

## GEOGRAPHICAL IMPORTANCE AND DOMINANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

Gayettri Dixit\*

### ABSTRACT

*South Africa is socially and economically most developed country in the African continent especially in the financial services, transport, infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and technological research. South Africa joined the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) as founding member in 1980. South Africa has greater control over the economies of neighboring countries in the SADC and also exercises hegemony within the region. It has demonstrated the main critical dimensions attributable to hegemon states, for instance, that of military, economic status, technology and infrastructure. The present study has argued that South Africa's hegemony is increasingly becoming benign rather than belligerent since the prevailing circumstances do not warrant the existence of the latter. The involvement of South Africa in the structures and its pioneering leadership inhibit the potential to exhibit the gross hegemonic behaviour. The paper argues evolution of South Africa into a benign hegemon within the SADC.*

**Keywords:** Export, hegemonic behaviour, Southern African Development Community(SADC).

### INTRODUCTION

To understand the importance and dominance of South Africa in SADC, it is essential to discuss the geographical location of South Africa which puts the country geo-politically in an advantageous position as compared to the other countries belonging to the same regional grouping. The Republic of South Africa is situated at the southern tip of the African continent. It occupies the area stretching from the Limpopo River in the north to Cape Agulhas in the south. South Africa stretches latitudinally between 22°S-35°S and longitudinally between 17°E-33°E.<sup>1</sup> To the north, South Africa has common boundaries with Namibia to the north-west, The Republic of Botswana and Zimbabwe to the north, while the Republic of Mozambique and The Kingdom of Swaziland lie to the north-east. The Kingdom of Lesotho is the only country in African continent which is completely enclosed or surrounded by South African territory, lying within the eastern part of the Republic. The Tropic of Capricorn passes as far as latitude 34°51'S. The Republic covers a total area of 1,219,080 square kilometer (470,689 Square Miles).<sup>2</sup> The country's coastline covers some 2,968 kilometers. The southernmost point of Africa is Cape Agulhas, located in the Western Cape Province about 100 mi (161 km) southeast of the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.<sup>3</sup>

South Africa's location has had a great influence on many aspects of its geography and development. Major resources of South Africa are mining, agriculture, food stuffing and energy. South Africa holds the world's largest reserves of manganese ores, chromium, platinum group metals, vanadium, gold and Alumina-Silicates. Mining is the single most important source of foreign exchange earnings and it provides more than 25% of all income earned by South Africa. In South Africa, the growth in real value-added by the mining sector decelerated steadily from 4% in 2003 to 2.75% in 2004 and 2.5 % in 2005. The downward trend in annual growth in the real value-added by the

---

\*Dr. Gayettri Dixit is a Doctoral Scholar at the Centre for African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-110067.  
E-Mail: gayettridixit@gmail.com

mining sector reflected the lower output of gold and subdued growth in diamond, coal and platinum production.<sup>4</sup> The Witwatersrand Basin hosts considerable portion of the world's gold reserves, as well as uranium and silver. It yields around 96% of South Africa's gold output. The Bushveld Complex in the North West and Mpumalanga province contains more than half of the world's chrome ore and platinum group metals. It also contains ores of vanadium, iron, titanium, copper, nickel and fluorspar. The Transvaal System contains more than 80% of the world's manganese ores and also hosts large amounts of iron ore, while Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-provinces has extensive coal and anthracite deposits.<sup>5</sup> South Africa's diverse climate permits the cultivation of a wide range of crops, even though only 13% of the land surface is suitable for arable farming, owing largely to inadequate or erratic rainfall, and only 11% of the total land area, or 132,000 sq km. is under major crops. South Africa has a dual agricultural economy: a well-developed commercial sector and a predominantly subsistence-oriented sector in the traditionally settled rural areas. In monetary terms, agriculture's share in the economy has long since been outstripped by those of the mining and secondary industry. Corn, wheat, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables; beef, poultry, mutton, wool, dairy products etc. are major agriculture products of South Africa.

