

MODERN REGIONALISM IN FRANCE

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Abstract

This paper offers a comprehensive overview of modern regionalism in France, with a particular focus on the territorial administrative organization and its far-reaching effects on cultural, political, and economic regionalism. Drawing from the principles underlying the French regionalization process, we emphasize the decentralization initiatives aimed at empowering local authorities and nurturing regional identities. Our analysis traces the evolution of regionalism in France, from a historical era of centralization to the current state of territorial administrative organization, highlighting the multi-dimensional nature of regional development. Furthermore, we explore the cultural, political, and economic facets of regionalism, illuminating their interconnectedness and their impact on regional dynamics. By delving into the French regionalization model and its outcomes, this paper aims to enhance our comprehension of modern regionalism in France and its broader implications for governance and socio-economic development.

Keywords: *modern regionalism, France, territorial administrative organization, cultural regionalism, political regionalism, economic regionalism*

1. Introduction

Modern regionalism in France is currently undergoing a significant transformation from a historically centralized governance model towards one that embraces decentralization and regional autonomy. Central to this shift is the implementation of the territorial administrative organization, providing a crucial framework that empowers local authorities with greater decision-making autonomy. This paper delves into the multifaceted nature of modern regionalism in France, emphasizing the dynamic interplay between cultural, political, and economic dimensions of regionalism and their consequential impact on regional development. Tóké (2013) provides crucial historical insights into this transformation, emphasizing the creation of administrative regions and the empowerment of regional councils. Cultural regionalism, as underscored by Brigevich (2016), plays a pivotal role in shaping regional identity, with the recognition and preservation of local traditions, languages, and cultural heritage contributing to regional cohesion and economic vitality. Political regionalism, as discussed by Bouckaert et al. (2016), enables participatory governance, with regional governments actively engaging citizens in policy formulation, though challenges in coordinating regional and national policies must be addressed. Economic regionalism, driven by Carter (1919), serves to reduce regional disparities, foster development, and enhance regional competitiveness through customized strategies and interregional cooperation. The interdependencies and challenges posed

by these dimensions require delicate coordination and balance for the effective governance of modern regionalism in France. The recent surge in modern regionalism signifies a departure from historical centralization, allowing regions to actively participate in shaping their own destinies within the broader socio-political landscape of the country. Cultural regionalism, which recognizes and preserves local traditions, languages, and cultural heritage, plays a pivotal role in shaping regional identity and fostering social cohesion. The political dimension, marked by participatory governance, empowers citizens to actively engage in policy formulation, although challenges in coordinating regional and national policies persist. Additionally, economic regionalism, driven by customized strategies and interregional cooperation, aims to reduce regional disparities and enhance overall competitiveness. This study addresses the central research question:

Research Question: What is the role and impact of the territorial administrative organization in France in facilitating regional autonomy and governance?

2. Exploring the historical foundations of regionalization in France

To comprehend the intricate tapestry of modern regionalism in France, a historical exploration becomes imperative, shedding light on the evolution of regional governance within the French context. Tóké (2013) guides this journey, offering a comprehensive perspective on the process of regionalization. By scrutinizing historical contexts, key events, and influential actors, Tóké enhances our understanding of the multifaceted nature of modern regionalism and its historical origins. The analysis uncovers pivotal moments, such as the creation of administrative regions, establishment of regional councils, and subsequent reforms aimed at bolstering autonomy. Tóké also illuminates the role of regional actors, including political parties and interest groups, in advocating for regionalization. This historical exploration reveals enduring challenges, including tensions between centralization and decentralization, the influence of political ideologies, and varied approaches to governance. Tóké's research underscores the complexity of coordinating regional and national interests within France's diverse landscape. Assimilating Tóké's analysis into this paper enriches our understanding of modern regionalism, offering profound insights into historical foundations, pivotal events, and influential actors that shape regionalization in France. Baycroft's work (2012) further extends our historical exploration by delving into the intricate dynamics of national diversity, regionalism, and decentralism in nineteenth-century France. This study illuminates the complex interplay between nation-building, regional identities, and separatist tendencies, providing vital context for understanding the roots of regionalism in France. It emphasizes the historical tensions between centralized state authority and regional aspirations, revealing a long history of distinct identities tied to linguistic and cultural factors. Baycroft's analysis demonstrates how regional identities persisted against centralizing forces, sometimes leading to calls for decentralization. This historical perspective is crucial for understanding the foundations of modern regionalism, illustrating deeply ingrained regional identities and their historical evolution. The tensions between central authority and regional identities, revealed by Baycroft, continue to shape contemporary regionalism in France. This paper highlights that modern regionalism is not a recent development but a manifestation of historical forces. Understanding this historical backdrop provides a comprehensive view of the challenges and opportunities in contemporary regionalism, emphasizing its enduring relevance.

