of the member states, who reunite on the peak frame events. Also, there is a cabinet council (or the Council of Ministers). This one is formed by international relations and international commerce ministers. Their main aim is to adapt decisions in order to achieve the plans created by the presidents of the member states. In addition, there is the Group of High Level, in Spanish Grupo de Alto Nivel (GAN), conformed by the international relations and international commerce vice-ministers. Their role is to supervise the developments of the technical groups, which are also part of the PA (will be mentioned in the following chapters). Other roles of theirs are the evaluation of projects to make together with other international organisms.<sup>19</sup> In addition, as previously mentioned, there is a third branch in the structure of the Pacific Alliance which comprises the observer countries. These are currently still updating as new and new countries are joining recently. These countries' role is to observe and comments on the works made by the Pacific Alliance. Finally, the Pacific Alliance has a pro tempore presidency, which means that they rotate every year between its members.

In this essay, I will incorporate the definition of the regional integration and describe in what stage is the Pacific Alliance, what are its main forces and advantages in this alliance as well as I will discuss the future possibilities of its integration with other countries. Furthermore, I will write a comparison in the last chapter with another regional integration, in Asia, the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

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<sup>19</sup> Pastrana Buelvas, E. and Castro Alegría, R. (2020). AUGE Y ESTANCAMIENTO DE LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO.

### 3. Main tasks and working areas of the Alliance

As mentioned previously, The Pacific Alliance is a regional integration which has many objectives and tasks written in the Declaration of Lima and explained more deeply in the following upcoming events and discussion. Some of these are listed on their official websites and can be described as the following:

- Their main objective is to make an integrational area within these countries in which people can take part in it in a free and consensual way. This integration would have its main plan to achieve free mobility of goods, services, people, and resources.
- Also, motivate their economies for more growth, development, and thus competitiveness while trying to focus on achieving the wellbeing of its population by reducing poverty and inequality and at the same time allowing the participation of all of their citizens.
- And, as mentioned in the Declaration of Lima, they want to make the Pacific Alliance as one of the ways in which economic, political, and trading integration can be achieved while focusing on the world, with their main partner the Asia-Pacific region.

From these objectives, we can conclude that the Pacific Alliance's main goal is to become a strategic platform that would enhance the economic growth of its member countries by working together in the economic, political, and commercial areas. The official website of the Alliance also mentions that their official platform describes in the following ways:

- That is an open integration process which contains countries which have similar views and way of thinking when it comes to their economic and growth achievements, that have as a goal the free trade.
- It also contains many areas in which the future of business deals is likely to succeed.
- Also, as mentioned in the introductory part of this essay, these countries altogether form the eight greatest economies in the world.
- They also have the main points of view as they believe in modernity, pragmatism, and political<sup>20</sup> will in order to face the challenges of the international economic globe.

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<sup>20</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

- One of the advantages that we can already mention is that it has a competitive advantage, due to many factors such as their geographical position, for international business, and with their main goal to make commercial relations with the Pacific Asian territory.

These objectives and plans clearly show that the Pacific Alliance has a strong view to open and plan their commercial position in the world and start trading with other countries while growing and developing their own economies. These objectives also clearly show that the Alliance is open and welcoming to free trade. As mentioned previously, as the Pacific Alliance is the eight economic power, it also means that it would be the eight-export force of the world. The successful integration of these countries would mean that the goals mentioned in the Declaration would go into existence, and these would mean economic and innovative goals such as the free mobility of people, preservation of the environment, and biodiversity of the countries within the Alliance while also focusing in solving the problems regarding pollution and climate change. Free mobility of people would also focus on offering internships and allowing the exchange of students in order to learn more and thus become experts in different fields which could also benefit the Pacific Alliance. Nonetheless, they also have as an objective the promotion of cultural knowledge and thus respect the social diversity found in these countries, while also helping these people. When it comes to people and opportunities, they also want to improve the economic conditions and competitiveness of their micro, small and medium enterprises as well as help the exportation of their products into the wider world. And finally, they also want to promote the tourism of their countries, and not just within the countries of the Pacific Alliance, but also to the world by improving these.

Next, I am going to discuss about some of the main working areas of the Pacific Alliance in which they want to improve as part of their regional integration process. I decided to discuss and explain the ones that I believe are the most important relevant to the topic of my essay. As seen in the following table, taken from the official page of the Pacific Alliance, these are the main working areas that they have as part of their project and improvement areas:

Table 3. Working Areas of the Pacific Alliance

Working Areas		
• Ad hoc Fishing Group	• Finances	• Public Purchases
• Committee of Experts-CEAP	• Gender	• Services and Capitals
• Communication Strategy	• Innovation	• SMEs
• Cooperation	• Global Value Chains	• TBT-Regulatory Cooperation
• Culture	• Institutional Affairs	• Tourism
• Development and Social Inclusion	• Labor	• Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation
• Digital Agenda	• Mobility of People	
• Education	• Promotion Agencies	

*Source: Pacific Alliance. (2018)*

In this part, I will not cover all the working areas, but only the ones which in my opinion are the most important and relevant for this essay, due to the limitation of the number of pages and characters.

- Ad Hoc Fishing Group

The members of the Pacific Alliance decided to establish an ad hoc Group in order to create a joint strategy for the trading and commerce of fishery products of their countries. This was written and decided on the 11th Pacific Alliance Summit held in July 2016 at Puerto Varas, Chile. Their main goal was the international commercialization of their fishery products to the world together.

Since the creation of this action group, many plans were drafted from which the following already succeeded: Creation of annual meetings of the authorities in the fishing sectors in the fair of Aquasur; Creation of the Network of Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Institutes of the Pacific Alliance, which allows the research and exchange of scientists within these countries in order to improve their fishing industry. In addition, they also promote the consumption of the fishery products within the PA countries. Some of the planned actions, which were drafted between 2017 and 2018, for the future in the Pacific Alliance are the following: make visible

their information of developments and researches through their website<sup>21</sup> to create a Network of Fishery and aquaculture health authorities for the PA countries; and, to make more visible the existing programs for the promotion of seafood. Another project which has come into consideration was the creation of a common brand for the Pacific Alliance fishery and aquaculture products. This has been approved recently by the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).<sup>22</sup>

In order to show some of the achievements of this Technical Group, the Pacific Alliance for Sustainable Tuna project. This has been part of the smart fishing plan that the Ad-hoc Fishing Group has created. They believe that “ocean-safe” fishing ensures the health of the ocean for the future generations; this they focus on the sustainable fishery. In order to do this, they follow rigorous sustainability standards that the international science community has set.<sup>23</sup> They also use the latest equipment and fishing techniques, while also training their captain and staff, and also to always include a scientific observer on board who can help to maintain the international standards in order to achieve their vision for sustainability.<sup>24</sup>

Another important event related to the ad hoc Fishing group is the Lima Declaration of 2019. This Declaration mentions that all of the member countries believe in the cooperation of this project by taking into consideration the sustainable consumption of the fishery and aquaculture products. This is important as they would like to support the sustainable plans of the U.N. and take care of the future generations of their countries. Apart from this, they also plan to promote even more the participation of trade events and fairs in which they would have the opportunity to enter new markets all around the world. In this declaration, they also mention the need to promote the cooperation of their Network of Research Institutes, in order to find better and more sustainable ways for their fishery commerce within the PA countries.

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<sup>21</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

<sup>22</sup> Jara, A.E., Antonio De la (2016). Pacific Alliance nations eye exporting fish products as unified bloc. Reuters. [online] 1 Jul. Available at: <https://fr.reuters.com/article/pacific-alliance-summit-fishing-idAFL1N19N1OG> [Accessed 30 Oct. 2020].

<sup>23</sup> Pacific Alliance (2015). Fishing Practices. [online] The Pacific Alliance for Sustainable Tuna. Available at: <https://www.pacifictunaalliance.org/the-fishery/fishing-practices.html> [Accessed 30 Oct. 2020].

<sup>24</sup> Pacific Alliance (2015). Fishing Practices. [online] The Pacific Alliance for Sustainable Tuna. Available at: <https://www.pacifictunaalliance.org/the-fishery/fishing-practices.html> [Accessed 30 Oct. 2020].

- Cooperation

The GTC (Technical Group of Cooperation) was created on December 4, 2011, through the Memorandum of Understanding on the Pacific Cooperation Platform, signed by the Foreign Ministers of the four countries.<sup>25</sup> . Its goal is to promote cooperation among the members of the PA and also with some third parties in regard to areas and environmental protection and climate change, science and technology and innovation. The GTC is in charge of the coordination, approval, and follow-up of cooperation actions in each of the member countries.<sup>26</sup>

- Culture, Development and Social Inclusion and Education

According to The Paracas Declaration, signed during the 10th Pacific Alliance Summit, on July 3, 2015, the presidents instructed the creation of the Pacific Alliance Culture Technical Group. They mentioned that the cultural industries are important for these countries, not only because this sector has a high value in tourism for example, but also because they strengthen the social values of their people and thus helps the growth, acceptance and boosts the economy of the country.<sup>27</sup> The Culture Technical Group has as its main aim to create entrepreneurship and also to promote it in the cultural sector of these countries, as these businesses not only show the value of their culture and country but also due to their ways, it also showed that these are more sustainable. In addition, the boost of these projects also shows the identity and diversity of the Pacific Alliance which would be seen as correct in an international atmosphere. Its principal mandate is to prioritize the culture by helping the sectors of publishing, performing arts, music, and the audio-visual ones. Although of the importance that the cultural industries could have, the Pacific Alliance does not have the exact idea of how these could be adapted into the commercial market. However, the Pacific Alliance sees this as an opportunity for the development and the decrease of the inequalities.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

<sup>26</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

<sup>27</sup> Reggiardo, G. (n.d.). Alianza del Pacífico y la gestión de políticas culturales. [online] Tema Central: Cultura en América Latina. Políticas culturales. Available at: <https://pacificallianceblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2013-Reggiardo-Alianza-del-Paci%CC%81fico-y-la-Gestio%CC%81n-de-Poli%CC%81ticas-Culturales.pdf> [Accessed 30 Oct. 2020].