**Table 1 :GDP by kind of economic activity at current prices, South Africa, Million rand, 1980-2011**

Industrial Activity	YEAR							
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Agriculture	39 490	37 402	45 351	53 833	60 547	63 655	58 644	63 984
Mining and Quarrying	91 198	105 992	132 301	156 970	196 525	196 521	227 117	260 381
Manufacturing	243 967	259 101	274 502	304 438	340 623	331 702	332 470	357 756
Electricity, Gas and Water	30 176	33 010	36 946	41 783	45 902	60 402	71 403	78 532
Construction	32 039	38 558	46 158	56 908	72 221	86 522	102 801	120 420
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Restaurants & hotels	176 445	195 012	215 831	238 910	271 489	298 511	342 750	386 430
Transport and Communication	124 786	139 472	153 775	164 467	189 782	199 276	203 673	220 060
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Activities	261 285	295 504	339 311	405 520	438 629	464 846	522 048	565 224
General Government Services	190 563	208 561	230 116	259 802	298 704	338 903	385 307	434 224
Other Services	80 651	88 455	98 028	109 445	118 785	134 174	166 277	183 493
<b>GDP at Factor Cost/Basic Prices</b>	<b>12,70,600</b>	<b>14,01,067</b>	<b>15,72,319</b>	<b>17,92,076</b>	<b>20,33,207</b>	<b>21,74,512</b>	<b>24,12,490</b>	<b>26,70,504</b>
Net Taxes on products	144 673	170 015	195 103	224 109	229 295	223 643	248 944	293 757
<b>GDP at Market/Purchasers Prices</b>	<b>1 415 273</b>	<b>1 571 082</b>	<b>1 767 422</b>	<b>2 016 185</b>	<b>2 262 502</b>	<b>2 398 155</b>	<b>2 661 434</b>	<b>2 964 261</b>
(Source: National Statistics Office, South Africa, September 2012)								

## SOUTH AFRICA'S RELATION WITH THE SADC COUNTRIES

South Africa is socially and economically most developed country in the African continent especially in the financial services, transport, infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and technological research. South Africa has greater control over the economies of neighboring countries, which includes the movement of travelers and freight. Over 62% transit traffic from land locked countries moves through SADC ports. The consequence of transport dependency for the SADC is more crucial than those of trade dependency. South Africa's mineral resources are outstanding in their quality, quantity and variety as compared to all other countries' natural resources.

A numbers of SADC countries share South Africa's transport network, manufacturing industry, labour market, scientific and technical expertise, as well as their capital resources.<sup>6</sup> Geographical location of southern region of South Africa is more sustainable for transportation infrastructure and it is well-developed and supports both domestic and regional needs. Long distance between harbors and inland urban centers necessitate a well-developed transport system. The country's transport system provides a reliable bulk trade link with the outside world for at least six land-locked countries in the region with other countries of the world. These are Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe which make use of South Africa's transport system. The country's coastline covers some 2,968 kilometers of the subcontinent and has six major ports. Major shipping lanes pass along the South African coastline in the South Atlantic and Indian oceans. Approximately 96 % of the country's exports are conveyed by sea, and the seven commercial ports are the conduits for trade between South Africa and its southern African partners as well as hubs for traffic to and fro Europe, Asia, the Americas and the east and west coasts of Africa.<sup>7</sup>

The sub continental railway system is largely an extension of the South African grid. There are also pipelines conveying liquid cargo from Durban in South Africa and Beira in Mozambique to the interior. South African Airways (SAA) provide air services for the transportation of passengers, mainland cargo between the main business centers and SADC countries.<sup>8</sup> South Africa has the highest population growth rate in the world (3.1% a year) and the lowest average rate of economic development. Hundreds of migrant workers make their way to South Africa every year mainly from Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, and Swaziland. In recent years more than 1.2 million migrant workers and daily commuters from neighbouring countries were legally employed in South Africa at any one time. Thousands more are unconventionally employed or self-employed in South Africa.<sup>9</sup> South Africa's national power utility, Eskom, provides more than 50% of the electricity generated on the entire continent of Africa and export electricity to all neighbouring countries. South Africa is a natural partner for power utilities in Southern and Central Africa in the establishment and operation of a power grid which will allow optimal utilization of the rich energy sources of the subcontinent through the import and export of electricity. Bulk supply agreement with utilities in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe incorporate the principles of independent action, underpinned by coordinated planning of expansion and cooperation for the benefit of the entire region.<sup>10</sup> The largest water supply scheme ever undertaken in Africa is the Lesotho Highlands Water Project- a joint venture of the South African and Lesotho governments. The project will also be a source of electricity for Lesotho, which stands to benefit from income generated through the transfer of its surplus water to South Africa.<sup>11</sup> South Africa plays a significant role in supplying energy, relief aid, transport, communications and outward investment on the SADC country. South Africa's industrial production growth is well above the average for developing markets. South Africa's manufacturing and technological research and quality standards are world-renowned. The country has developed a number of leading technologies, particularly in the fields of energy and fuels, steel production, deep-level mining, telecommunications and information technology.