3. The French influence on modern regionalism in Europe: A comprehensive perspective

France stands as a pivotal force in shaping the landscape of modern regionalism, exhibiting profound influence not only within its national borders but also on the broader European stage. Rooted in its historical and political context, France's unique approach to regional governance and identity formation has left an indelible mark on the trajectory of regional development. The implementation of the territorial administrative organization through decentralization has served as a cornerstone, endowing regional governments with the autonomy to cultivate distinctive identities (Wright & Clark, 2008). This emphasis on regional autonomy has positioned France as an active contributor to the emergence of a Europe organized around regions. At the national level, the French state's role in promoting regionalism has been instrumental. Government initiatives, recognizing the importance of cultural regionalism and the economic potential embedded in regional diversity, have played a pivotal role in enhancing regional competitiveness and fostering innovation (Wright & Clark, 2008). The decentralization efforts, providing regional governments with decision-making authority, have empowered them to actively participate in shaping their destinies. This commitment to regional autonomy extends to the European arena, where France has played a proactive role in regional discourse. The French model, shaped by experiences in regional governance and a steadfast commitment to decentralization, has significantly contributed to the broader European agenda of regional integration. France has been a staunch advocate for the recognition and representation of regional interests within European institutions, emphasizing the principles of multilevel governance and regional decision-making (Applegate, 1999). Serving as a reference for other European countries, the French model has influenced the development of regional policies and institutions at the European Union level. France's dynamic engagement in regionalism, both at the national and European levels, has been a driving force behind the advancement of regional integration and the acknowledgment of regional interests within governance structures. In addition to France's historical and contemporary contributions, Hansen's (2017) exploration of the new regionalism and European economic integration provides a broader perspective. Hansen underscores the intricate dynamics between regionalism and economic integration, elucidating the evolving regional landscape in the context of broader European economic developments. As we integrate Hansen's insights into our analysis, a deeper understanding emerges of the multifaceted role that France plays in shaping modern regionalism. Beyond its cultural and political influence, France stands as an economic powerhouse, driving regional cooperation and integration within the broader European framework. Hansen's work prompts us to consider how economic imperatives intertwine with regional identities, emphasizing the symbiotic relationship between economic policies and the formation of robust regional identities. This economic dimension, coupled with France's historical and political influence, paints a more comprehensive picture of the country's instrumental role in steering the course of modern regionalism. The integration of economic considerations further underscores the depth and complexity of France's engagement in shaping the regional landscape, emphasizing the interconnected nature of cultural, political, and economic forces in the ongoing evolution of regionalism within Europe.

4. Shaping modern regionalism: Dynamics of industry, fiscal-military states, and global economic trends in France

The exploration of regional identity construction is a nuanced endeavor, encompassing a myriad of elements from industrial showcases to the political landscape and the global economic stage. This section delves into the intricate interplay of these factors, drawing insights from scholarly works such as Clericuzio's (2020) examination of industry and architecture at international expositions, Li's (2021) study on centralized regionalism in China, and Kostyunina's (2020) analysis of regionalism in the modern world economy. Together, these works provide a holistic understanding of how industry, fiscal-military states, and global economic trends shape and define regional identities. Clericuzio's (2020) investigation into industry, craft, and modern architecture at the Paris 1925 and 1937 International Expositions unfolds a narrative where regional identity is not merely an economic construct but a cultural and aesthetic endeavor showcased on the global stage. By emphasizing the significance of artifacts and representations at these international events, Clericuzio underlines how regions utilize industrial prowess and unique architectural styles to contribute to the broader narrative of their cultural distinctiveness. This artistic and cultural dimension becomes integral to the construction of regional identity, transcending economic indicators. Turning our gaze to China during 1916–28, Li's (2021) exploration of centralized regionalism provides a unique perspective on the role of fiscal-military states in shaping regional identities. The emergence of states with substantial regional autonomy, particularly in fiscal and military matters, becomes a defining feature of China's political landscape. Li argues that this form of centralized regionalism not only empowered regions politically and economically but also contributed significantly to the diverse tapestry of regional identities within China. It showcases how political and fiscal autonomy intertwine to foster distinct regional identities.

Expanding our scope globally, Kostyunina's (2020) study on regionalism in the modern world economy offers insights into the broader trends that characterize the interaction between regions and the global economic stage. Beyond localized economic activities, regions emerge as dynamic participants in the global economic landscape. Kostyunina's work underscores the complexity of regional interactions, demonstrating that regionalism is an evolving and interconnected phenomenon. By navigating their economic identities on the world stage, regions actively contribute to the broader understanding of regionalism. In synthesis, these three studies collectively contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of regional identity construction. Whether through visual and cultural representations on international stages, political and fiscal autonomy shaping national politics, or navigating economic identities on the global stage, regions actively engage in constructing and asserting their identities. This nuanced perspective is crucial for unraveling the richness and complexity of regional identities in the modern world. Clericuzio, Li, and Kostyunina, through their diverse focuses, offer valuable insights that enhance our comprehension of how regions navigate the intricate interplay of economic, political, and cultural factors to construct and assert their identities at various scales—local, national, and global.