<sup>28</sup> Reggiardo, G. (n.d.). Alianza del Pacífico y la gestión de políticas culturales. [online] Tema Central: Cultura en América Latina. Políticas culturales. Available at: <https://pacificallianceblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2013-Reggiardo-Alianza-del-Paci%CC%81fico-y-la-Gestio%CC%81n-de-Poli%CC%81ticas-Culturales.pdf> [Accessed 30 Oct. 2020].

When it comes to the Development and Social Inclusion, the PA also formed a Technical group for this working task as well during the Declaration of Lima in July 2019. This group's main aim is to achieve a better well-being of its citizens and also to boost the sustainable development while overcoming the economic inequality of their countries. So, as a principal problem in the countries forming the PA is that the high rates of poverty and the big gap of inequality have a negative impact in the economic growth, thus, they created different groups which prioritize these problems. Some of the group's themes are the following: Multidimensional Poverty, Innovation & Social Cohesion, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>29</sup> The members of this Technical Group had drawn tasks which would help with the problems mentioned above. They decided to focus on the implementation of the 2030 agenda by creating a Regional Observatory group that would especially focus on this task. In addition, they follow a comparative study which would find the impact of the poverty and the economic growth of their countries. And lastly, they would also focus on the innovation of their social sector, in order to improve living conditions and reduce poverty in the affected zones of the PA countries.

When it comes to the development and economic growth of the poorer zones of the countries in the Pacific Alliance, we need to mention the education as well, which plays an important role in development. The PA also created a group in 2014 that focuses in this part, called the Education Technical Group (GTE). It has as its main aim to strengthen the education of the population by cooperating within these countries and improving the competencies and capabilities of its people which would result in better development and innovation of the different economic sectors and thus, the growth of this economy and competitiveness. In order to achieve this, the GTE allows the exchange of experiences by offering internships and scholarships for university students, while trying to coordinate the educational systems of these four countries to work similarly, like, for example constructing a National Qualification Framework in the Pacific Alliance countries.<sup>30</sup>

- Innovation

The Technical Group for Innovation in the Pacific Alliance has as its main goal to design and coordinate programs that help to achieve competitive and productive improvements in its countries. Its role is to increase the innovation in businesses and create innovative

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<sup>29</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

<sup>30</sup> Benavides, T. (2019). Educación, emprendimiento, cultura... otros beneficios por ingresar a la Alianza del Pacífico. [online] Criterios Digital. Available at: <https://criteriosdigital.com/contexto/tbenavides/educacion-emprendimiento-cultura-otros-beneficios-por-ingresar-a-la-alianza-del-pacifico/> [Accessed 31 Oct. 2020].



entrepreneurship. In addition, the four countries agreed on five pillars to develop: Human Capital, Financing, Generation and Transfer of Knowledge, Regulatory Framework, and Mentality and Culture.<sup>31</sup> Its main mandates were written during the Lima Declaration in 2019 which mention the following: implement the entrepreneurship network of the PA and create a digital platform which connect the member of PA within the innovative sectors.<sup>32</sup> This has three main networks:

- AcelerAP or Network of Accelerators which is designed to encourage rapid growth while ensuring the development of the entrepreneurship project through helps as the rental of spaces, capitalization, coaching, and other basic services. It has as an objective to help entrepreneurs of the PA countries to access the market and expand their businesses.
- InnovAP or Network of Innovation Agencies which has the objective to support the internationalization of innovative entrepreneurship by focusing on the teaching, proposing finances, and addressing challenges in order to strengthen the innovative capabilities and give advantages to them.
- AngelesAP or Network of Angel investors of PA is a Network of groups of angel investors with their aim of finding new investment opportunities. The main aim of this group is to connect the entrepreneurs of different regions of these four countries with the investors in order to help their financing, give them opportunities, and thus growing the economy of the PA.<sup>33</sup>

- Labor and Mobility of People

The ministries of Labour on July 1, 2016, created the Labour Technical Group within the framework of the Puerto Varas Declaration (11th PA Heads of State Summit).<sup>34</sup> During conferences held from 2015 to 2016, the main themes which were put as a priority were the

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<sup>31</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

<sup>32</sup> Supporting next generation innovation policy in the Pacific Alliance. (n.d.). [online] British Council. Innovative UK. Available at: [https://www.britishcouncil.cl/sites/default/files/pacific\\_alliance\\_innovation\\_policymaker\\_development\\_needs\\_full\\_report\\_-\\_nesta\\_-\\_may\\_2015\\_1\\_0.pdf](https://www.britishcouncil.cl/sites/default/files/pacific_alliance_innovation_policymaker_development_needs_full_report_-_nesta_-_may_2015_1_0.pdf) [Accessed 30 Nov. 2020].

<sup>33</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

<sup>34</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

following: Youth Employment, Eradication of Child Labour, Labour Migration, and Social Security. In the following table, taken from the official PA website, you can see these four main themes and its main commitments:

Table 4. Four Main themes for the Labour Technical Group

Theme	Commitments
<b>Youth Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote decent work plans for the younger generations and the vulnerable part of the population.</li> </ul>
<b>Eradication of Child Labour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make a report of prohibited dangerous activities that may endanger the children’s health and safety.</li> <li>Promote and exchange the information related to the rules that regulate and protect child labour and the adolescent worker.</li> </ul>
<b>Labor Migration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish and guide and consultation system on labour issues for the attention of the Pacific Alliance migrants.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the exchange of information in regard to the regulatory norms and institutions responsible for social security in the Pacific Alliance countries.</li> <li>In addition, promote the culture of social security of the member countries of the Pacific Alliance, through academic and cultural activities, for example.</li> </ul>

Source: Pacific Alliance (2018)

When it comes to Labour Migration, the PA has also created a Technical Group for this main theme. As mentioned previously, during the first Declaration of Lima, in which the main purposes of this integration were drafted, one of these aims was to prioritize “the free mobility of goods, services, capital, and people”.<sup>35</sup> It also established that at first, it would prioritize “the movement of business people and the facilitation of migratory transit, including immigration

<sup>35</sup>Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

and consular police cooperation”.<sup>36</sup> This allowed not only the exchange of people between the countries of the Alliance but also the exchange of knowledge. By exchanging knowledge in the different sectors of their economies, the development of these would be achieved, which would lead consequently to a growing capital and of their economies. In order to achieve this, it is important to emphasize on the promotion of cooperation between the migratory authorities for the facilitation of the mobility of people within the regional territory of the Pacific Alliance. Thus, as mentioned in the Summits held by the PA, “this would be a tool to achieve the goals of deep integration, growth, and competitiveness of the mechanism.”

Based on these ideas, the following decisions were made:

- In November 2012, Mexico decided for the abolition of visas for nationals of Colombia and Peru, since Chilean nationals already did not need visas to enter Mexican territory.
- *In May 2013, Peru announced the abolition of visas for businesspeople from Chile, Colombia, and Mexico up to 183 days provided they carry out an unpaid activity in the country. With these decisions, the member countries of the Pacific Alliance adopted a mobility for people who enter their territories for up to six months, as long as the activities they perform are of an unpaid type, such as tourist travel, transit, or business.*<sup>37</sup>

To conclude, as we can observe, these measures allow a degree of freedom when it comes to the movement of people within the PA territory by consular cooperation, which would allow easier working and studying, and also grow the tourism of the member countries.

