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The Changing Dynamics of Global Power: Emerging Powers and the Future of the International Order

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Abstract

Emerging powers are challenging Western dominance over the global order and are undergoing a profound transformation. This article is about the altered constellations in the power of global politics, especially the explosion of developing countries and the acute impact they have on international relations. The study analyzes through a detailed analysis the motivations, strategies, and goals of these emerging nations and how they influence global governance. The research integrates quantitative data and qualitative insights to develop a richer, more nuanced understanding of the ever-changing geopolitical landscape. In addition, this article also outlines how these changes could shape the international order in the future and what is in store for the next few decades. The implication is that if emerging powers continue to rise, then the global governance structure will require reform and such a reform may well result in a more inclusive and multipolar order.

Keywords

Emerging Powers, Global Power Dynamics, International Order, BRICS, Multi-polarity, Geopolitical Influence, Global Governance

INTRODUCTION

The power that has been occupied by Western nations, in particular the United States, is undergoing a transformation in the 21st century. Therefore, we are living in a new era of global power dynamics. The prospect of the emergence of emerging economies that have become key players on the scene both economically and in the process of politics and security (Bayat, 2024). Among these countries which have become such powers are particularly China, India, Brazil and South Africa (BRICS along with others), but also

**VOL-3, ISSUE-3, 2025**

actors of paramount importance such as Indonesia, Turkey and Mexico. These countries have been on a tremendous economic growth and are no longer affiliated to a world whose geopolitical order was historically dominated by the Western powers.

Up until World War II, the world was led by what we could say is the unipolar system, which was able to keep power until the end of the Cold War, when the world had the US in the first position of power inside the unipolar system. It paradoxically is this post-Cold War unipolarity that is being replaced in a very slow but almost gradual way by a much more multipolar world order, where power is distributed in a more equal amount to a limited number of people. Emerging markets are growing economically, and the balance of global power is readjusting because technological advances are taking place, and nations are even more assertive on the global stage (Grinin et al., 2023).

In particular, the new, emerging powers are trying to destabilize the settled Western institutions that appear to them to be inappropriate to the latest state of the world. Reform in these important institutions in which emerging powers have requested the reform to better reflect their growing weight are the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations Security Council. They also tried to remake global governance as a show of their economic and geopolitical strength and role; not only that, they wanted to enlarge their financial contribution to the economy. It is a testimony to this of countries outside of the usual Western sphere, which have become more and more important and want to exercise influence and representation at these institutions.

One of the manifestations of this shift would be a growing B.S.R.I.C. (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) group, as the name suggests. However, in recent years, the BRICS had intentionally sought to broaden the group membership by countries like Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. This is just an acknowledgement of the international system as it is not what it used to be, as there has been a toll on the 21st century's political and economic diversity (Newman & Visoka, 2023). With their rapidly growing economies and increasingly assertive diplomatic truncheon, these countries can afford themselves the option to redraw the international order and to actually rake a shovel to the roots of traditional Western dominance.

Even international cultural and social narratives beyond the realms of economics and politics are being shaped by emerging powers as well. In fact, as examples, China and India have both started an *masse* soft power initiatives, such as educational exchanges, expanded media, and cultural diplomacy, to spread their values and position on the globe. This means that such cultural outreach allows them to become part of a more multipolar world where various ideas of governance and others are respected. These economic strategies and these efforts complement each other like the more significant geopolitical shift.

However, the challenges to the rise of these emerging powers are there. They are testing the established global structure that was bequeathed by the West over the decades, a structure that could spawn geopolitical realignments out of these tensions (Peters, 2023). They, as the United States and its allies in Europe grow in influence, may see the growing influence of the emerging nations as a threat to the control of the world held by the emerging countries. Competition and rivalry are perceived to have sparked the conflicts,

**VOL-3, ISSUE-3, 2025**

especially when emerging powers started to behave a bit assertively on their foreign policies, like China's Belt and Road Initiative or Russia, in their regional security issues.

This is not to say that the emerging powers are in current coalitions for the benefits that are to their advantage, nor are they quickly negotiating with coalitions to arrive at solutions. For example, BRICS agree on reform of institutional arrangements in international institutions, but their member states are not, for example, in agreement on main geopolitical issues such as the world's regions' security, including, Asia and the Middle East (Liu, 2023). Also, it highlights the need for emerging powers to have common points with each other to form a more potent force represented in the global forum.