5. Cultural regionalism and regional identity

Cultural regionalism in France plays a pivotal role in shaping regional identity and garnering support for European integration. The deliberate preservation and promotion of local traditions, languages, and cultural heritage significantly contribute to the distinctive regional identities within the country (Brigevich, 2016).

This form of regionalism has been particularly empowered by the territorial administrative organization implemented in France, which has provided a robust platform for regional governments to actively engage in supporting and preserving cultural diversity. France's regional governments have undertaken proactive measures to acknowledge and celebrate local languages and traditions, thereby reinforcing the sense of regional cohesion and identity. These initiatives extend beyond cultural enrichment and have far-reaching implications for various sectors, such as tourism, cultural industries, and regional branding. By capitalizing on their unique cultural assets, regions are not only able to attract visitors but also to stimulate local economies and reinforce their regional identities within the broader context of European integration. One essential aspect of cultural regionalism is the rekindling of local languages. Regional governments have initiated programs to promote and preserve these languages, recognizing their significance in preserving cultural heritage. For instance, the regional governments of Brittany and Occitania have been actively involved in promoting the Breton and Occitan languages, respectively. These efforts resonate deeply with the local population, as language serves as a vital vessel for cultural expression and identity. Furthermore, the preservation and promotion of traditional cultural practices are at the heart of cultural regionalism. Festivals, folklore, and artistic expressions specific to each region not only contribute to cultural enrichment but also serve as magnets for tourism. For instance, the Carnival of Nice in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region and the Alsatian Christmas markets in Alsace are iconic examples of cultural events that not only bolster regional identities but also attract visitors from across the world. The economic implications of cultural regionalism are significant as well. Regions that successfully capitalize on their unique cultural assets create opportunities for local businesses and artisans. This, in turn, fosters economic growth at the regional level and strengthens local economies. Furthermore, cultural industries such as music, art, and film production often find fertile ground in regions that actively support and promote their cultural heritage. In the context of European integration, cultural regionalism serves as a means of showcasing the diversity and richness of France's regional cultures within the broader European identity. The European Union has recognized the importance of regional cultures and languages in shaping a cohesive European cultural landscape. France's dedication to preserving and promoting its regional identities aligns with the European Union's commitment to cultural diversity and multilingualism. In conclusion, cultural regionalism in France is not merely a tool for preserving traditions and languages; it is a dynamic force that enriches regional identities, stimulates economic growth, and contributes to the broader European cultural tapestry. The intentional efforts of regional governments to support and promote cultural diversity serve as a testament to the importance of preserving unique identities within a larger, unified European context.

6. Political regionalism, participatory governance, and territorial administrative organization: A tapestry of empowerment

The landscape of modern regionalism in France is a dynamic tapestry interwoven with the threads of political regionalism, participatory governance, and the meticulous design of the territorial administrative organization (Rozenblatt, 2018; Balme & Jouve, 1996; Bouckaert et al., 2016). This tapestry reflects France's commitment to reshaping the traditional power dynamics, instilling a sense of autonomy in regions that goes beyond administrative decentralization. At its core, political regionalism in France is not merely a bureaucratic arrangement; it's a profound commitment to democratic governance. It's about giving communities a tangible stake in the decisions that shape their destinies. Embedded within the intricate

structure of the territorial administrative organization lies the key to regional empowerment. This administrative framework, born out of deliberate decentralization in the 1980s, acts as a beacon of France's commitment to empowering local entities. The organization strategically distributes decision-making authority to regional governments, providing them with the autonomy to craft policies finely tuned to their unique local contexts. Political regionalism thrives in this environment, where regions are not just administrative units but active contributors to their own narratives. Participatory governance, a linchpin of political regionalism, transforms citizens from passive recipients of policies into active contributors to their formulation. It's a paradigm that transcends the conventional boundaries of governance, fostering a profound sense of shared responsibility and ownership among citizens. This participatory model is deeply ingrained in the principles of inclusivity, acknowledging that local communities should have a voice that resonates in the decisions that govern their regions. The territorial administrative organization, with its intricate web of regions, departments, and municipalities, provides the canvas upon which political regionalism and participatory governance paint their vivid strokes (Bouckaert et al., 2016; Rozenblatt, 2018; Balme & Jouve, 1996). It is not just an administrative structure; it's the enabler of regional empowerment. Balme and Jouve (1996) highlight the transformative role of this organization, underscoring the evolving relationship between the central government and regional entities. Through processes of delegation, negotiation, and cooperation, regions have gained not only autonomy but also essential resources that have fueled the emergence of distinct regional identities and bespoke governance strategies.