## **DOMINANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA IN SADC**

South Africa's dominant position in the region arises from the size, experiences and operational capability of its security force. The economic superiority is another reason for its dominant position in the Southern African region. There is no doubt that membership of South Africa in SADC is giving a major boost to regional integration efforts by enhancing the regional market. The most important factor determining the nature of Southern African regionalism is South Africa's absolute dominance of the region and how to manage that dominance. Typically, in South Africa exists a core area that serves as the hub for the activities of the functional region, which is united by lines of communication to lesser nodes of activity located in the hinterland. The core area generally dominates the hierarchy of nodes. Southern Africa may be viewed as a functional region defined by a rail transport system that extends from Cape Town as far north as Zaire.<sup>12</sup>

The spatial configuration of development of South Africa established by a particular blend of colonialism, capitalism and apartheid destabilization is characterized by intense inequality. In 1998, 73 % of the total GDP of SADC was produced in South Africa. Not surprisingly, therefore, South Africa dominates completely intra-regional trade. As a result of the Republic's relatively sophisticated manufacturing sector, it is in a very good position to export a wide variety of consumer and producer goods to a region that, with the exception of Zimbabwe, lacks

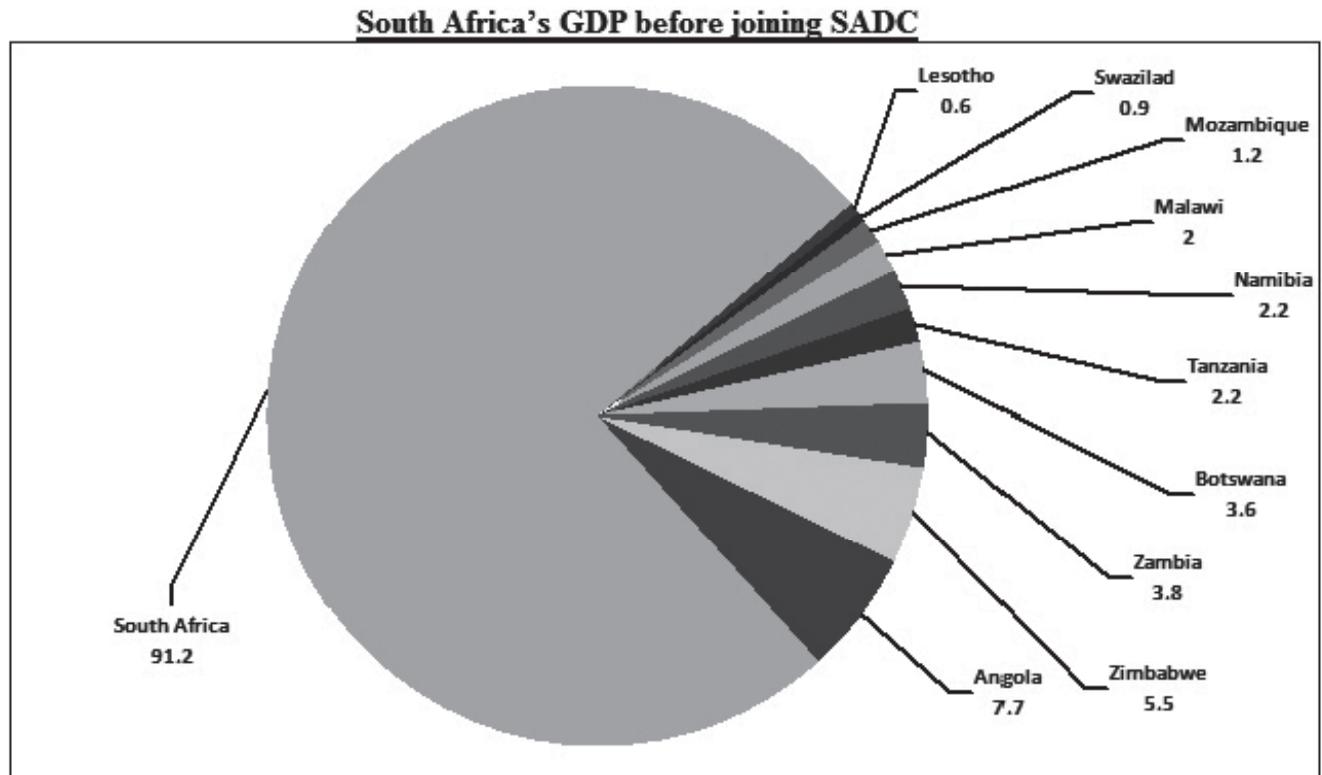
a developed industrial economy. Southern Africa's striking inequalities and South Africa's hegemonic position within the sub-continent highlight the need for regional integration to incorporate some form of redistributive and compensatory mechanism that favour the least developed. Clearly, the potential for conflict between those forces advocating affirmative action assisting underdeveloped countries and those advocating open regionalism based on comparative advantage is considerable.<sup>13</sup> South Africa has demonstrated a willingness to invest in the economies of other countries. The first, non-uniform trade regulations in the SADC countries in many cases proved to be a main stumbling obstruction for increased intra-regional trade. Second, the poor transport infrastructure in the region nullified the geographical benefits of the region. Third, the poor communication infrastructure is again a draw back and is affecting trade relations in the SADC region.<sup>14</sup>

## GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY OF SOUTH AFRICA TOWARDS SADC

After the collapse of apartheid, South Africa wants to continue to hold a dominant position in the external trade of several Southern African countries. In the mid-1980s, trade with South Africa accounted for over 90% of the imports of Swaziland and Lesotho and more than 35% of their exports. South Africa was also the largest trading partner of Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. The imposition of economic sanctions against South Africa had no effect on trade within SACU.<sup>15</sup> Post-apartheid South Africa involved in SADC, because South Africa wanted to explore its market in SADC and also wanted to secure its regional security and economic integration like SADC institution. Therefore, South Africa became member of SADC. In 1985, trade flows between South Africa and the SADC countries exceeded intra-SADC transactions by 4:1. It is estimated that in 1990, SADC members sent 30 % of their imports sourced in the Republic of South Africa. SADC members in SACU, the BLS countries and Namibia, make up a large proportion of this percentage. The SADC's export of merchandise and services to SADC destinations more than doubled between 1984 and 1987, underlining the importance of SADC market for South Africa's manufacturing industry. The constraints acting against any increase in regional trade are a lack of tradable goods and services, similarity, if not uniformity, of products and serious payment and foreign exchange problem in most SADC member states.<sup>16</sup> Although these relations came under strain during the period of conflict in the 1980s, the essential regionality of Southern Africa has remained intact. The programmes and policies of the SADC, as it then was, while aiming to reduce dependence on South Africa, "were premised on strengthening co-operation among member states, and the degree to which ties with South Africa were reduced was actually very modest."<sup>17</sup> The second reality is that Southern African regional economy is characterized by acute structural imbalances and great unevenness and disparities.

**Before Joining SADC:** In the beginning of the 1990s South Africa remained an important trading partner for all SADCC states except Angola and Tanzania. According to the Development Bank of South Africa (1990), South African imports dominated the markets of Lesotho and Swaziland (both 90 per cent) and Namibia (75 per cent), and were the single most important source of Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. SADCC was not able to reduce its dependence on South Africa. In addition, Pretoria's policy of regional destabilization enforced SADCC's dependence on South Africa.<sup>18</sup> The SADCC being a new organization almost immediately faced opposition from various quarters. The greatest opposition came from the white minority regime of South Africa. This was quite expected because the white regime could not relish the idea of the black state of the Southern Africa trying to free themselves from its economic clutches.

Moreover, the establishment of the SADCC sought to nullify the efforts of the white minority regime of South Africa to launch arrival organization, the Constellation of Southern African States (CONSAS) which would have fortified the dependency relations between the black states and South Africa. Enraged by the establishment of the SADCC, South Africa launched a devastating campaign of military aggressions and economic and political destabilization in the region, targeted mainly at the region's transport facilities. South African troops occupied Southern Angola. South Africa encouraged, armed and supported rebel movements in Angola, Mozambique and elsewhere in the region; South African commandos were active in a terror campaign of murder and destruction in the neighbouring countries.<sup>19</sup> As in trade relations, the SADCC states depend on South African investment in mining, manufacturing, distribution and tourism. In alliance with foreign capital, South African companies are involved in mining and manufacturing in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Of all the areas of SADCC's



Data source: World Bank, *World Development Report, 1993, New York; Oxford University Press, 1993.*

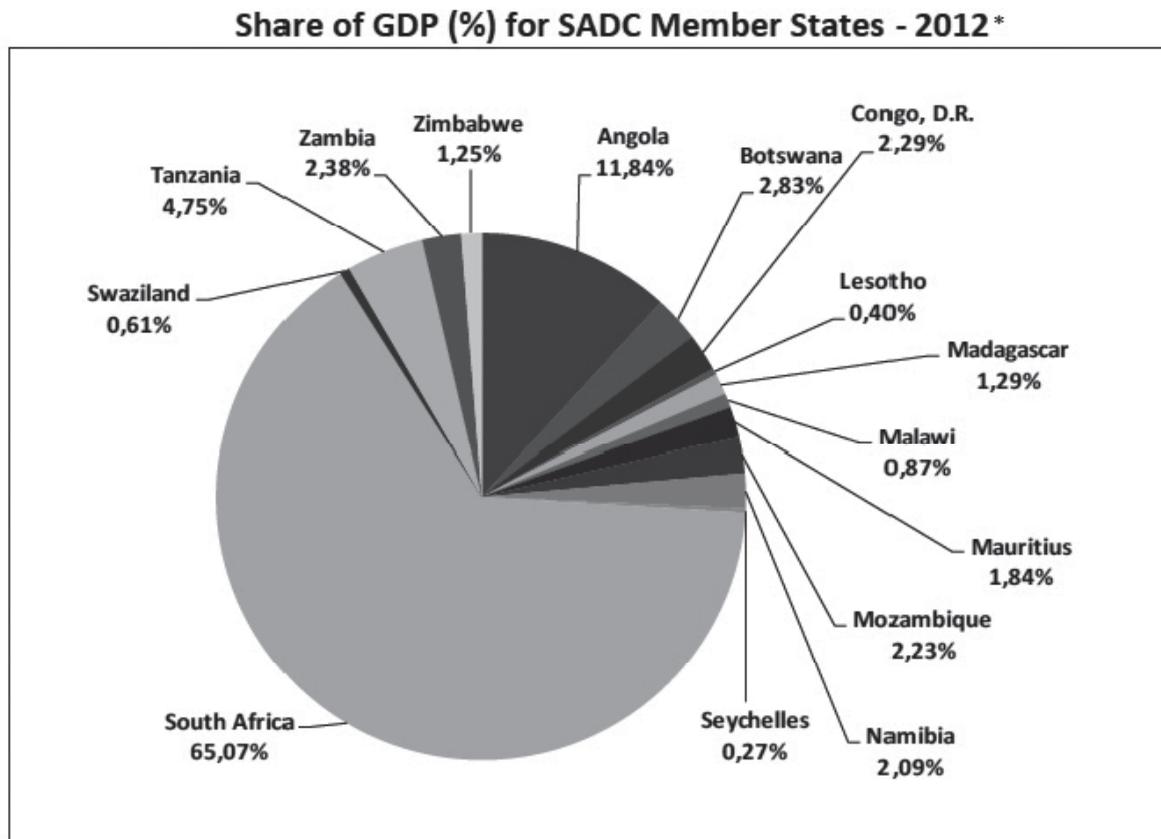
**Figure 1: GDP of South Africa prior to joining SADC**