While different emerging powers have other interests and priorities, these give opportunities and challenges. It is, first of all, the growing power of these countries which creates the possibility for a more balanced and better representative structure of the international order, which considers the interests of forgeries and neglected in the institutional structure of the global governance framework. The formation of a solid and effective bloc able to impact the international system can still be paved by competing national interests and different styles of politics of these countries. Therefore, emerging powers must manage the ins and outs of domestic and international politics to bear more responsibility to the convening powers of international norms and institutions.

It is worth seeing these factors given which these new powers are apt to aggregate these variables to determine the international relations that these new powers will use as a model in the future. And yet, they will not be able to reform the global governance structures if they cannot work together with one another and with the established powers in a positive way (He & Feng, 2023). Moreover, these new countries will also need to tread the dangerous waters between denying their interests that can shake global peace and trade without causing damage. Because these powers will rewrite this new world order in their own way, they will not only reshape things as they were but become part of developing an international system that will be more universal, more diverse and more immune.

This article looks at the reasons for emerging powers' rise, the consequences of their rise for the global order, and their potential benefits and risks. It also explores the impact of these powers on international relations, from bilateral economic cooperation to geopolitical competition, and what reform or global governance would counteract the contemporary geopolitical dynamic.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The evolution of global power has been a focus of extensive academic debate concerning explaining the global power order based on emerging powers and their impact on the international order (Ikenberry, 2024). These analyses explore how emerging nations disrupt the old world order historically ruled by Western powers and how the global order is being renegotiated.

One of the foundational scholars in this field, Amite Acharya, offers a significant contribution with his concept of a "multiplex world order." According to him, the world broke away from the Cold War unipolar system dominated by the United States and progressed to a more multipolar one. The article also states that non-Western actors,



VOL-3, ISSUE-3, 2025

particularly the emerging powers, are becoming incredibly involved in shaping global norms and institutions. This change is made very prominent by him, and that is because he speaks about this change as one of the steps, the direction of which continues into a more pluralistic and incentive international order that is based on regional and cultural distinctions as part of global governance (Lavery, 2024). With its multipolar order, emerging powers have been allowed to challenge the monopoly on western-centric institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and demand reform of this global order that no longer corresponds to this new balance of power, said Acharya. Acharya's point clearly shows the critical role for these powers to be acknowledged and benefit from an inclusive world order.

COMPARISON OF KEY GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS AND REPRESENTATION BY EMERGING POWERS

Institution	Emerging Powers' Representation	Traditional Powers' Representation	Notes
United Nations (Security Council)	Limited (5 out of 15 members)	5 Permanent Members (USA, UK, Russia, China, France)	Emerging powers have limited influence, especially in decision-making.
World Bank (Voting Power)	Emerging Powers 14.5% (approx)	Traditional Powers 35% (approx)	Emerging economies still have limited voting power compared to traditional powers.
International Monetary Fund (Voting Power)	Emerging Powers 30% (approx)	Traditional Powers 50% (approx)	Emerging economies are gaining more influence in financial decision-making.
BRICS New Development Bank	Full representation by BRICS members	None (BRICS exclusive)	The BRICS New Development Bank is solely led by emerging powers, independent of traditional institutions.

In his work, *The Post-American World*, documentary President Fareed Zakaria also examines the rise of new centres of power, particularly in Asia, and the diminishing influence of the West. Yet Zakaria disclaims that you are seeing the decline or collapse of Western dominance because those are emerging economies. China, India, for instance. Instead, it indicates a trend in which less high-powered Western powers are substituting for more powerful Western countries to attain more excellent balance in the global order

**VOL-3, ISSUE-3, 2025**

(Acharya et al., 2023). He says this is not the end of Western (or of the US) influence or of power but the beginning of many centres of power — including Asia. Zakaria ranks these powers nevertheless as emerging powers, whose rise will bring about a new geopolitical configuration of power distributed between many nations as opposed to the major actor. Sometimes, it is less stable in the short term, but overall, it might have the advantage of a less unequal distribution of global power.

The first of the most significant manifestations of the changing global landscape has been Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, whose associations of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) have grown and expanded the most. The New Development Bank (NDB) is a mental challenge to the dominance of financial formalities by Western-centered organizations and is a political blueprint for this group. One of the primary purposes the banks have as set up NDB and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) is to aid emerging economies with financial help and infrastructure development to offset World Bank and IMF influence. These institutions have been used by them to shape BRICS nations' interests and substantiate a global financial system that would also meet the needs of developing countries. It is a means by which the new power centers seek to reorder the international economic system to embrace and reflect the reality of the 21st century.