The nuanced and localized governance fostered by this organizational structure is France's answer to regional disparities. It is the embodiment of a commitment to cohesion, addressing historical imbalances and fostering a sense of shared destiny. As we delve into the role of the territorial administrative organization, our research extends beyond the administrative intricacies. It encompasses the rich cultural, political, and economic dimensions of regionalism in France. Through a qualitative methodology and a comprehensive analysis of diverse sources, this study aspires not only to unravel the institutional mechanisms that underpin modern regionalism but also to paint a holistic picture of the intricate interplay between regional identities, political dynamics, and economic development. In essence, it endeavors to capture the essence of contemporary regionalism in France, where political regionalism, participatory governance, and a thoughtfully crafted administrative structure converge to create a vibrant and empowered regional landscape.

7. Economic regionalism and its role in regional development

Economic regionalism in France serves as a formidable catalyst in driving regional development while actively addressing regional disparities. The pivotal role played by the territorial administrative organization is instrumental in empowering regions to not only shape their economic destinies but also to strategically confront the unique economic challenges they face. This administrative structure empowers regional governments to devise and execute economic strategies that are meticulously tailored to harness their specific regional resources, industries, and economic hurdles. Regional authorities are actively engaged in a spectrum of activities aimed at attracting investments, supporting local entrepreneurship, and fostering innovation (Carter, 1919). By capitalizing on their unique economic assets, regions can effectively stimulate economic growth, cultivate employment opportunities, and substantially enhance their competitive edge within the broader national context. At the heart of economic regionalism lies the pivotal objective of

reducing regional disparities and propelling balanced development across the varied regions of France. This approach astutely recognizes that different regions harbor differing levels of economic potential and confront a mosaic of distinct challenges. The territorial administrative organization acts as a dynamic tool, enabling the customization of policies and initiatives aimed at mitigating these disparities and nurturing a more equitable form of economic growth (Brigevich, 2016). The tailored initiatives encompass strategic investments in infrastructure, the promotion of industry clusters, and the development of human capital. These steps collectively strengthen the economic capacities of regions and substantively contribute to the overarching national competitiveness. Economic regionalism extends beyond the scope of individual regions and fosters interregional collaboration and synergies. Regions, by identifying areas of complementarity, can actively participate in interregional cooperation. This collaboration may manifest in the form of shared projects, the exchange of knowledge, and resource pooling. It is these interactions that not only fortify the economic performance of individual regions but also bolster the collective economic resilience of France as a whole. By nurturing collaboration and knowledge exchange, economic regionalism acts as a powerful catalyst for innovation and the dissemination of best practices, ultimately contributing to the overall economic development and competitiveness of the nation. Moreover, economic regionalism ripples across regional boundaries and influences national policies. The outcomes—both successes and challenges—of regional economic strategies offer invaluable insights and data that can shape and inform national economic policies and initiatives. This alignment of regional and national economic goals enables France to leverage the unique strengths and potentials of each region, steering the nation toward a more sustainable and inclusive form of national economic development (Carter, 1919). Economic regionalism, in essence, serves as a robust vehicle for enhancing overall economic resilience, fostering balanced growth, and ensuring that the fruits of economic development are widely and equitably shared across all regions of France. This multifaceted approach enriches the nation by both addressing localized challenges and steering the course for collective national prosperity.

8. The construction of regional identity in modern Europe

Seixas and Storm's edited volume, "Regionalism and Modern Europe: Identity Construction and Movements from 1890 to the Present Day" (2018), stands as a seminal work offering profound insights into the intricate dynamics of regionalism and the construction of identities across Europe. This comprehensive resource draws from a rich tapestry of case studies and diverse theoretical perspectives to provide readers with an in-depth exploration of the multifaceted nature of regional identity construction in the modern era. A key strength of Seixas and Storm's volume lies in its focused examination of the interplay between historical legacies, territorial politics, and the aspirations of regional communities. Through meticulous analysis, the contributors offer readers a nuanced lens to examine the complex process of regional identity formation. This process transcends mere geographical boundaries, encapsulating the intricate interrelationship between historical and contemporary factors. In the context of understanding regionalism in France, the literature presented in "Regionalism and Modern Europe" establishes a broader contextual framework. The discussions on identity construction shed light on the factors influencing the emergence and consolidation of regional identities, their intricate interaction with national identities, and the profound ways in which they shape regional dynamics. By analyzing historical and contemporary cases from diverse European regions, the volume provides a comparative perspective, allowing an examination of the unique characteristics of