- Trade facilitation and customs cooperation

In order to facilitate trade among the countries of the Pacific Alliance, a chapter on Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation was created. This was developed on the basis of transparency, predictability, and cooperation among the member states. This allows the easier movement of goods, services, labour and capital by using the method as the process automation, availability of information of the official databases and also implementing economic operator

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<sup>36</sup> Official Declaration of Lima, 2011

<sup>37</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

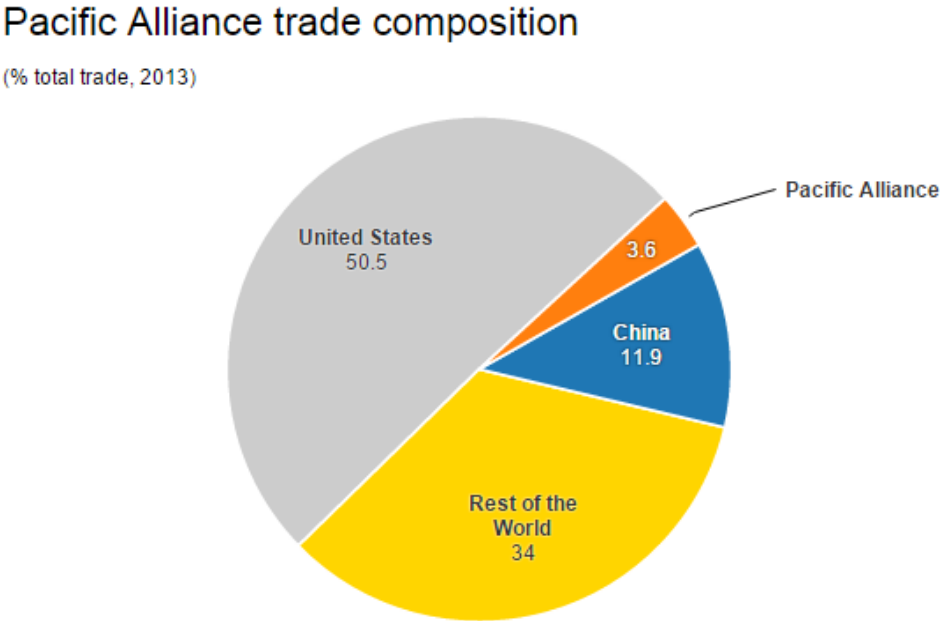
programs for the easier and faster economic agreements within the PA. Thus, the Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation aims to achieve the balance between the facilitation and control that customs must exercise in their process and make it easier as well.

In conclusion, in this chapter, I discussed and explained the different working areas of the Pacific Alliance which would later be the main forces of this economy as by achieving their goals, it would mean the growth of their capital and GDP of these countries. However, this is not the only benefits that would give implementing the different processes in the working areas, they would also be in a stronger and more competitive position in the international area, and what is more, when it comes to the population of their own countries, they would experience a growth in the wellbeing of its people.

#### 4. Principal trading countries and future possibilities of integration with other nations

The members of the Pacific Alliance follow a strategy of crossed regionalism as it has made free trade agreements with the United States, Canada, the European Union, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN (which will be covered in the next chapter).<sup>38</sup> These would be the current and principal trading countries of the Pacific Alliance with free trade agreements. Crossed regionalism would mean that countries between each other give some benefits, as free trade or lower taxes, which would allow the movements of goods easier. This could also be understood as some kind of help between these countries in order to benefit from their imports and exports and thus increase their GDP by opening more opportunities to trade. In this chapter, I will also discuss about the future possibilities of integration with other countries that are on their way to join the Pacific Alliance.

Figure 3. Pacific Alliance trade composition



Source: [WITS Get the data](#)

The member countries of the Pacific Alliance have always shared since the beginning the following beliefs and ideas:

<sup>38</sup> Pastrana Buelvas, E. and Castro Alegría, R. (2020). AUGE Y ESTANCAMIENTO DE LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO.

1. A neoliberal ideology which goes with the signing of the free trade agreements and this would be the main key for the internationalization of the economies and also, would lead to the attraction of a bigger foreign investment.
2. They also believe in a geo-economic vision which shows a major interest in the Asian-Pacific region when it comes to the geographical location which is near to these countries. They also would like to maintain economic relations with the United States and also the European Union.
3. In addition, the crossed regionalism strategy, as mentioned before, which would not only allow having free trade within the Pacific Alliance and its member countries, but also with other countries around the world.

In this part of the essay, I decided to choose two countries and one regional integration from the many, with which the Pacific Alliance has strong economic and commercial relations. These would be the following: The United States, China, and the European Union.

#### 4.1. The Pacific Alliance and the United States

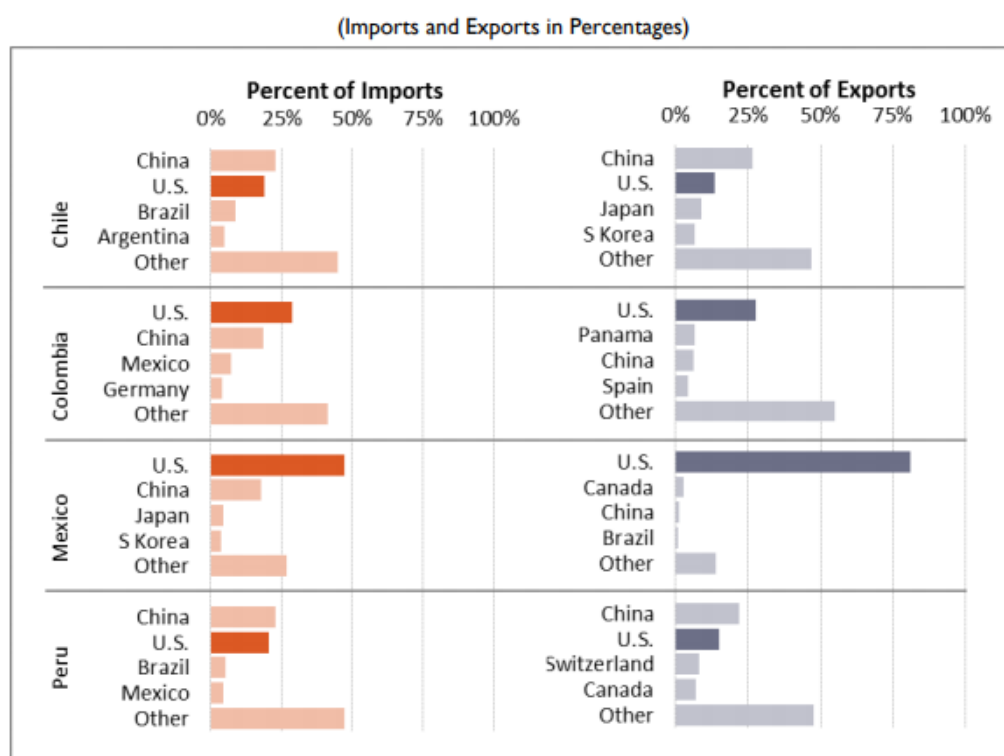
As we could observe from the *Figure 1.*, one of the principal trading partners of the PA is the U.S. with around more than half of the trading happening between them, mostly due to the strong ties between Mexico and the United States.<sup>39</sup>

In the following figure, we can also observe the percentage of imports and exports of the members of the Pacific Alliance with other countries, and we should look at the U.S.:

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<sup>39</sup> Ferreira, S.T. (2015). How do Latin America's 2 largest trade blocs compare? [online] World Economic Forum. Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/08/how-do-latin-americas-2-largest-trade-blocs-compare/> [Accessed 22 Oct. 2020].

Figure 4. Import and Export of the Pacific Alliance Member Countries



Source: Congressional Research Service from data as presented in Global Trade Atlas.

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As we can observe in the previous figure, the U.S. is an important trading partner for all of the member countries of the Pacific Alliance. However, it is for Mexico the most important partner as it almost comprises the 50% of Mexico's imports and almost around 80% of its exports in 2013. The principal trading goods are vehicles and its parts as the United States imports those from all the countries of the PA, in addition, the U.S. also imports electrical products, such as television and other accessories. Moreover, it also imports mineral fuels and natural pearls. When it comes to the U.S exports to the Pacific Alliance countries those include nuclear reactors, different kinds of types of machinery, and also mineral fuels and plastics.<sup>41</sup>

So then Pacific Alliance and the United States have very important links, not only by their imports and exports but also because of their economic models that are based on and also because of the free commerce treaties that they have already signed with each other.<sup>42</sup> Thus, the

<sup>40</sup> M Angeles Villarreal (2016). The Pacific Alliance: A Trade Integration Initiative in Latin America. [online] Available at: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43748.pdf> [Accessed 21 Oct. 2020].

<sup>41</sup> M Angeles Villarreal (2016). The Pacific Alliance: A Trade Integration Initiative in Latin America. [online] Available at: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43748.pdf> [Accessed 21 Oct. 2020].

<sup>42</sup> Violante Pica, J. and Jarrín, M.T. eds., (2016). Emerging Markets: The Pacific Alliance. Perspectives and Opportunities fro Latin America. Salamanca: European Institute of International Studies.

Pacific Alliance is a follower of the neoliberal economic model which is promoted by the Washington Consensus.<sup>43</sup> In addition, as we could see before from figure 2., the member states have an important economic and commercial relations already with the U.S.. These strong commercial relations are due to the Monroe Doctrine, as it had political influences on the Latin American countries. The Monroe Doctrine, written on December 2, 1823, by James Monroe declared that the so-called “Old World”, Europe, and the “New World”, the Americas, had different systems and that they should remain in their distinct spheres.<sup>44</sup> He also stated his four basic points which would be the following:

1. *The U.S would not take part in any wars between the European countries*
2. *The U.S recognized and would not interfere with colonies existing in the Western hemisphere.*
3. *The Western Hemisphere was closed to future colonization*
4. *Any attempt by European powers to oppress or control any nation in the Western Hemisphere would be seen as a hostile act against the U.S.*<sup>45</sup>

These points show a start of the common interests between South America and the United States, as they have just been declared independent from the European nations and wanted to have like a common ideology which they could follow. So, any kind of relations, let it be economic, political, or social, between the U.S and the Latin American countries started around 200 years ago. This slowly led to a more complex way of relations, with ups and downs, but nowadays it allows to maintain a strong economic and commercial relations between them, and also between the Pacific Alliance, as all of the members' countries have a great export-import relations with the U.S and mostly Mexico because of its geographical location. Only Mexico receives more than half of the United States' exportations in Latin America and thus, between the other countries of the Pacific Alliance it gives a great advantage when it comes to commercial relations with countries like the U.S and China, which will be discussed in the next part.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Meacham, C. (2013). Why Should the United States Join the Pacific Alliance? [online] [www.csis.org](http://www.csis.org). Available at: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/why-should-united-states-join-pacific-alliance> [Accessed 12 Oct. 2020].