The global swing states are one dicey concept in which one needs to know about the varying global dynamics. And among officials, it was Thomas Juneau who was pushing them along, namely countries whose geopolitical choices would have a strong influence on regional and global outcomes. As a result of this strategic geographical position, economic potential and political clout, Indonesia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia are often seen as swing states in the current global power profiles (Oğuzlu, 2023). The alignment of these countries is not easily categorized as Western or non-Western power chess, nor the weight their alignment places in matters, notably trade, security, climate change and human rights. Take, for instance, the Turkish strategic position between Europe and the Middle East, which has allowed Turkey to project influence on the issues related to European security, Middle Eastern politics and regional energy supply chains. Similarly, the largest economy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia, sits crucial to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and a bridge through which China and the West conduct diplomatic and trade diplomacy. These Global Swing States have the power and the mandate to either reinforce the cooperation found elsewhere in the international system or aggravate strains in it, an already complex web of international relations.

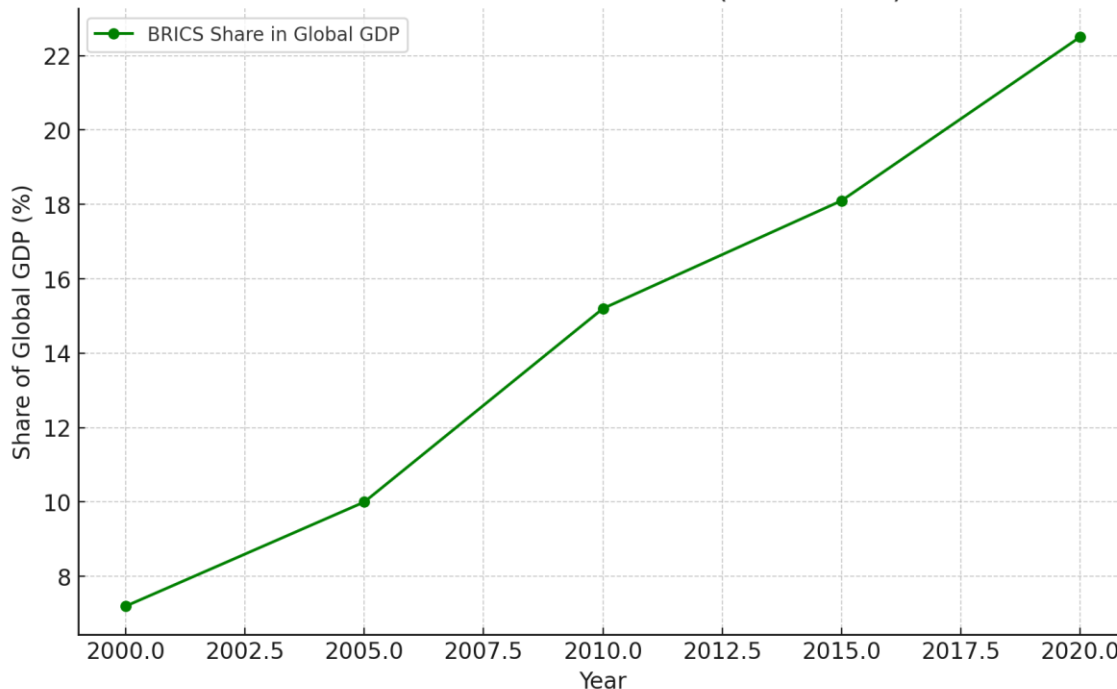
By standing in these two scholarly perspectives, we can make sense of this moment in geopolitical time by understanding this period as a moment of complex restructurings of the global power order itself at its inception. Indeed their presence brings to the fore the necessity to accord agency to emergent powers to pose threats to the limits of the international order and the global governance by which it is maintained (Bettiza et al., 2023). The traditional meaning of power and leadership no longer apply in the international system and in history, as emerging economies shall be leading the way. These powers, however, are on the rise, and they need a new global governance structure



VOL-3, ISSUE-3, 2025

that would not be inclusive of the different socioeconomic, political and cultural contexts within which these nations live.

BRICS Share in Global GDP (2000-2020)



It also prescribes the need for cooperation among the emergent powers. They share some things in common about reforming global institutions and getting more representation in international decision-making, but they have the difficult task of working out how their national interests can be reconciled (Reus-Smit & Zarakol, 2023). The BRICS case, for instance, demonstrates how it is extremely hard to form a coherent front when member states put the economy and development, regional security and foreign policy, among other things, ahead of unison, as it were. This is important to conceive which complexities are associated with the emergence of emerging powers and their impact on global governance.