regionalism in France. This includes the multifaceted nature of cultural preservation, the nuanced realm of political autonomy, and the intricate process of economic development. The insights derived from "Regionalism and Modern Europe" make substantial contributions to our understanding of the role of regionalism in France. The book emphasizes common themes and challenges faced by regions across Europe, underscoring the pivotal role of historical legacies, cultural distinctiveness, and territorial politics in the construction of regional identities. Furthermore, the volume highlights the importance of recognizing and promoting regional diversity as a means to fortify national cohesion and democratic governance. The analysis presented in the volume enriches our understanding of the interplay between regionalism and the broader European integration processes, offering valuable perspectives on the implications of regional identity construction for European governance and potential trajectories of regionalism in France and beyond. In essence, the insights gleaned from the literature contained within Seixas and Storm's edited volume significantly contribute to our comprehension of modern regionalism in France. By examining the intricate interplay between historical legacies, territorial politics, and the aspirations of regional communities, the volume deepens our understanding of the multifaceted role of regionalism in shaping political, cultural, and economic dynamics in France. This literature review adds depth and breadth to our exploration of modern regionalism in France, providing valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners interested in regional governance, identity politics, and the challenges and opportunities of regionalism in contemporary Europe.

9. Regionalism and modern Europe

Regionalism in contemporary Europe, as intricately dissected in Hastings, Seixas, and Storm's (2019) "Regionalism and Modern Europe," is a multifaceted force woven into the political, cultural, and economic fabric of the continent. Through a nuanced exploration of historical legacies and territorial politics, the authors illuminate how these elements mold regional identities, contributing to national cohesion when acknowledged and celebrated. The book's strength lies in its panoramic exploration of regional identities across diverse European contexts, offering detailed case studies that uncover the unique challenges and manifestations of regionalism. This comparative lens not only enriches our understanding of regional dynamics within individual countries but also sheds light on the delicate interplay between regional autonomy and European integration. The historical roots of regionalism in Europe are deeply embedded in the continent's intricate past. Hastings, Seixas, and Storm's (2019) work navigates through the historical tapestry, unveiling how regional identities have evolved in response to changing political landscapes and territorial dynamics. From the quest for autonomy in Catalonia to the complex interplay of identities in the Balkans, the book meticulously examines the historical foundations of modern regionalism. By delving into the complexities of regionalism, the authors highlight its role as a dynamic force that both shapes and is shaped by historical legacies. The preservation of cultural distinctiveness emerges as a central theme in the discourse on regionalism. The authors argue that acknowledging and celebrating regional identities contribute not only to the richness of Europe's cultural mosaic but also to the strengthening of national cohesion. Through a series of case studies, including the Basque Country, Scotland, and South Tyrol, the book illustrates how the recognition of cultural diversity within regions fosters a sense of belonging and actively contributes to democratic governance. This emphasis on cultural preservation echoes in the political aspirations of regions seeking a delicate balance between autonomy and integration. Territorial politics

emerges as a linchpin in the formation and consolidation of regional identities. The authors explore the intricate relationships between regional and national governments, shedding light on the mechanisms through which regions assert their autonomy. By studying the political processes that underpin regionalism, the book offers valuable insights into the challenges faced by regions in navigating their space within the larger national and European frameworks. This exploration of territorial politics provides a comprehensive understanding of how regional identities interact with and influence broader political structures. The implications of regionalism for European integration are a central theme in the book. The authors argue that regional identities, when embraced, can contribute positively to the broader European project. The delicate interplay between regional autonomy and European integration is examined through case studies that highlight instances of collaboration and tension. From the Catalonia question in Spain to the impact of Brexit on Scottish identity, the book underscores the need for a nuanced approach to regionalism within the larger European context. It suggests that recognizing and accommodating regional diversity can be instrumental in fostering a more cohesive and inclusive European Union. To summarize, "Regionalism and Modern Europe" by Hastings, Seixas, and Storrn (2019) serves as a pivotal resource for understanding the complexities of regionalism in contemporary Europe. By weaving together historical insights, cultural perspectives, and political analyses, the book offers a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted dimensions of regionalism. Its relevance extends beyond academia, providing policymakers and researchers with valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by regional identities in the broader European landscape. As Europe continues to grapple with questions of identity, autonomy, and integration, this work remains a guiding beacon in navigating the intricate mosaic of regional dynamics in modern Europe.