<sup>44</sup> The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica (2019). Monroe Doctrine | History, Elements, & Facts. In: Encyclopædia Britannica. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Monroe-Doctrine>.

<sup>45</sup> The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica (2019). Monroe Doctrine | History, Elements, & Facts. In: Encyclopædia Britannica. [online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Monroe-Doctrine>.

<sup>46</sup> Violante Pica, J. and Jarrín, M.T. eds., (2016). Emerging Markets: The Pacific Alliance. Perspectives and Opportunities fro Latin America. Salamanca: European Institute of International Studies.



To conclude, due to the long history and relations between the United States and South America, most importantly Mexico and the other Pacific Alliance member states, as well as their geographical situation, they were, are and most probably will remain as one of the most important commercial relations of the P.A. countries. As mentioned at the beginning, their main import-export products are part of vehicles, and continuing with these commercial relations would allow a greater development of the economies of these countries.<sup>47</sup>

#### 4.2. The Pacific Alliance and China

When it comes to the relations between the Pacific Alliance and China, figure 2 shows that China is the second most important commercial partner that they have. A great alternative for the Latin American region is also to seek in other parts of the world for investment and commercial relations. Thus, China has become as one of their main ways to find new investors and search for more economic relations. In addition, the late movements of the great economic powers in the world, allow the Pacific Alliance to search for a long-term and favourable relation with countries in the Asian region. One of these, as mentioned before, would be China, which due to the geographical location, could be also favourable for the Pacific Alliance. As also will be mentioned and explained in the next chapter, the members of the Pacific Alliance are searching mostly for economic and commercial partners in the Asian region due to their access to the Pacific Ocean which may represent an important diversification in respect to the United States.<sup>48</sup> In addition, it would also could bring a better and faster development in the region and would also permit a bigger political freedom and security with respect to a financial crisis.<sup>49</sup> This would logically be as, by having a wide range of commercial relations with countries in different regions in the world, between the Asian countries then the trade and the exchange of goods could still continue and even with a bigger flow.<sup>50</sup> Thus, we can see that the Pacific Alliance has an aim to have better economic and commercial relations with the states in the Asian continent, which could lead to a great China-Latin American commerce. For instance, China has been in Latin America, except Mexico, for more than two decades with a strong

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<sup>47</sup> Violante Pica, J. and Jarrín, M.T. eds., (2016). *Emerging Markets: The Pacific Alliance. Perspectives and Opportunities fro Latin America*. Salamanca: European Institute of International Studies.

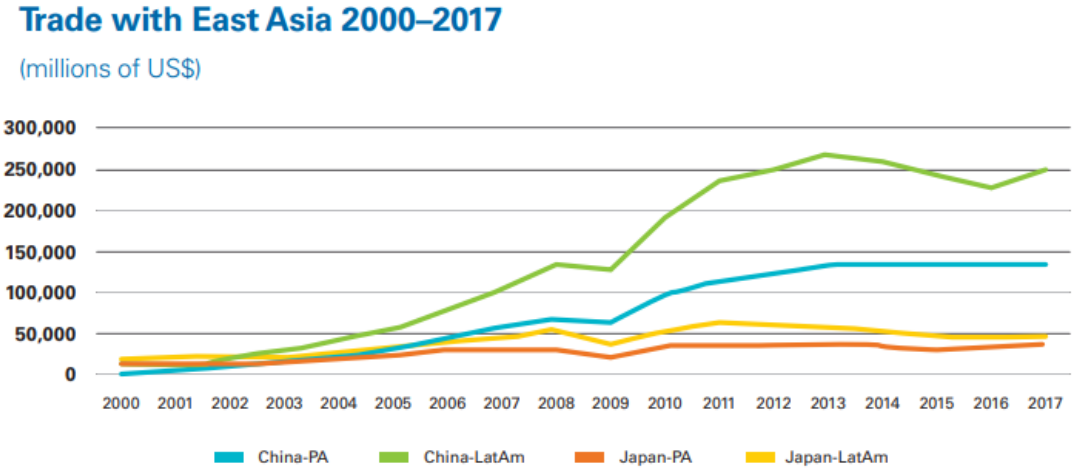
<sup>48</sup> Violante Pica, J. and Jarrín, M.T. eds., (2016). *Emerging Markets: The Pacific Alliance. Perspectives and Opportunities fro Latin America*. Salamanca: European Institute of International Studies.

<sup>49</sup> Violante Pica, J. and Jarrín, M.T. eds., (2016). *Emerging Markets: The Pacific Alliance. Perspectives and Opportunities fro Latin America*. Salamanca: European Institute of International Studies.

<sup>50</sup> Violante Pica, J. and Jarrín, M.T. eds., (2016). *Emerging Markets: The Pacific Alliance. Perspectives and Opportunities fro Latin America*. Salamanca: European Institute of International Studies.

position in economic relations and trade, thus it became one of the main, in the case of Chile the main, commercial relation in 2016.<sup>51</sup>

Figure 5. Trade with East Asia 2000-2017



Source: Creutzfeldt

Focusing on the relations between China and the Pacific Alliance, since its creation in 2011, this has been increasing, but not in a constant way (as seen in figure 3).<sup>52</sup> This was due to the fact that the first years after the creation of the Pacific Alliance, they did not focus as much on China due to the proximity of Mexico to the United States which did not allow a more profound interaction with this Asian country. The main investment from China to the Pacific Alliance countries revolves around the metals and energy.<sup>53</sup> China has shown its willingness to engage mostly by investing between 2008 and 2016, by sending loans and investments initiatives

<sup>51</sup> de la Rosa, R.L. and Dorantes, C.G. (2018). Oportunidades en la interacción económica de la Alianza del Pacífico con la República Popular China a partir del proteccionismo promovido por Estados Unidos en la era Trump. [online] Observatorio de Política China. Available at: <https://politica-china.org/general/oportunidades-en-la-interaccion-economica-de-la-alianza-del-pacifico-con-la-republica-popular-china-a-partir-del-proteccionismo-promovido-por-estados-unidos-en-la-era-trump> [Accessed 23 Nov. 2020].

<sup>52</sup> de la Rosa, R.L. and Dorantes, C.G. (2018). Oportunidades en la interacción económica de la Alianza del Pacífico con la República Popular China a partir del proteccionismo promovido por Estados Unidos en la era Trump. [online] Observatorio de Política China. Available at: <https://politica-china.org/general/oportunidades-en-la-interaccion-economica-de-la-alianza-del-pacifico-con-la-republica-popular-china-a-partir-del-proteccionismo-promovido-por-estados-unidos-en-la-era-trump> [Accessed 23 Nov. 2020].

<sup>53</sup> de la Rosa, R.L. and Dorantes, C.G. (2018). Oportunidades en la interacción económica de la Alianza del Pacífico con la República Popular China a partir del proteccionismo promovido por Estados Unidos en la era Trump. [online] Observatorio de Política China. Available at: <https://politica-china.org/general/oportunidades-en-la-interaccion-economica-de-la-alianza-del-pacifico-con-la-republica-popular-china-a-partir-del-proteccionismo-promovido-por-estados-unidos-en-la-era-trump> [Accessed 23 Nov. 2020].

annually.<sup>54</sup> These direct investments are very important as it is a fundamental thing for the development and growth of a countries' economy. This can be reflected in that the largest investments from China in Latin America can be seen in Chile and Peru as their mine industry is one of the biggest in the South American region. In the case of Mexico and Colombia, the main investment from China is in the energy sector.<sup>55</sup> However, when it comes to the Pacific Alliance altogether, and the future plans and willingness for the Chinese government in order to increase in a great amount the investments, there has been no such amount of increase in the foreign direct investment to the P.A.<sup>56</sup>

To conclude, the economic and commercial relations between the Latin American countries and China has been growing for decades now, as well as it is foreign direct investments. In addition, the trade between these countries has also grown mostly between Chile and China, except Mexico and China, due to the proximity of the first one to the United States. However, since the creation of the Pacific Alliance, there has been no significant increase between the member countries and China as, although the willingness of the latter one, the Pacific Alliance has not given the same amount of focus on them as on the United States.