The international order should adjust to new realities as the balance of global power shifts. Acharya's work, as well as Zakary's and others', demonstrated that efuturable global governance will be created through the readiness of emerging and established powers to synchronize, work together, build joint institutions, and undertake the pressing challenges of the 21st century.

RESEARCH QUESTION

The growing influence of emerging nations is changing how the world works and we need to study this development to predict change in international relations (Boyle, 2023). Emerging nations are changing how nations interact internationally and this shift needs us to rethink global management systems. The research examines how emerging powers have influenced world affairs

How are emerging powers shaping the transformation in the international order and how does this affect the structure of global governance?

**VOL-3, ISSUE-3, 2025**

The question that can be broken down into several sub questions relating to different components of a changing global power dynamics:

1. How are emerging powers becoming important in the global scene of politics and economy?
2. What conditions have enabled the rise of emerging economies, notably those in the BRICS, on a global scale, to threaten the established worldwide international institutions, primarily those dominated by the West?
3. How are emerging powers reconfiguring global economic governance through alternative financial institutions like the New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank?
4. So, what role do emerging powers play in reorganizing global governance systems, particularly the United Nations Security Council, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund?
5. What is the role of cultural and soft power strategies (for example, media, education and diplomacy) in new powers' influence on the global stage?

These questions will be addressed and understanding will be gained about how emerging powers are reshaping global governance, what these challenges mean, and the implications for future international relations will be. Drawing out each query based on the essential themes, which are needed to understand the complex and somewhat unbalanced game of the emerging economies against the established global order, they end up nailing down each question.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The main goal of this research examines the transformation of global power dynamics with the rising influence of emerging economies. The evaluation focuses on achieving the subsequent essential goals:

1. To analyze how the factors of political, economic and strategic nature contributed to the emergence of emerging powers. The study also looks at how China, India, Brazil South Africa and other emerging countries are developing economically as countries and the political and geopolitical strategies they are taking to achieve such success.
2. It will attempt to evaluate the roles of the emerging powers on the banks and the norms of the existing international institutions. The objective achieved in this part is that these powers are challenging the fact, rise global institutions such as the United Nations, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and norms, and the reason for this rise is to analyze why.
3. It is a good way to trace the scramble of established powers to respond to a proliferation of new nations. This includes understanding how Western powers, particularly the United States and the European Union, are terminating their foreign policy and security strategies with respect to the increased powers of so-called emerging economies.
4. Considering different evaluations towards the various potential situations of global governance in the context of a multipolar world order. This objective considers what global power might look like in future, how such a more multipolar system can function and what that means for global governance.

**VOL-3, ISSUE-3, 2025**

5. To formulate policy recommendations for emerging and established powers in establishing their relationship with the international landscape. It also attempts to furnish practical advice through the rule of polices to these powers to play well on the stage of the new world order.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current research uses a blended approach that includes qualitative and quantitative data collection methods to achieve whole understanding of worldwide power transformations and new power economies (Liu & He, 2023). The research adopts different research methods to study the theoretical and empirical perspectives of the subject. The methods used to conduct this study organize into several essential steps which follow:

LITERATURE REVIEW AND DESK RESEARCH

This research draws heavily on an extensive literature review of existing literature, which includes books, peer-reviewed journals, policy papers, and reports of international organizations from the United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund. This literature review bases it on a theory towards the change of global power emphasis, namely multi-polarity, the new power, and its impact on international governance. The concepts discussed include the rise of BRICS, the evolution of world institutions, and the interests of emerging powers.

Desk research makes use of the synthesis of the secondary data from a reputable sources to show how global power was played out. Diplomatic relations, defense spending and involvement in multilateral organizations, as well as economic indicators such as GDP growth, exports, imports, foreign direct investment flows (FDI flows) all factor in to the three economic indicators that also consist of GDP growth. In addition, it aims to offer the history of how the conduct of the behaviour of new powers is changing and what it is doing to how they engage with the rest of the international system.

QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

The study would involve gathering and analyzing economic, political and security factors of the emerging powers on a quantitative aspect (Goddard et al., 2024). In these variables increase or decrease of GDP growth rates, trade volumes, military spending, alignment foreign policy, participation in international organizations. Sources can be obtained from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Patterns and trends around the behavior of emerging powers over time are explored through the use of quantitative methods. About geographic influence and economic growth and the influence of emerging powers on the existing international order, economic growth is measured with statistical machines such as regression analysis and correlation coefficients. The resulting numbers represent an emerging economy tool to measure how these countries play a rising role in global trade, investment and diplomacy.

**VOL-3, ISSUE-3, 2025****QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION: INTERVIEWS AND CASE STUDIES**

To complement the quantitative data, it's done from the side of a qualitative research which is conducted through interview with international relations, economics and political science experts. Their experts are diplomats, scholars and analysts of emerging economies and global governance. Interviews focus on semi structured questions which allows for flexibility with regard to the different type of themes such as the motivations behind the actions of emerging powers, their strategic objectives, and those of established powers (Chen & Evers, 2023).

In addition, some specific emerging powers, including China, India, Brazil, and South Africa, were also reviewed in the research. They have gone deeper into their foreign policies, their economic strategies and into how they have contributed in shaping global governance. Thus, the research was out to research those nations in details and to find out on how they used their power to mold the international order.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

It analyses different strategies undertook by emerging powers and the contrasts of their effects on the global system. Among others, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is compared with India's 'Act East' policy, and Brazil and South Africa's foreign policies are compared in the context of regional and global influence. A comparison among emerging powers helps to understand the wide array of ways they seek to shift the nature of international relations.

SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION

The study also surveys the public's opinion on the role of emerging powers in global governance. The survey includes policy experts, business leaders, and citizens from both emerging and established powers. Hence, the survey questions about perceptions of global power shifts, the legitimacy of new global institutions, and the responsiveness of existing international institutions to a new class of emerging powers are answered.

DATA TRIANGULATION

Triangulation is the final step of the methodology, which involves checking the method findings using quantitative and qualitative data to avoid inaccuracies and reliability. Triangulating helps resolve inconsistencies between the different sources and gain a more accurate picture of how global power dynamics change over time.

RESULTS FINDINGS

It also follows from research findings that emerging powers, just like the existing ones, are also working to get into a critical position to have some significant influence on international order – in fact, I would say in terms of the economy, in terms of diplomatic relations and in terms of security (Sahakyan, 2023). So, though China, India, and Brazil have not yet established themselves as leading trading powers, their rise has seen the establishment of trade networks as well as the growth of new financial institutions, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the New Development Bank (NDB). Running from Westerners, they challenge the prominence of organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Another feature is that emerging powers have been expecting more of a voice in global governance discussions and are calling for reforms of the system to consider their increased economic impact on the system. Specifically, the expectations are for more



VOL-3, ISSUE-3, 2025

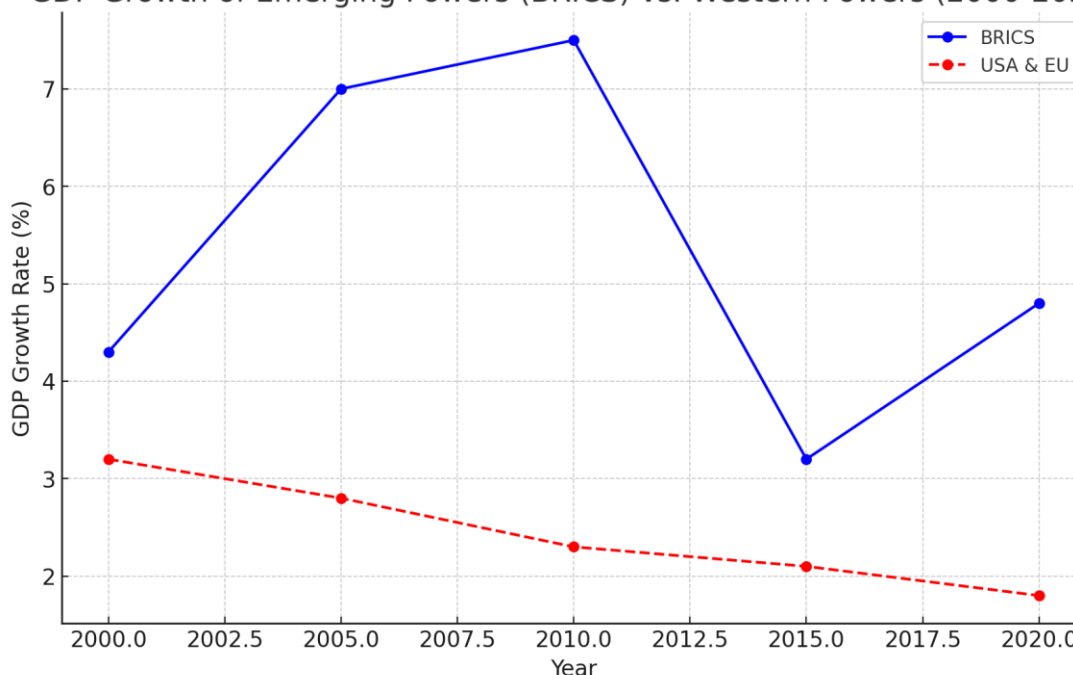
excellent representation at the United Nations Security Council and other multilateral institutions. Whereas emerging powers do not provide a united voice for the lack of consensus on several issues, for example, climate change and regional security they cannot make a unified impact on global governance. Then there is the fact that even though emergent powers have also been able to get their voice heard economically, military and geopolitical power is yet to be equally so.