10. Interdependencies and challenges in modern regionalism

In the context of modern regionalism in France, the cultural, political, and economic dimensions are inherently interconnected, offering a dynamic landscape filled with both opportunities and challenges. These interdependencies between the dimensions necessitate careful coordination and balance to foster a cohesive and sustainable regional governance framework. Cultural Regionalism is a cornerstone of regional identity, emphasizing the preservation of local traditions and unique identities, which, in turn, nurtures a sense of pride and cohesion within regions (Brigevich, 2016). However, this focus on distinctiveness can sometimes lead to tensions between regional and national identities, requiring delicate management to ensure inclusivity and respect for diversity (Hueglin, 1986). Thus, cultural regionalism necessitates a delicate equilibrium between celebrating regional uniqueness and acknowledging a shared national identity. Political Regionalism, characterized by citizen participation and decentralized decision-making, is crucial for effective governance. It fosters a sense of local ownership and ensures responsiveness to regional needs (Entrikin, 2011). Nevertheless, challenges emerge in guaranteeing coherence and coordination between regional and national policies. To mitigate fragmentation and ensure alignment of objectives and strategies, clear communication channels and mechanisms for collaboration are essential (Bouckaert et al., 2016). Political regionalism demands a thoughtful balance between regional autonomy and national cohesion to ensure effective governance and decision-making processes. Economic Regionalism, geared toward fostering regional development and competitiveness, is fundamental for reducing regional disparities and promoting prosperity. Regional governments in France are actively engaged in attracting investments,

supporting local businesses, and promoting innovation to enhance their regions' economic potential (Carter, 1919). Nonetheless, attaining equilibrium between regional autonomy and national economic policies can be intricate. Effective coordination and alignment of regional economic strategies with broader national goals are requisite to maximize the impact of economic regionalism and avert potential conflicts. Effective coordination and cooperation among regions themselves present another challenge in modern regionalism. While regional identities and interests can be potent motivators, establishing mechanisms for collaboration and knowledge sharing among regions is essential. Platforms for exchange, joint initiatives, and learning networks can help regions leverage their strengths and address shared challenges collectively (Entrikin, 2011). By fostering interregional cooperation, France can harness the potential of its diverse regions and promote synergy in regional development efforts. Furthermore, the success of modern regionalism in France hinges upon adequate financial resources and capacity-building support. Regional governments require sufficient funding to implement policies effectively, address regional disparities, and support local initiatives. Ensuring a fair distribution of resources and promoting capacity building at the regional level are crucial for enabling regions to unlock their full potential in driving regional development (Hueglin, 1986; Bouckaert et al., 2016). By addressing these interdependencies and challenges, France can foster a cohesive and sustainable regional governance framework that empowers regions and promotes balanced and inclusive regional development across the country.

11. Harmony of regional narratives: Unveiling historical roots and postcolonial expressions in France

The concept of regionalism in France is a complex tapestry woven from historical legacies and contemporary expressions. This section draws insights from Storm's historical exploration in "Region and State in Nineteenth-Century Europe" (2012) and Trouslard's nuanced study on postcolonial regionalism in southern France, as presented in the doctoral dissertation "Occitan Musicians, Immigration, and Postcolonial Regionalism in Southern France" (2020). Storm's (2012) analysis takes us back to the dynamic landscape of the 19th century, a period marked by the emergence of regional identities that challenged the centralized notion of the nation-state. The tensions between national and regional identities, as illuminated by Storm's work, led to a "crisis of reason" that reverberated not only in France but also in Germany and Spain. The assertion of local languages, traditions, and cultural heritage played a pivotal role in shaping the contours of modern regionalism in France. Storm's historical insights provide a foundation for understanding the complexities inherent in the development of contemporary regionalism. The echoes of the 19th-century crisis of reason continue to resonate, influencing the dynamics of modern regionalism in France. Transitioning to Trouslard's (2020) doctoral dissertation, the focus shifts to the southern regions of France, where music, immigration, and postcolonial regionalism converge in a symphony of cultural expressions. The dissertation offers a profound exploration of Occitan musicians' experiences in the context of immigration, revealing how music becomes a powerful vehicle for expressing cultural identities and fostering a sense of belonging among immigrant communities. Trouslard's work emphasizes the transformative impact of Occitan music on the region's regionalism, showcasing how it serves as a medium for cross-cultural exchange and mutual understanding. The dissertation provides a window into the complex dynamics of postcolonial regionalism, shedding light on the tensions and dialogues between different cultural and regional identities. Music emerges as a conduit for negotiations, understanding, and the

promotion of regional cohesion. In synthesizing these narratives, our exploration spans the historical foundations of regionalism in France to the contemporary expressions of postcolonial regionalism in the southern regions. Storm's historical analysis offers a lens through which we comprehend the enduring impact of the 19th-century crisis of reason on contemporary regional dynamics. The tension between national and regional identities, as highlighted by Storm, remains a key factor in shaping the multifaceted nature of modern regionalism. Shifting our focus to Trouslard's postcolonial lens, the dissertation enriches our understanding of how cultural expressions, particularly through music, become catalysts for building bridges between diverse communities. Trouslard's work unravels the layers of postcolonial regionalism, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and preserving the cultural diversity of immigrant communities in southern France. The dissertation contributes depth and nuance to our comprehension of the intricate relationships between music, immigration, and postcolonial regionalism. In conclusion, this section illuminates the historical roots and postcolonial expressions of regionalism in France. Storm's historical analysis and Trouslard's contemporary exploration, each in its own way, contribute to our understanding of the multifaceted dimensions of regionalism. The historical echoes and postcolonial symphonies intertwine to create a narrative that speaks to the enduring complexities and vibrant expressions of regionalism in France.