#### 4.3. The Pacific Alliance and the European Union

As we could observe from the sub-chapters before this one, Latin America is a region dependent on foreign investments and international agreements. In addition, it is situated in a very favourable location, as to the East from it is Europe, to the west is Asia and to the North is North America, and thus, it is in between the world's biggest consumers.<sup>57</sup> For the North American continent, I briefly described the relations between the Pacific Alliance and the United States, for the Asian region China, in this chapter I will discuss ASEAN, and also I will

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<sup>54</sup> Creutzfeldt, B. (2018). China's Engagement with Regional Actors: The Pacific Alliance. [online] Available at: [https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/publication/creutzfeldt\\_pacific\\_alliance\\_final.pdf](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/publication/creutzfeldt_pacific_alliance_final.pdf) [Accessed 23 Nov. 2020].

<sup>55</sup> de la Rosa, R.L. and Dorantes, C.G. (2018). Oportunidades en la interacción económica de la Alianza del Pacífico con la República Popular China a partir del proteccionismo promovido por Estados Unidos en la era Trump. [online] Observatorio de Política China. Available at: <https://politica-china.org/general/oportunidades-en-la-interaccion-economica-de-la-alianza-del-pacifico-con-la-republica-popular-china-a-partir-del-proteccionismo-promovido-por-estados-unidos-en-la-era-trump> [Accessed 23 Nov. 2020].

<sup>56</sup> Creutzfeldt, B. (2018). China's Engagement with Regional Actors: The Pacific Alliance. [online] Available at: [https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/publication/creutzfeldt\\_pacific\\_alliance\\_final.pdf](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/publication/creutzfeldt_pacific_alliance_final.pdf) [Accessed 23 Nov. 2020].

<sup>57</sup> EQUIPO LEGAL AMÉRICA LATINA (2019). Potencial Comercial del Acuerdo entre la UE y Alianza del Pacífico. [online] Biz Latin Hub. Available at: <https://www.bizlatinhub.com/es/comercio-union-europea-alianza-pacifico/> [Accessed 23 Nov. 2020].

introduce the recent economic and commercial relations between the Pacific Alliance and the European Union.

Recently, in the past few years, the Pacific Alliance and the European Union have been establishing stronger links between each other which are viewed positively as it would allow the member states to find a new commercial channel in the European market.<sup>58</sup> In September 2019, in New York, the representative of both regional integrations have met to further discuss the relations between them. They agreed to strengthen their political, economic, and cooperation relations as they share common values as for example, promoting the 2023 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>59</sup> Thus, both the Pacific Alliance as together and each of its member countries would greatly benefit due to these agreements created between them and the European Union. In addition, when it comes to the commerce and market, both of them have agreed to focus on their visions for further integration and free trade and investment. They also agreed to give a greater focus to a greater financial and digital economic integration.<sup>60</sup> What is more, they agreed to promote more the investment in science, technology, and innovation.

The economic relations started to be stronger between the Pacific Alliance and the European Union when in 2017 Donald Trump started its presidency. This was due that he deleted some economic ties with some member countries of the Pacific Alliance. The member states then saw this as an opportunity to diversify in the international market and find new economic partners. This was when, the European Union member counties, by becoming observers, decided to act and help.<sup>61</sup> The meaning behind this relied on Spain, as part of the European Union, as they have the leadership of the export/imports between them and the Pacific Alliance, between the EU member countries. These strong economic relations that exist between Spain and Latin America is not only because of the common language, but also their historical past, which allows them to have economic and social relations for a long time.

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<sup>58</sup> EQUIPO LEGAL AMÉRICA LATINA (2019). Potencial Comercial del Acuerdo entre la UE y Alianza del Pacífico. [online] Biz Latin Hub. Available at: <https://www.bizlatinhub.com/es/comercio-union-europea-alianza-pacifico/> [Accessed 23 Nov. 2020].

<sup>59</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

<sup>60</sup> EQUIPO LEGAL AMÉRICA LATINA (2019). Potencial Comercial del Acuerdo entre la UE y Alianza del Pacífico. [online] Biz Latin Hub. Available at: <https://www.bizlatinhub.com/es/comercio-union-europea-alianza-pacifico/> [Accessed 23 Nov. 2020].

<sup>61</sup> Zavala, X. (2017). The pacific alliance and the European Union | UNO Magazine. [online] Revista UNO. Available at: <https://www.uno-magazine.com/usa-latin-america-relations-trump-era/pacific-alliance-european-union/> [Accessed 29 Oct. 2020].

To conclude, the European Union and the Pacific Alliance has only been starting to build a stronger relationship in the last 4 years. This was due to, as seen in the sub-chapters before, the Pacific Alliance's main export/import country was the United States, and although it still represents the majority of trade for the P.A., since Donald Trump, they started to focus on searching commercial and economic relations with other countries, for example in the European Union. In addition, as most of the member countries of the Pacific Alliance had already some economic, and historical, relations with Spain, this had facilitated the start of a wider agreement between the European Union.

#### 4.4. The Pacific Alliance and other South American integrations

- Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración – ALADI

It is the biggest group of integration in Latin America as it is comprised of thirteen countries. The member countries are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, México, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay, and Venezuela; and altogether they represent 20 million square meters and around 510 million people (2015)<sup>62</sup>. Its main aim and the goal of its creation is to reach a common market in Latin America which can be made through the following ways: to have a regional tariff preference which would be applied to all the products from the member countries; agreements which can be made in the entire region and as well agreements from bordering countries. These agreements can consist of different areas such as agricultural trade, financial trade, taxes, healthcare, preservation of the environment, scientific cooperation, promotion of their tourism and so much more.<sup>63</sup> Similar to the Pacific Alliance, their main goal is to achieve an easier way to trade and improve the commerce within the member countries. However, while in the Pacific Alliance there are four members, and they wish to achieve the free trade by allowing the free movement of goods, services, and people, in the ALADI they only focus to have a regional tariff preference which would be applied to all the products from the member countries.

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<sup>62</sup> Worldbank.org. (2019). GDP (current US\$) | Data. [online] Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?locations=MX> [Accessed 20 Oct. 2020]

<sup>63</sup> Felipa, P.B. (2015). La Importancia De La Alianza Del Pacífico. *Pensamiento Crítico*, 20(2), pp.37–52.

- Mercado Común del Sur – MERCOSUR

Mercosur was created in 1991 as an “open and dynamic progress”. Its main objective has been to promote a common space that generates business and investment opportunities through the competitive integration of national economies into the international market.<sup>64</sup>

Its member countries are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Venezuela and its associate members are Chile, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Guyana, and Suriname. In addition, during the official meetings, the United States of America also takes part in it as a notary. The main ideas of this integration are “Democracy and Economic Development”, what is more, areas as migration, labour, and culture are important parts of MERCOSUR. In order to achieve the “Citizen, Social and Productive Integration” dimension, the MERCOSUR Fund for the Structural Convergence (FOCEM) was created.<sup>65</sup>

Mercosur and the Pacific Alliance have in common that both wish to generate business and investment opportunities for their member countries. However, the Pacific Alliance focuses on the free trade and sustainability first. Another similarity that both of them have in common is that they want to promote the citizen and social integration as well but in different ways.

- Comunidad Andina de Naciones – CAN

It can be described as a community of countries that voluntarily unite in order to aim for an integrational development which is done by the Andean and Latin American integration.<sup>66</sup> Its member countries are Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. These countries have in common that they possess a common history, a very varied geography, cultural diversity, and objectives for their communities, economy, and future. In addition, they have a rich culture, languages and folklore and arts. The different parts of this community have different roles, as the political direction, the external relations which deal with the integrational part and the international meetings and events; and also, the Commission which deals with the execution and evaluation of the politics of integration.<sup>67</sup>

Although the CAN mostly focuses on the help and development of the Andine communities in Latin America, they have in common with the Pacific Alliance in that both want to promote

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<sup>64</sup> MERCOSUR (2018). MERCOSUR Official Website. [online] MERCOSUR. Available at: <https://www.mercosur.int/en/> [Accessed 15 Oct. 2020].

<sup>65</sup> MERCOSUR (2018). MERCOSUR Official Website. [online] MERCOSUR. Available at: <https://www.mercosur.int/en/> [Accessed 15 Oct. 2020]

<sup>66</sup> Felipa, P.B. (2015). La Importancia De La Alianza Del Pacífico. *Pensamiento Crítico*, 20(2), pp.37–52.

<sup>67</sup> Felipa, P.B. (2015). La Importancia De La Alianza Del Pacífico. *Pensamiento Crítico*, 20(2), pp.37–52.

culture and, at the same time, help the local communities by investing and developing small and medium business.

- Unión de Naciones Sudamericanas – UNASUR

UNASUR is an international organism formed by twelve South American countries which include Argentina, Brasil, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Guyana, Paraguay, Suriname, Peru, Venezuela, and Uruguay. Its main aim is to make a space for cultural, social, political, economic integration while respecting each other's countries. Another objective this organism has is that it tries to do all this while trying to destroy the socioeconomic inequalities and making democratic ideas grow in these countries. Even more, objectives were drawn up in the following meetings after the organization was created. Some of these include the social development of the member countries, infrastructure constructions for the integration of the regions, and the financial integration.<sup>68</sup>

Similar to the Pacific Alliance, this Union, try to end poverty and inequalities across South America, as seen in the main tasks chapter. In addition, another common point is that they want to make space for cultural, social, political, economic integration which is also seen in the Pacific Alliance. The only difference is that while UNASUR focuses mostly on the reduction of poverty and inequalities, the Pacific Alliance's main aims are firstly the commercial ones.