dependence on South Africa, transport and communications is the most significant. The extent of dependence on the South African Transport Service (SATS) is underscored by the fact that six of the nine states- Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe - are landlocked; only Tanzania, Angola and Mozambique had usable port and harbor facilities. South Africa has 75% of the sub-continental rail network and the most efficient ports.<sup>20</sup> The chart shows the extent of South Africa's domination of the SADC economy. South Africa has the greatest share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) within the SADC, surpassing 91% of the total regional GDP. South Africa has been successful in maintaining this status quo due to its protectionist policies.

In certain quarters, it was suggested that SADCC would be irrelevant after apartheid, and that South Africa, once politically acceptable, would assume the role of regional power to dominate, lead and give assistance to the rest of the region. In the latter connection, there were even suggestions that cooperating partners might then disengage from Southern Africa, in deference to South Africa playing the role of regional donor.<sup>21</sup>

**After Joining SADC:** When South Africa was in the process of joining SADC, then South Africa's GDP was estimated at 91.2 bn U.S. dollars but the combined GDPs of SADC member countries was only expected to be 29.7 bn U.S. dollars, which had no match to South African economy.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, South Africa's GDP is almost four times the size of the SADC's and its total imports and exports are about three times the value of the combined trade of its neighbours. While South Africa's technical and financial expertise may prove beneficial, it is exactly this economic supremacy that frightens a number of the neighbouring states. However, a third view held by the ANC assumes that South Africa will exercise restraint and sensitivity in its relations with its neighbours, if only to avoid accusations that the new government, like its predecessor, is bent on dominating the region by virtue of its superior economic and political muscle.<sup>23</sup> Nelson Mandela formulated the vision for the post-apartheid nation in following words:

*“Southern Africa will... only prosper if the principles of equity, mutual benefit and peaceful cooperation are the tents that inform its future. Reconstruction cannot be imposed on the region by external forces or unilaterally by ourselves as the region’s most powerful state. It must be the collective enterprise of Southern Africa’s people. Democratic South Africa will, therefore, resist any pressure or temptation to pursue its own interests at the expense of the sub-continent”.*<sup>24</sup>



Source: WDI

**Figure 2: GDP share of SADC countries**

The premier position of South Africa in the region gives it a dominant role in controlling the structures of regional finance and credit. In Zimbabwe, for example, an estimated 25-30% of privately owned capital stock is reckoned to be South African, although there has been a small reduction since 1990. It is estimated that South Africans own approximately 40% of registered industrial enterprises in Botswana. In Zambia, South Africa owns key mining engineering firms and dominates the freight and forwarding business through-out the region. Political normalization in the wake of the demise of apartheid has led to a rapid increase in exports to the region, but imports from the region remain low to negligible, widening the gap in visible exports between South Africa and its neighbours.<sup>25</sup> South African exports to SADC countries, are mainly value-added goods, that increased by 30% between 1996 and 1997 and the figures are higher than exports to the European Union, traditionally the country’s biggest trading partner. Yet import from SADC neighbours accounted for only 5% of South African imports,<sup>26</sup> during the same period, a clearly untenable situation in view of the fact that the benefits of the economic interaction accrue mostly to South Africa, reinforcing historical asymmetries and distrust of the country. After joining SADC, South Africa changed its strategy towards the whole region. Study of the SADC is essential to understand the vital and multiple interests of South Africa in the region.