12. Navigating regionalism: The intersection of identity and political dynamics in France

Embarking on a profound exploration of modern regionalism in France, our journey traverses the historical narrative woven by Spektorowski (2000) in "Regionalism and the Right: The Case of France" and the nuanced socio-political landscapes unveiled by Pasquier and Pasquier (2015) in their work on "Regionalism and the Construction of Identity." In Spektorowski's historical tapestry, the intricate connection between regional identities and the oscillations of right-wing political movements in France comes to life. Within the mosaic of linguistic diversity and cultural traditions, regional identities emerge as pivotal elements strategically mobilized by right-wing factions. The historical case studies presented by Spektorowski illuminate how these regionalist sentiments, deeply rooted in unique cultural heritages, not only influence individual electoral choices but also profoundly shape the overarching policy preferences of right-wing political movements. The convergence of regionalist agendas with right-wing ideologies becomes a cornerstone of political discourse and electoral strategies, extending beyond administrative considerations to manifest as a dynamic force sculpting the contours of the French political landscape. Complementing this historical narrative, Pasquier and Pasquier's exploration accentuates the intricate dance between regionalism and the construction of identity. Far beyond bureaucratic considerations, their work underscores the cultural and political dimensions interwoven into the fabric of regionalism. The proactive recognition and promotion of regional distinctiveness by local authorities, as emphasized by Pasquier and Pasquier, contribute not only to the preservation but also to the active enhancement of regional identities. This reciprocal relationship between regional identity construction and political choices amplifies the impact of regional identities on the socio-political stage. The pride and cohesion nurtured by these identities invariably translate into a palpable demand for political autonomy and the protection of cultural distinctiveness. As these narratives intertwine, a panoramic view emerges, revealing the dynamic interplay between regionalism, identity construction, and political mobilization. The fusion of Spektorowski's historical depth with Pasquier and Pasquier's emphasis on cultural and political dimensions paints a comprehensive picture of the intricate

dynamics at play. This expanded section delves into the nuanced connections between regional identities and political movements, illustrating how the coalescence of these elements shapes the very essence of modern regionalism in France. In navigating these regional landscapes, we not only confront the challenges posed by these intersections but also appreciate the rich opportunities they offer, fostering a complex and vibrant socio-political environment in the country.

13. Unraveling regional dynamics: A comparative analysis and modern perspectives

Embarking on a comprehensive exploration of regionalism in France, this section draws insights from the comparative analysis provided by Wright and Clark (2008) in "Regionalism and the State in France and Comparative European Context" and the nuanced examination of contemporary regionalism presented by Seixas and Aparicio (2018) in their edited volume on "Regionalism in South-Western Europe: France, Spain, Italy, and Portugal." Wright and Clark (2008) initiate our journey by delving into the intricate relationship between regionalism and the state in France within the broader European context. The study provides a historical and political backdrop, emphasizing the evolution of regional dynamics in France. This comparative perspective sheds light on the roles played by central governments in shaping regional identities and policies. The research navigates the processes of delegation, negotiation, and cooperation between central authorities and regional entities, illustrating their pivotal role in the emergence of regional identities. The study highlights the complexities and implications of state involvement in regional affairs, offering valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by this intricate relationship. By recognizing historical legacies and the influence of central governments on regional development, Wright and Clark contribute to our understanding of the multifaceted dimensions of regionalism in France and the broader European context. Transitioning to a contemporary lens, Seixas and Aparicio's (2018) edited volume provides a deep dive into the fabric of modern regionalism in France. This work navigates the intricate construction of regional identities within the evolving socio-political landscape. Employing case studies and analytical perspectives, the volume offers a comprehensive analysis of the factors shaping contemporary regionalism. It delves into the role of historical legacies, political processes, and cultural influences in the development of regional identities. By acknowledging the complexities and tensions arising from the coexistence of multiple identities within France, Seixas and Aparicio provide a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities embedded in contemporary regionalism. In weaving these narratives together, our exploration ventures into the historical foundations and contemporary nuances of regionalism in France. The comparative lens of Wright and Clark offers a backdrop against which the complexities of state-regional relations unfold. It not only contributes to our comprehension of the historical evolution of regional dynamics but also underscores the enduring impact of state policies on regional identities and governance. Transitioning to the contemporary, the insights drawn from Seixas and Aparicio's edited volume provide a kaleidoscopic view of the multifaceted nature of modern regionalism. It positions regionalism as a dynamic force, shaped by historical legacies, political processes, and cultural influences. The volume emphasizes the importance of recognizing and preserving regional diversity to strengthen national cohesion and democratic governance. As we navigate through these dimensions, our understanding of regionalism in France expands beyond administrative considerations to encompass the intricate dance between state authority, regional identities, and the ever-evolving socio-political landscape. The comparative insights and contemporary perspectives presented in this section aim to provide a holistic view

of regionalism in France, offering valuable contributions to the discourse on regional governance, historical legacies, and state-regional relations.