To conclude, as we could observe, most of these Latin American integrations have many things in common with the Pacific Alliance. However, while each of them focuses on a different area, the Pacific Alliance tries to focus on all of them.

#### 4.5. Ecuador as a potential new member state of the Pacific Alliance

In 2017, the new president, after Rafael Correa, Lenin Moreno asked the Pacific Alliance if Ecuador could join them in the near future. This decision could not happen before, as Ecuador's former president stated during his presidency that Ecuador will not join the Pacific Alliance until he is in office.<sup>69</sup> However, after Correa, Moreno decided to do differently, and started negotiation with the presidents of the member countries of the Alliance. "*We welcome Ecuador*

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<sup>68</sup> Felipa, P.B. (2015). La Importancia De La Alianza Del Pacífico. *Pensamiento Crítico*, 20(2), pp.37–52.

<sup>69</sup> Aquino, M. (2019). Ecuador to join market-friendly Pacific Alliance under Moreno. Reuters. [online] 6 Jul. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-pacific-alliance-ecuador-idUSKCN1U10P6> [Accessed 4 Oct. 2020].

*and have committed to accelerating procedures for its incorporation as a full member, hoping that in the course of 2019 Ecuador will be a member of the Pacific Alliance,*<sup>70</sup> was the answer of the former Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra upon the request of Moreno.

The consequences of Ecuador joining the Pacific Alliance would be positive from both sides. This is due because, first, Ecuador is already in a close geographical location to the other member countries of the Alliance as it is also in South America. In addition, it would represent a new market opportunity and the country has over 17 million people and thus they would be added to the bloc.<sup>71</sup> Moreover, when it comes to the Culture and social technical Group, they would also fit easily to these conditions as Ecuador share their culture and very similar characteristics altogether with the other four member countries. The inside free trade would also allow the member countries to get greater supply and different kind of products easily and a more convenient price if Ecuador joins the Alliance, which would be a benefit for all of the countries.<sup>72</sup> The presidents of the member states of the Pacific Alliance also mentioned that Ecuador joining would also show that they are open to the world and to the global economy, and that it is successful too.<sup>73</sup> When it comes to the Ad-Hoc Fishing Technical Group, Ecuador could apport to this part of the economy as it is the only country bordering the Pacific Ocean in South America which is not yet a member of the Pacific Alliance. It has around 123, 216 km<sup>2</sup> on the ocean as part of its territory and thus it would mean a better fishery product trade in a global level.<sup>74</sup> As Ecuador has coasts to the Pacific Ocean, it would mean easier transportation to the Asian countries with which the Pacific Alliance has already trading partnerships, as for example China.

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<sup>70</sup> Aquino, M. (2019). Ecuador to join market-friendly Pacific Alliance under Moreno. Reuters. [online] 6 Jul. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-pacific-alliance-ecuador-idUSKCN1U10P6> [Accessed 4 Oct. 2020].

<sup>71</sup> PERÚ, E.P. de S.E.S.A.E. (2019). Pacific Alliance: Addition of Ecuador represents great opportunity. [online] andina.pe. Available at: <https://andina.pe/Ingles/noticia-pacific-alliance-addition-of-ecuador-represents-great-opportunity-758506.aspx> [Accessed 4 Nov. 2020].

<sup>72</sup> PERÚ, E.P. de S.E.S.A.E. (2019). Pacific Alliance: Addition of Ecuador represents great opportunity. [online] andina.pe. Available at: <https://andina.pe/Ingles/noticia-pacific-alliance-addition-of-ecuador-represents-great-opportunity-758506.aspx> [Accessed 4 Nov. 2020].

<sup>73</sup> EFE (2019). La Alianza del Pacífico abre la puerta para incorporar a Ecuador como miembro. [online] ElDiario.es. Available at: [https://www.eldiario.es/politica/alianza-pacifico-incorporar-ecuador-miembro\\_1\\_1449416.html](https://www.eldiario.es/politica/alianza-pacifico-incorporar-ecuador-miembro_1_1449416.html) [Accessed 4 Nov. 2020].

<sup>74</sup> Ardilla, M. (2018). Ecuador y la Alianza del Pacífico: geoestrategia y desafíos | Nueva Sociedad. [online] Nueva Sociedad | Democracia y política en América Latina. Available at: <https://nuso.org/articulo/ecuador-y-la-alianza-del-pacifico-geoestrategia-y-desafios/> [Accessed 4 Nov. 2020].



Other reasons why Ecuador wants to join the Pacific Alliance, apart from its geographical location next to the Ocean which would benefit all of the countries, is that Ecuador believes that it could lead to more international trade partnerships.<sup>75</sup> Ecuador is a small country which has the smallest population compared to the Pacific Alliance member states. By not joining the Alliance would only give disadvantages when it comes to the foreign commerce, as the other countries have a stronger competitive advantage already in Europe and Asia. In case Ecuador joins, it is expected to be around 4 years maximum, this would give potential benefits to the country as it would have access to new markets across the globe.<sup>76</sup>

It is also important to mention that during their negotiations, the presidents of the member states of the Alliance discussed the importance of Ecuador incorporating, while also implementing to their policies the environmental protection. These include the development and implementation of the policies helping the management of waste such as plastic while reducing their use. They also highlighted the importance of reducing the waste in the sea and the ecosystems in which their economies are functioning.<sup>77</sup>

To conclude, Ecuador may be the missing piece for the Pacific Alliance, as if it joins, it all the countries in South America that own a coast to the Pacific Ocean would be already in this regional Alliance. Although it may be a small country, by joining it would lead to many benefits to the other member countries as well due to the free trade agreements and the interchange of knowledge and technologies. In addition, Ecuador would benefit from the new opportunities that it may find on the European and Asian markets.

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<sup>75</sup> Larenas, G., Rubio, J. and Flores, G. (2018). LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO: CONSIDERACIONES POLÍTICO-ECONÓMICAS PARA ECUADOR. Ecuador: DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE INTEGRACIÓN MONETARIA Y FINANCIERA REGIONAL, pp.1–39.

<sup>76</sup> Larenas, G., Rubio, J. and Flores, G. (2018). LA ALIANZA DEL PACÍFICO: CONSIDERACIONES POLÍTICO-ECONÓMICAS PARA ECUADOR. Ecuador: DOCUMENTO TÉCNICO DE INTEGRACIÓN MONETARIA Y FINANCIERA REGIONAL, pp.1–39.

<sup>77</sup> Alfaro, A. (2019b). The Pacific Alliance reaffirms its commitment to integration, sustainable development and free trade – Alianza del Pacífico. [online] The Pacific Alliance. Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/la-alianza-del-pacifico-reafirma-su-compromiso-con-la-integracion-el-desarrollo-sostenible-y-el-libre-comercio/> [Accessed 4 Nov. 2020].

## 5. Comparison with Asian Regional Alliance: ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

In this essay, I will also talk about the relations and future possibilities between the Pacific Alliance and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). I also will compare both of these integrations in order to understand better the current position and stage of the Pacific Alliance. I chose this group of integration in Asia as in 2019 in Jakarta, the Pacific Alliance and ASEAN reaffirmed the growth of their relations, while also planning and implementation of a Work Plan timeline which would allow better trade facilitation, sustainable development, and other forms of renewable energies which both regional integrations will use in the future.<sup>78</sup> In addition, I will compare both of these regional integrations.

For starters, ASEAN was founded in August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand by signing the ASEAN Declaration or Bangkok Declaration by its principal countries Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore. Compared to the Pacific Alliance, this association has a larger past and thus it can be deduced that more experience in the international economic area as well as the regional integration part. The following joining countries of the ASEAN were Brunei (1984), Lao and Myanmar (1997), and Cambodia (1999).<sup>79</sup> While the PA only has currently four member states, some with a future possibility of joining as mentioned above, the ASEAN has more member states which also shows the past and the advantages of this association.

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<sup>78</sup> ASEAN | ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY. (2019). ASEAN, Pacific Alliance reaffirm commitment to enhance relations. [online] Available at: <https://asean.org/asean-pacific-alliance-reaffirm-commitment-enhance-relations/> [Accessed 10 Oct. 2020].

<sup>79</sup> ASEAN | ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY. (2015). About ASEAN - ASEAN | ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY. [online] Available at: <https://asean.org/asean/about-asean/> [Accessed 25 Oct. 2020].

