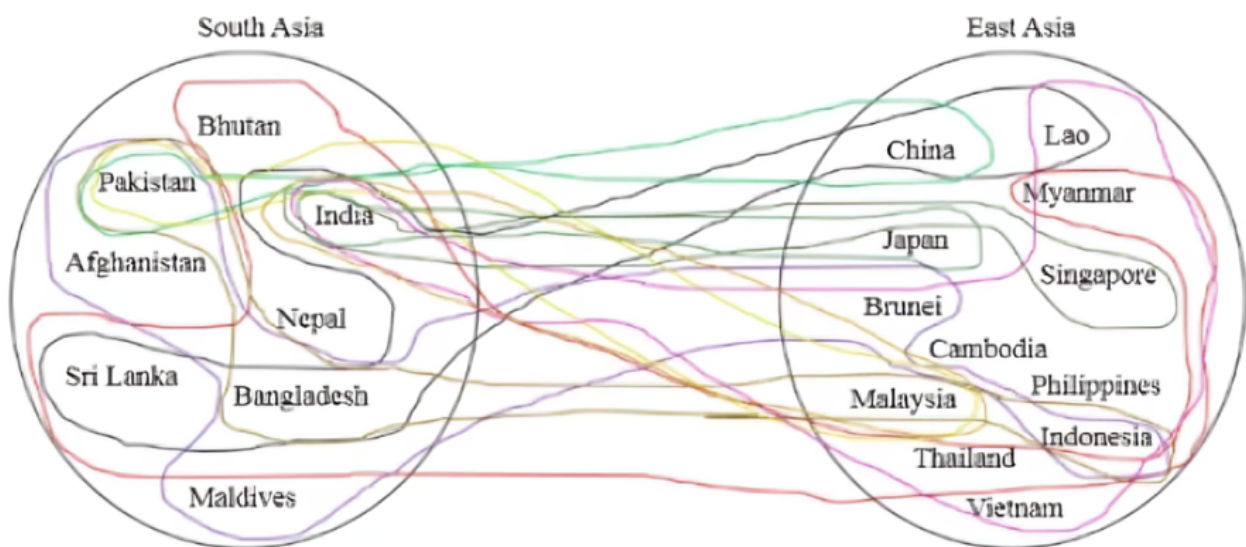




## Spaghetti Bowl Phenomenon

The turmoil over regional trade policies and proliferating [Free Trade Agreements \(FTAs\)](#) reignited discussions on the **Spaghetti bowl phenomenon**.

- According to the [World Bank](#), the Spaghetti Bowl Phenomenon refers to the confusing and overlapping network of **multiple FTAs between countries**, which end up complicating trade instead of facilitating it.
  - As each FTA comes with its own set of **Rules of Origin (ROO)**, which makes it challenging for producers to meet the varied criteria when trading across multiple FTAs.
  - The term "**Spaghetti Bowl Phenomenon**" was coined by **Jagdish Bhagwati in 1995**, where he criticized FTAs for being counterproductive, complicating global trade rather than promoting openness.
  - The "**spaghetti**" metaphor compares the tangle of trade rules to a bowl of spaghetti (messy and hard to navigate).
- **Impact:** Despite more FTAs, trade volumes between regions (like South Asia and East Asia) often remain stagnant due to this complexity.



Depicting Spaghetti Bowl

Read more: [Reviewing Free Trade Agreements](#)