14. Dynamics of modern regionalism in France: Intersecting architectural paradigms, identity construction, and sustainable communal development

Modern regionalism in France unfolds as a complex tapestry, weaving together sustainable communal development, identity construction, and evolving architectural paradigms. Drawing insights from Ismail and Siraj (2021), Quiroga (2020), and Pimentel, Trevisan, and Cardoso (2018), this section provides an interdisciplinary exploration of how these dimensions intersect, offering a nuanced understanding of modern regionalism in the French context. Ismail and Siraj's (2021) examination of the modern regionalism approach in designing contemporary mosques for sustainable communal development brings forth a unique architectural perspective. In France, where regional identities are gaining prominence, the architectural landscape becomes a canvas for expressing and fostering sustainable communities. The study highlights how architectural decisions, particularly in mosque design, go beyond aesthetics, integrating environmental sustainability, cultural sensitivity, and functional efficiency. The emphasis on sustainable communal development aligns with France's commitment to diversity and inclusion, making modern regionalism an integral part of shaping not only architectural spaces but also fostering social, economic, and environmental dimensions of regional development. Quiroga's (2020) exploration of regionalism and identity construction in modern Europe provides a historical backdrop for understanding the French experience. As France recognizes and celebrates diverse regional identities, Quiroga's insights into the broader European narrative become particularly relevant. The construction of identity in the French context is intricately linked to the evolution of regionalism, contributing to narratives, cultural expressions, and a sense of belonging. Modern regionalism, as illuminated by Quiroga's work, becomes a dynamic force shaping the mosaic of identities within France, enriching the ongoing discourse on multiculturalism and diversity. Examining architectural paradigms, Pimentel, Trevisan, and Cardoso's (2018) work delves into the relationship between regionalism, nationalism, and modern architecture. While their focus extends beyond France, the implications are crucial for understanding the global dynamics of architectural choices. In the French context, where regional identities are gaining prominence, architectural decisions reflect a nuanced interplay of regionalism and nationalism. The choices architects make contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the essence of French identity. Pimentel et al.'s exploration prompts us to consider how modern regionalism in architecture becomes a visual expression of the evolving French identity, navigating the tension between regional diversity and national unity. Synthesizing these perspectives, modern regionalism in France emerges as a multidimensional phenomenon. From sustainable communal development in mosque design to the historical construction of identity within the broader European context and the tangible expressions of architectural choices, the dynamics are interconnected. This interdisciplinary exploration underscores the richness of modern regionalism in France, contributing to a vibrant and evolving cultural landscape. As the nation navigates the complexities of identity, sustainable development, and architectural choices, the dynamics of modern regionalism provide a holistic understanding of the nuanced tapestry shaping the contemporary French experience.

15. Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper has provided a comprehensive exploration of modern regionalism in France, illuminating the intricate interplay between cultural, political, and economic dimensions of regional development. The examination of France's territorial administrative organization, its historical roots, and its transformative impact on regional autonomy has unveiled the empowering effect of decentralization on regional governments. This empowerment, in turn, has allowed regions to actively engage in preserving cultural diversity, fostering political participation, and driving economic development. Cultural regionalism, exemplified by the recognition and promotion of local traditions, languages, and cultural heritage, has been instrumental in shaping regional identities and strengthening regional cohesion. Political regionalism, characterized by participatory governance, has empowered citizens to actively participate in shaping regional policies, ensuring local responsiveness and a sense of ownership. Economic regionalism, aimed at addressing regional disparities and promoting regional development, has harnessed regional economic potentials, emphasizing interregional cooperation and collective resilience. Throughout history, France has played a significant role in shaping modern regionalism both within its borders and at the broader European level. The country's approach to regional governance, grounded in a rich historical and political context, has empowered regions and fostered the growth of distinct regional identities. France's participation in the European regionalist discourse has not only strengthened its regional interests but has also contributed to the recognition of regional voices in European governance structures. However, the complexities and interdependencies between cultural, political, and economic dimensions of regionalism present challenges that require careful coordination and balance. Striking a balance between promoting regional distinctiveness and recognizing shared national identity, coordinating regional and national policies, and ensuring adequate financial resources and capacity-building support are crucial for fostering a cohesive and sustainable regional governance framework in France. As France moves forward, embracing its diverse regional identities while nurturing a shared national vision will be key to effectively harnessing the potential of modern regionalism for the greater well-being of its people and its role in the broader European context. The continued exploration and understanding of these interwoven regional dynamics are vital for shaping the future of regionalism in France and its broader implications for governance and socio-economic development.

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