**SADC: Genesis**

The Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) was established in Lusaka in 1980 following the adoption of Lusaka Declaration-Southern Africa Towards Economic Liberation. The basic aim of SADCC was to reduce its members' economic dependence on apartheid South Africa and to promote regional economic development. SADCC's original strategy was to concentrate on promoting co-operation in the field of infrastructure, so that the SADCC members did not depend on South Africa's transport and port facilities. The SADCC was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1980 soon after the Lusaka Declaration was adopted. Over the years, SADCC failed in its endeavour to promote meaningful progress towards regional economic integration. SADCC's integrative strategy deliberately avoided competition, duplication and free market strategies in favour of project co-ordinate regional integration and, in so doing; it totally rejected the neo-classical open regionalism model.<sup>27</sup> In 1989, the Summit of Heads of State and Government meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, decided that the SADCC should be formalised to give it an appropriate legal status taking into account the need to replace the Memorandum of Understanding with an Agreement, Charter or Treaty. After four years of preparatory work and consultations, a strong consensus evolved indicating that member states wanted the mandate and mission of the SADCC to focus on concerted efforts towards deeper regional co-operation, beyond mere coordination of development projects for equitable integration of their economies. On 17 August 1992, the Head of State and Government met in the capital of Namibia, Windhoek and signed a Declaration and Treaty establishing the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). Whereas the old SADCC sought to coordinate the economies of member states, the new SADC, on the other hand, seeks to integrate them into a single whole.<sup>28</sup> It is important to remember, however, that South Africa's ability to co-ordinate, for example, regional transport and power networks, and even security action is substantially greater than the expertise in the neighbouring states and in SADC. This could severely undermine the rationale of the Development Community in a post-apartheid region. After all, in 1987, for example, all SADCC members had greater trade with South Africa than with their partners combined, and total SADCC trade with the Republic was roughly six times higher than all intra-SADCC trade.<sup>29</sup> The membership and purpose of SADCC/SADC could be further destabilized if, as is suggested in some quarters, Lesotho and Swaziland opted for closer economic incorporation with a 'new' South Africa.<sup>30</sup> In January 1993, the SADC adopted a framework and strategy for integration and timetable for Community building and the major aim of SADC is to attain the main objectives of SADC.<sup>31</sup> In August 1996, South Africa signed a regional trade protocol agreement with its SADC partners. The agreement was ratified in December 1999, and implementation began in September 2000. It provided duty-free treatment for 85% of trade in 2008 and aimed for 100% by 2012. Now fifteen member states of SADC include, inter alia; Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

South Africa is the largest and the most developed country in the region both in terms of population and the size of the economy. Its economy is sophisticated and diversified, dominating the region as a source of imports and some capital and less as a destination of the region's exports. In the South African case, the country was already a key economic player in the regional economy before formal membership of the SADC. South African investment in other countries are slowly picking up. With regard to regional trade, South Africa was and remains the main origin of imports for seven SADC countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe), while it is the main destination for export from three SADC countries (Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe). Other benefits from South Africa's entry into the SADC include economies of scale and access to the countries' modern infrastructure such as sea ports especially Durban, which has begun to facilitate the regional movement of goods.<sup>32</sup> There is no doubt that membership of South Africa will give a major boost to regional integration efforts by enlarging the regional market and bringing the not inconsiderable strength and capacities of the South African economy. However, the membership of South Africa will not resolve the dependency relationship which the old SADCC sought to redress, in fact, aggravates the already sharp economic disparities among the member states.<sup>33</sup> South Africa has taken a leading role in the region to address such issues as closer collaboration and economic integration. These include the establishment of a free trade area in the region, the development of basic infrastructure, the development of human resources and the creation of the necessary capacity to drive this complicated process forward, as well as the urgent need for peace, democracy and good governance to be established throughout the region.<sup>34</sup>



Mozambique, Zambia, Mauritius, Malawi, Angola, and Tanzania. Zimbabwe is also the largest source of imports, followed by Malawi, Angola, Zambia and Mozambique. The member states of the SADC are negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to strengthen trade, investment, and industrial linkages within the region. (See South Africa's export and import from SADC countries in Table 2 and Table 3.)

**Table 2: South Africa's Exports to SADC Countries (average growth rate 1999-2003)**

Product	% growth	Exports 2003 (R-million)
Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc	97.7	121
Works of art, collectors pieces and antiques	56.7	5
Cereals	46.5	1,014
Umbrellas, walking-sticks, seat-sticks, whips, etc	45.7	7
Oil seed, oleagic fruits, grain, seed, fruit, etc.	43.2	134
Cotton	38.2	168
Ships, boats and other floating structures	37.3	38
Edible fruit, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons	34.5	256
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	33.5	945
hides and skins (other than fur skins) and leather	29.3	4
Essential oils, perfumes, cosmetics, toiletries	29.1	350
Live animals	28.6	62
Lac, gums, resins, vegetable saps and extracts	27.6	13
Impregnated, coated or laminated textile fabric	26.4	4
Printed books, newspapers, pictures etc	26.4	68
Nickel and articles thereof	25.8	154
Lead and articles thereof	24.5	1
Articles of leather, animal gut, harness, travel goods	23.0	11
Silk	22.6	16
Manufactures of plaiting material, basketwork, etc.	21.7	2
<b>Total Exports to SADC</b>	<b>13.1</b>	

*Source:* Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)

The fastest growing imports from SADC towards South Africa are a mixed bag, mainly consisting of basic processed goods and some agricultural commodities.