Figure 6. Map of ASEAN



*Source: Canada West Foundation*

The main aims and purposes of the ASEAN stated in their first declarations are the followings:

1. To aim a fast growth in their economies and social and cultural development in their member states by joining together in an equal way and strengthen each other.
2. Consequently, promote peace in the region as well as stability by adhering to the principles of the United Nations Charter.
3. Also, to encourage the collaboration between its member states to help each other in matters as in the social, economic, cultural, and technical ways.
4. To assist each other in the ways of researching and training of its people in the professional and technical fields within others.
5. To support and collaborate in the planning of the better utilization of their agriculture and industries by expanding their trade and improving fields such as their transportation system and communication facilities. This will eventually lead to the growth of the living standards of their population.
6. Also, to promote South Asian studies
7. Finally, to cooperate with other international and regional organizations<sup>80</sup>

We can compare by the information mentioned before of the Pacific Alliance, these two regional alliances. As mentioned in the first point of the declarations of the ASEAN, it aims for

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<sup>80</sup> ASEAN | ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY. (2015). About ASEAN - ASEAN | ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY. [online] Available at: <https://asean.org/asean/about-asean/> [Accessed 25 Oct. 2020].

the growth of the economies of their countries while also developing their culture and social background. These same aims can be found in the Declaration of Lima, as they mention that by doing these, they want to decrease poverty and increase the livelihood of their citizens while growing the economy of their countries. Also, as mentioned in the chapters before, there is a technical group just for this working area, called Development and Social Inclusion which focuses especially on the better well-being of its citizens while also to boosting the sustainable development and overcoming the economic inequality of their countries. The second point of the ASEAN declaration mentions that they want to achieve peace while adhering to the UN Charter principles. The PA also promotes the peaceful cooperation of their countries is it is one of their bases for their integration. Another common point that both ASEAN and PA have is that they want to encourage the collaboration between its member states to help each other the social, economic, cultural, and technical ways between others. The Pacific Alliance has also many technical groups for these themes, such as the ones which focus on the education of their citizens by offering exchange opportunities, this can involve interchanging knowledge about the economy and technical innovational matters. In addition, they founded the technical group of culture which only focuses on educating and celebrating the culture of their own citizens while also exchanging cultural knowledge. The point five of the ASEAN declaration mentions that they also have as an aim to collaborate and support each other in the industries and agriculture of their member states which would lead eventually to the growth of the living standards of their citizens. Also, as mentioned in the previous chapters, the Pacific Alliance cooperates in many economic fields between its members, such as agriculture, tourism, fishery, and their other industries. Their aim is to exchange knowledge and technologies in order to have an equal way of producing goods and also a good way of transportation routes between these countries. With these, they would not only increase the GDP of their countries but also by giving more knowledge and better technologies to the people, for example, in the agricultural sector, they would increase the living standards of their people. Finally, point seven also mentions that ASEAN aims to cooperate with other international organizations, which its true for the Pacific Alliance as well as they collaborate with other organizations in Latin America and in North America, and of course, they initiated discussion with ASEAN too.

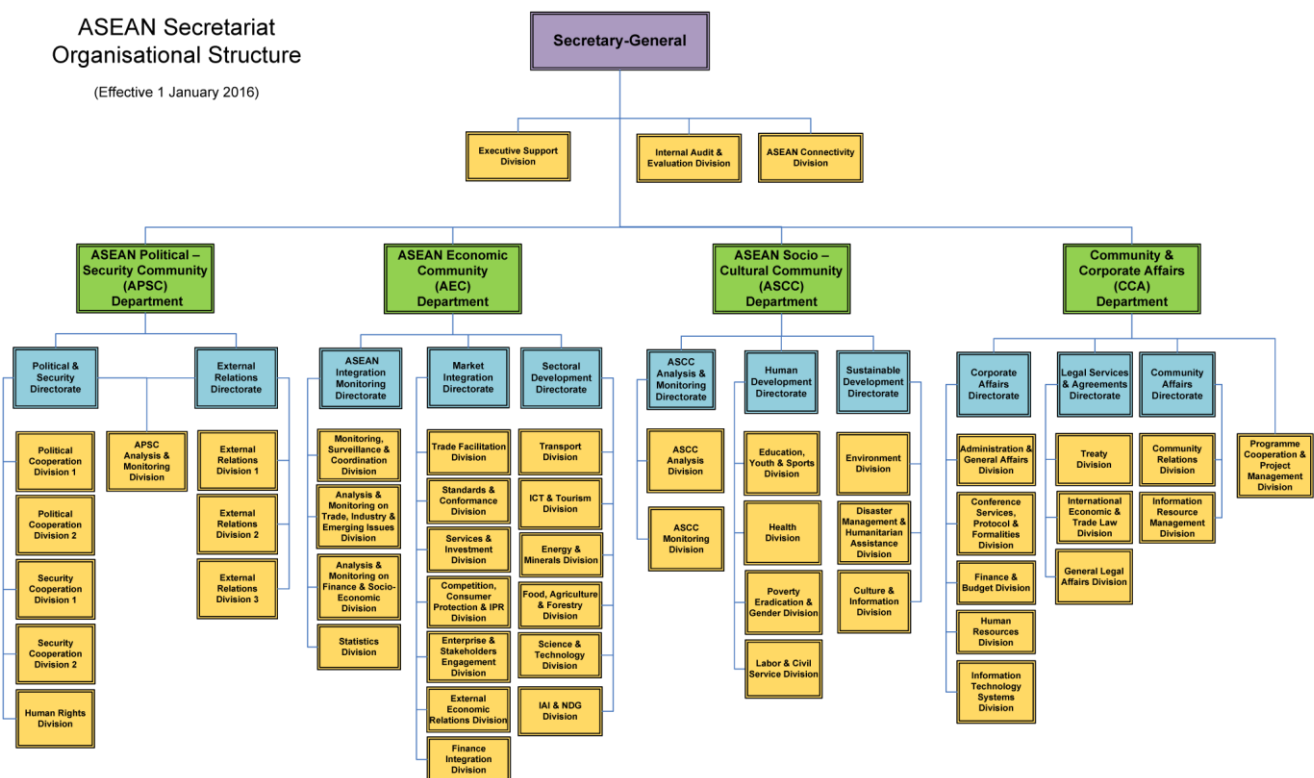
ASEAN stated in their first Declaration in 1967 the fundamental principles that are contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). These principles are the following six ones:

1. *Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of all nations.*
2. *The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion, or coercion;*
3. *Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another;*
4. *Settlement of differences or disputes by a peaceful manner;*
5. *Renunciation of the threat or use of force; and*
6. *Effective cooperation among themselves.*<sup>81</sup>

Similarly, the Pacific Alliance has some of these in common as the mutual respect for each other while cooperating as well.

Another point that would help to understand better the similarities and differences between the two of these regional alliances could be done by comparing their structures.

Figure 7. Structure of ASEAN



Source: ASEAN | ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY. (2015).

<sup>81</sup> ASEAN | ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY. (2015). About ASEAN - ASEAN | ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY. [online] Available at: <https://asean.org/asean/about-asean/> [Accessed 25 Oct. 2020].

By comparing figure 2 and figure 7, we can state that as the ASEAN has a longer history, as it was founded in 1967, while the Pacific Alliance in 2011, it has a bigger and more complex structure. Apart from this, we can observe that while the Pacific Alliance has its technical groups which deal with most of the different fields in the regional alliance and its under supervision of the Group of High level, the ASEAN consists of different departments and all under the direct control of the Secretary-General. In addition, while the Pacific Alliance has many technical groups, the ASEAN focuses on the fields with different departments, which have under their control other subgroups. ASEAN's departments are divided into four with names as Political-Security Community, Economic Community, Cultural Community, and Community and Cooperation affairs.

Another thing that we need to mention when comparing these two alliances is their history. As mentioned previously, because the ASEAN was founded in 1967 and the Pacific Alliance only in 2011, it has a longer history, and maybe even more experience than the P.A. While, for the Pacific Alliance the idea of creating this regional integration came from former Peruvian president Alan García, in order to establish a political, economic and social integration for the growth and competitiveness of their member countries, the ASEAN was founded by the ministers of external relations from the founding countries. These Asian countries wanted to search for a common vision which was described as “One vision, one identity, one community.”<sup>82</sup> This was important as back then, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia were having some disputes and this would lead to their eventual peace between each other, as they believed it was time for a reconciliation and cooperation in order to achieve a better economic environment in their countries.

Next, but not least, it should also be mentioned the achievements of both ASEAN and the Pacific Alliance until 2019. For the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in 1995 they have signed an accord to declare the ASEAN zone as free of nuclear weapons and to promote peace in their region. Later, they also started to discuss and coordinate about the free trade, such as for the products and services which successfully during the following years it almost increased until 95%. This was due to the establishment of the ASEAN economic community (AEC) in

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<sup>82</sup> Londoño Echeverry, B.A. (2018). Estudio Comparativo entre los Modelos de Integración de la ASEAN y la Alianza del Pacífico. [MSc Thesis] p.42. Available at: <https://repository.urosario.edu.co/bitstream/handle/10336/18448/Londo%C3%B1oEcheverry-BernardoAndr%C3%A9s-2018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> [Accessed 27 Nov. 2020].