DISCUSSION

The shift in global power dynamics is merely a broader shift of a multipolar world order. With such a long reign of international affairs, the United States and Europe have been undermined by emerging powers (Hearson et al., 2023). But this is an economic and strategic shift as emerging powers wish to pressure Western-centered institutions and norms.

Such a shift is one of the most critical shifts that turned global governance into fragmentation. Such emerging powers are pressing for reform in institutional bodies such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the IMF. These institutions here were mostly put together post World War II with different geopolitical age priorities that are manufactured. That said, the emerging powers are also looking to step up in more powerful voting and leadership positions.

GDP Growth of Emerging Powers (BRICS) vs. Western Powers (2000-2020)



Alternatively, emerging powers are making it harder on the existing global order. Though these countries' economies have burgeoned, they do not possess a foreign policy that works together in a cohesive bloc. For one, the United States and India's regional security concerns frequently clash with China's foreign policy, as is seen in the instance of the latter's foreign policy that often breeds conflict in the South China Sea. Similarly, Brazil and South Africa are less interested in global issues in comparison to regional problems, which makes them unable to direct the world.

**VOL-3, ISSUE-3, 2025**

Second, tensions between established powers and rising powers increase because the latter are becoming increasingly assertive. The US, for one, has had qualms about growing Chinese influence and has become more strident with words in a bid to counterbalance it through the forging of alliances among other Asian and Pacific nations. Sooner or later, this geopolitical rivalry could lead to a more bifurcated and divided global order in which there are many competing spheres of influence.

New powers do, however, bring possibilities of global cooperation. These countries can play a role in a more balanced, diverse global governance with a well-thought-out diplomatic basis. By taking part in new financial institutions like the AIIB and NDB, as well as cuts in dependence on Western-dominated finance, the issue of global development can be addressed. Additionally, emerging powers can address the world's problems, including climate change, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation, when domestic conflicts are resolved and when the interests of the emerging powers themselves converge.

CONCLUSION

The world today is a changing power landscape with challenges and opportunities for the future of international order. Transitions occur in the way of emerging powers that offer new perspectives on how to govern, develop and secure the world. There can only be the development of nationalism and of these emerging economies competing with each other that the rest of the nations will have to live with a multipolar summit of countries of the developing world whose interests and priorities are dissimilar from the rest of the countries of the old world.

The rise of emerging powers goes against the old models of global governance and requires reforms in the international institutions to increase the presence of China, India, and Brazil. While they are still behind the military and geopolitical power of Western countries, their economic might and diplomatic outreach are unchallenged. In this sense, this development to a multipolar order will continue in which the emerging powers are becoming increasingly important in determining the global norms and institutions.

Although not reducible to studded challenges on the road to a more inclusive and cooperative variant of global governance, it is nonetheless necessary and deserving in light of the present given. We just have a very hard time to get [parties] who have traditional powers to give up and convince other emerging powers to come, to come to the table and move forward with more or less key issues of the global agenda. But there is no reason that through diplomacy and international community by multilateralism and mutual respect, the world cannot turn to a more balanced and fair global order.

The global power game is no more than the exploration of stronger coordination and versatility in relations in general. As emerging powers realize the new geopolitical reality, nations everywhere will need to adjust to a new, often ominous, shape of the international order, and all will suffer if the coming geopolitical changes do not leave them with the means to thrive. While diversity and dialogue eased international community in forming an inclusive, stable global system.

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