**Table 3: South Africa's Imports from the SADC Countries (average growth rate 1999-2003)**

Product	% growth	Imports 2003 (R-million)
Ores, slag and ash	261.8	1,061
Sugars and sugar confectionery	146.0	98
Wool, animal hair, horsehair yarn and fabric thereof	136.6	6
Works of art, collectors pieces and antiques	122.5	148
Lac, gums, resins, vegetable saps and extracts	91.2	1
Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	85.6	156
Manmade filaments	77.5	6
Carpets and other textile floor coverings	71.3	1
Zinc and articles thereof	70.4	31
Manmade staple fibres	66.2	10
Bird skin, feathers, artificial flowers, human hair	64.4	0
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	63.0	14
Meat, fish and seafood food preparations	60.6	22
Animal, vegetable fats and oils, cleavage products, etc.	60.0	14
Umbrellas, walking-sticks, seat-sticks, whips, etc.	60.0	0
Cereal, flour, starch, milk preparations and products	57.9	11
Railway, tramway locomotives, rolling stock, equipment	55.3	9
Impregnated, coated or laminated textile fabric	48.8	2
Optical, photo, technical, medical, etc apparatus	44.3	105
Pulp of wood, fibrous cellulose material, waste etc	40.8	1
<b>Imports from SADC</b>	<b>19.6</b>	

*Source:* Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)

## CONCLUSION

South Africa is the largest and most developed country in the region, both in terms of population and size of economy. South Africa is the regional power of Southern Africa and holds the key to the political and economic future of the region. South Africa's military supremacy in the region is overwhelming and its economy dominates those of its regional neighbours. It is the region's leading source of capital, management, technology, agriculture and manufactured goods, employment and internal market. Its transport infrastructure binds the region into functional unit. South Africa continues to use this interdependence to its geopolitical advantages. South Africa has successfully pursued a regional foreign policy of destabilization designed to maintain the dependence of regional states and keep potentially hostile Governments off balance. The elements most crucial to the determination of South Africa's regional power are geographical and economic in nature. The region of South Africa is united by its transport infrastructure. It is a transport network which carries trade and economic benefits across state boundaries to bind the region together in the performance of the transport function. Its economy is also the most sophisticated and diversified, dominating the region as a source of imports and capital and less as a destination of the region's exports. The motivations for South Africa to preserve its dominance of the region are national security, new market for its manufactured commodities, regional security and for exploitation of natural resources. The SADC countries have

manpower and raw material but they don't have technical know-how, and Capital. But, in the era of globalization, each and every state is inter-connected. That is why it is in the interest of South Africa to ensure regional peace, security and economic integration in the region.

Of paramount importance are the existing contradictions within South Africa. This imposes some limitations for South Africa's role within the region. Therefore, this expected role will take place within the ambit of national versus regional priorities. For instance, poverty and high unemployment rate in South Africa requires the immediate government attention. South Africa is a hegemon within the region due to its overarching economic dominance of the region. It has evaluated this conception by making reference to miscellaneous definitions of the understanding of hegemony. In terms of practical evidence, South Africa fits quite into this categorisation within the region. It has demonstrated the main critical dimensions attributable to hegemon states, for instance, that of military, economic status, technology and infrastructure. The present study has argued that South Africa's hegemony is increasingly becoming subtler rather than vigorous since the prevailing circumstances do not warrant the existence of the latter. The involvement of South Africa in the structures and its pioneering leadership inhibit the potential to exhibit the gross hegemonic behaviour. Therefore, it is concluded that South Africa is a benevolent hegemon since it has the moral obligation to assist the region to achieve its own economic development. This role is, therefore, advantageous to the political, economic and social well being of South Africa since it cannot escape the challenges of the region and the continent.