2015 which allowed around 662 million people to offer a free market.<sup>83</sup> When it comes to the Pacific Alliance, instead of focusing on the peace field, as they have not been having any kind of violent disputes over the last decades within each other, they focused in 2014 on giving more opportunities to economic operators, especially to the small and medium enterprises.<sup>84</sup> They also had as an aim the promotion of trade in different regions of the world, focusing on the countries in the Pacific Asia.<sup>85</sup> In addition, the MILA (Mercado Integrado Latinoamericano) or in English the Latin American Integration Market, was created in order to promote the financial integration and cooperative integration within the member countries of the Pacific Alliance. Another important area that has been an important achievement and needs to be mentioned is the Platform of Academic and Student Mobility which was mentioned in the chapter of Main tasks and working areas of the Alliance. Since its creation the Pacific Alliance has given out around 850 scholarships (until 2018).<sup>86</sup>

Lastly, I will mention some of the future perspectives of development that both of these regional alliances have. For the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, they have a master Plan for connectivity 2025, which would try to give all their citizens' internet connection, and thus they also want to achieve digital innovation in their businesses and education.<sup>87</sup> Furthermore, to help the growth of their economies, they are planning to have a sustainable infrastructure for transportation and housing which would lead to a better logistics, which is another of the aim for the future. Lastly, they want to achieve the free movement of people, which would also allow the growth of their economy and innovative knowledge by exchanging knowledge as well. When it comes to the Pacific Alliance, as it was formed recently in 2011, they have more perspectives and plans for the future than ASEAN until 2030. Some of these are the following:

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<sup>83</sup> Londoño Echeverry, B.A. (2018). Estudio Comparativo entre los Modelos de Integración de la ASEAN y la Alianza del Pacífico. [MSc Thesis] p.42. Available at: <https://repository.urosario.edu.co/bitstream/handle/10336/18448/Londo%c3%b1oEcheverry-BernardoAndr%c3%a9s-2018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> [Accessed 27 Nov. 2020].

<sup>84</sup> Londoño Echeverry, B.A. (2018). Estudio Comparativo entre los Modelos de Integración de la ASEAN y la Alianza del Pacífico. [MSc Thesis] p.42. Available at: <https://repository.urosario.edu.co/bitstream/handle/10336/18448/Londo%c3%b1oEcheverry-BernardoAndr%c3%a9s-2018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> [Accessed 27 Nov. 2020].

<sup>85</sup> Pacific Alliance. (2018). Alianza del Pacífico. – El poder de la integración. [online] Available at: <https://alianzapacifico.net/en/> [Accessed 12 Aug. 2020].

<sup>86</sup> Londoño Echeverry, B.A. (2018). Estudio Comparativo entre los Modelos de Integración de la ASEAN y la Alianza del Pacífico. [MSc Thesis] p.42. Available at: <https://repository.urosario.edu.co/bitstream/handle/10336/18448/Londo%c3%b1oEcheverry-BernardoAndr%c3%a9s-2018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> [Accessed 27 Nov. 2020].

<sup>87</sup> ASEAN | ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY. (2015). About ASEAN - ASEAN | ONE VISION ONE IDENTITY ONE COMMUNITY. [online] Available at: <https://asean.org/asean/about-asean/> [Accessed 25 Oct. 2020].

- Global integration, focusing on the Asian Pacific
- To become the sixth economy of the world
- Complete free movement of product within their member states
- To triple the exports from their quantity from 2014
- Implement a logistic platform for the international commerce
- Create a unique digital market
- Eliminate work visas
- Equal and acceptable university diplomas in all of their countries<sup>88</sup>

To conclude, as we can observe from the information mentioned above, the main difference between these two regional alliances is the dates when they were created. This is because the ASEAN has had several decades to achieve some of the objectives that it has in common with the Pacific Alliance, while the Pacific Alliance has had less than a decade for this. And thus, also the future perspective of both will be different as in the future, Pacific Alliance will try to achieve some of the things that ASEAN has already achieved before. In addition, while the ASEAN was created in order to achieve peace within its member states, the Pacific Alliance's creation was due to that they believed in the free movement of goods, services, and people and the integration of their economies.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> Londoño Echeverry, B.A. (2018). Estudio Comparativo entre los Modelos de Integración de la ASEAN y la Alianza del Pacífico. [MSc Thesis] p.42. Available at: <https://repository.urosario.edu.co/bitstream/handle/10336/18448/Londo%C3%B1oEcheverry-BernardoAndr%C3%A9s-2018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> [Accessed 27 Nov. 2020].

<sup>89</sup> Blog de Derecho de los Negocios. (2017). Paralelismos entre la Alianza del Pacífico y la ASEAN. [online] Available at: <https://dernegocios.uexternado.edu.co/integracion/paralelismos-entre-la-alianza-del-pacifico-y-la-asean/> [Accessed 30 Oct. 2020].



## 6. Conclusion

Overall, for this thesis, I have tried to summarize all the necessary information in order to allow us to understand better the Pacific Alliance as a regional integration. Starting this essay with a brief explanation of the main event which led to the foundation of the Pacific Alliance, the Declaration of Lima. This was signed during the summit of Lima on the 28th of April 2011 by the presidents of Colombia, Chile, Mexico, and Peru. Also, as stated in the Declaration, the representatives discussed about this integration area as a political and economic process of cooperation in Latin America which has as the main aim the movement towards the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people. This also comprises the definition of the Pacific Alliance, as it was built in the principles stated during the Declaration of Lima in 2011. Next, I briefly explained the significance of a regional integration. This is a process in which the member countries agree to cooperate in order to achieve wealth, economic stability in peace. Usually, the process consists of slowly removing the trade barriers between the countries, integrating in a political and economic way. The final part of this process would consist of custom unions and the adoption of a common currency managed by a monetary policy by only one central bank. In the next chapter, I explained the main tasks and working areas of the alliance which helped to better understand the main aims of the Alliance stated in the Declaration of Lima and how these are being met. The Pacific Alliance has founded some technical groups which are under the supervision of the Group of High Level, see figure 2. This help, as I mentioned before the achievement of the aims set by the presidents of the member countries. As I mention in this chapter, some of these technical groups are the Ad hoc Fishing Group, Finances, Gender, and Innovation within others. In addition, I explained the importance of these for the Pacific Alliance and what they want to achieve with these Technical groups.

In the following chapter, I focused to explain more deeply the international relations that the Pacific Alliance had since its creation. As the limit of words for this thesis did not allow me to explain all of the countries with which they have any types of relations, I chose one country from each of the continents near the Pacific Alliance. I chose the United States and Northern country, the European Union as from the East side, and China from the Westside, and having in the middle the Pacific Ocean, in order to explain some economic relations. Due to the Monroe Doctrine and that as Mexico is a bordering country to them, the United States of America is one of the principal trading countries that the Pacific Alliance has since the beginning of its creation. As seen in figure 3, the current trade is more the 50% for the Pacific Alliance with the United

States. This shows how much they rely on them. However, as later explained in the European Union sub-chapter, these relations have been deteriorating with time since the presidency of Donald Trump. From this point on, although the United States is still the main trading partner for the Pacific Alliance, a stronger focus has been put on the discussions between them and the European Union in order to strengthen ties as for the trade one. This has also been easier as, similarly to the relations with the United States, Spain for example has a rich historical and trading past with many countries in Latin America and mostly with the ones which are current members of the Pacific Alliance. In addition, the European Union and the Pacific Alliance not only share a similar structure, for example when it comes to the free trade agreements between their member countries, but also their ideologies are similar and thus they agreed to cooperate and help each other in sectors such as the innovation and sustainable development. The third country that I mentioned in my essay is China, which also plays an important role as the second main trading country, also seen in figure 3. China has had strong economic relations ties mostly with Peru and Chile, however since the Pacific Alliance it has also grown with Colombia and Mexico. Because of their geographical position, as they have the Pacific Ocean between them, the transportation of goods is made easier. Due to this and because the Pacific Alliance wants to mainly focus on their opportunities in those regions of the world, the economic relations with China are not only strong now, but it shows many opportunities for their future as well.

In the last two chapters, I tried to focus on the comparison part of my essay, as I tried to show differences and similarities with some other integration forms between the Pacific Alliance, other South American integrations, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN). As read in the South American integration chapters, there have been many integration forms in Latin America as ALADI, MERCOSUR, or CAN. The first two tried to improve the economy of their countries by promoting a similar ideology set by the Pacific Alliance, as the free trade or cooperating with each other in fields such as innovation and development. However, due to crises and many misunderstandings during their years, these were not as successful. The other one CAN, Community of Andean Nations, has also similarities to the Pacific Alliance when it comes to the culture and the promotion of improvement and development in the small and medium enterprises, while helping their people to get out of poverty. For the last chapter, I decided to make a comparison of the Pacific Alliance with another regional alliance. I chose one in Asia, the ASEAN or Association of Southeast Asian Nations, because I mentioned before, the Pacific Alliance tries to focus on obtaining trading relations with countries on the other side of the Pacific Ocean. The main differences that I found between these two regional

integrations is that because one the ASEAN was founded in 1967 and the Pacific Alliance only in 2011, this gives several decades of an advantage when it comes to achieving the main goals and aims put at the beginning of their creation. Another important piece of information to mention is that while the ASEAN was found in order to achieve stability and peace within its member states, the Pacific Alliance was created for a political and economic purpose.

To conclude, this essay allows people to better understand the history of the Pacific Alliance and its development in the years following its creation. Due to historical ties that the member countries, Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Mexico, have with other countries, allowed them to have a strong base for economic and commercial relations. In addition, they also try to focus on the Pacific Ocean as their main route of transportation, and thus, they also are forming strong relations with other Asian countries and alliances, such as China, Japan, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The Pacific Alliance since its creation has shown the other countries around the globe that they have created a strong ideology and aims which if met, can help them to become the sixth economy of the world.

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