## REFERENCES

1. *South African Yearbook of International Affairs* (1994). Pretoria. Also see <http://www.gov.za/about-sa/geography-and-climate>.
2. See *Europa Year Book* (2005), 34<sup>th</sup> ed., London: Europa Publication, , p.1103. "This area includes the uninhabited Prince Edward Island (415 Square Kilometer) and Marion Island (388 Square Kilometer), lying 1900 Kilometer Southeast of Cape Town, which were annexed by South Africa in 1947, p.1086.
3. See the webpage <http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/Coastline>.
4. "*Africa South of the Sahara-2007*", 36<sup>th</sup> Edition, London & New York: Europa Publication, p.1100.
5. Ibid. p.1430.
6. Ibid.p.1429.
7. *South African Yearbook of International Affairs: 1994*, Pretoria. Alexander Johnston, *Foreign Policy*, No. 110, Special Edition: Frontiers of Knowledge, p. 1, p. 135.
8. Ibid. p.134.
9. <http://www.SouthAfrica.info/economy/trade/industry.htm> (reporter, incorporating material from the Department of Trade and Industry, SADC Trade Industry and Investment Review 2007/2008A. and South Africa Year Book (1994), p 135.
10. *South African Yearbook of International Affairs: 1994*, Pretoria. Alexander Johnston *Foreign Policy*, No. 110, Special Edition: Frontiers of Knowledge, p.134.
11. See *Europa Year Book* (2005), 34<sup>th</sup> ed., Europa Publication, London, pp.1103.
12. Butts, Kent Hughes and Paul R. Thomas .1986. "*The geopolitics of Southern Africa: South Africa as Regional Superpower*", London: West view Press, p. 4.
13. *Regional Relations and Cooperation in Post-Apartheid South Africa: A Macro Framework Study Report . 1993*. Gaborone, SADC,Para 6.9; p. 158.
14. *South Africa: A Hamstrung Regional Power, CSS Analysis in Security Policy*, No. 102, October 2011.
15. Lewis Jr., Stephen R. "Some Economic Realities in Southern Africa: One Hundred Million Futures" in Bryant, Coralie (ed.).1988. *Poverty, Policy, And Food Security in South Africa*, England : L. Rienner ; Mansell Pub., p. 41.

16. Gavin Massdorp & Alan Whiteside.1993. *Rethinking economic cooperation in Southern Africa: Trade and Investment*, Johannesburg: Konrad-Adenauer-Shifting, February 1993, p.9.
17. According to Gavin Massdorp and Alan Whiteside, 'the value of intra- SADC trade is approximately 4% of the total trade of SADC countries; 25% of total trade is South Africa There is a severe imbalance in trade between South Africa and the region: 5.5:1 in favour of South Africa.
18. Massdorp, Gavin and Alan Whiteside, *Rethinking economic cooperation in Southern Africa: Trade and Investment*, Johannesburg: Konrad-Adenauer-Shifting, February 1993, p.9.
19. Gibb, R.A. & Michalak, W. 1994. '*Continental Trading Blocs: the Growth of Regionalism in the World Economy*', Chichester: John Wiley, pp. 19-23.
20. <http://www.britannica.com/eb/southafrica>, Encyclopedia Britannica.
21. Massdorp, Gavin. "*Trade Relations in Southern Africa-Changes Ahead?*", in Massdorp, Gavin & Alan Whiteside .1992. *Towards Post-Apartheid Future: Political and Economic Relations in Southern Africa*, Hampshire: Macmillan Press.
22. Ibid.
23. World Bank.1993. "*World Development Report*", New York: Oxford University Press.
24. J.E.Spence.1994. *Change in South Africa*, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, London: Pinter Publishers, pp.15. Also Study on regional innovation in the SADC region for the Southern Africa Innovation Support Programme Final Report, 21st April, 2014, p. 6.
25. Ibid. 'South Africa's future foreign policy' pp.91.
26. Davies, R.1997. 'South Africa and Southern Africa', paper delivered at a conference on *South and Southern Africa: Lessons from Emerging Markets*, Braamfontein: South African Institute of International Affairs, p.3.
27. Trade figures and information compiled from the *Monthly Abstract of Trade Statistics*, South African Commissioner for Customs and Excise.
28. Chhabra, Hari Sharan.1997. "*South African Foreign Policy, principles-options-dilemma*", New Delhi: Africa Publications, pp. 101-102.
29. Ibid.
30. Saxena, S.C.2001. "*Africa: Economic and Strategic Issues*", New Delhi: Kalinga Publication, p. 278.
31. Ibid., p.265.
32. Ibid. , pp.273-274.
33. Vohra, N.N. & K.Mathews .1997. "*Africa, India & South-South Co-operation*", New Delhi: Har Anand Publication, p. 366.
34. Ibid.,p.280
35. Chhabra, Hari Sharan .1997. *South African Foreign Policy: Principles-options-Dilemmas*, New Delhi: African Publications, pp 99-100.
36. Stock, Robert.1995. *Africa South of the Sahara: A Geographical Interpretation*, New York: The Guilford Press.
37. *South African Yearbook of International Affairs: 1994*, Pretoria. Alexander Johnston, *Foreign Policy*, No. 110, Special Edition: Frontiers of Knowledge ,p. 243.
38. Chhabra, Hari Sharan.1997. *South African Foreign Policy: Principles-options-Dilemmas*, New Delhi: African Publications, pp96-97.