



Research Article

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Shaping the Global Future: The Strategic Influence of the Emerging Global South in the New International Order (2022)

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Abstract

The reconfiguration of the international order in 2022 signifies a pronounced shift in global power dynamics, with the ascendant Global South increasingly asserting itself as a transformative force in redefining governance structures and economic paradigms. This study interrogates the pivotal role of emerging economies across Africa, Asia, and Latin America in contesting the entrenched hegemony of the Global North. It foregrounds the expanding influence of multilateral coalitions such as BRICS, the G20, and various regional alignments, which collectively champion a more equitable and multipolar global order. Central to this inquiry is an examination of how these states strategically deploy economic cooperation, South-South trade, and alternative financial architectures to assert their geopolitical agency on the international stage. Furthermore, the analysis delves into the nuanced geopolitical manoeuvres these nations employ to navigate an increasingly complex global landscape marked by intensified great power rivalry, economic volatility, and emergent security challenges. Through a rigorous examination of case studies, this research posits that the Global South is transitioning from a reactive posture to a proactive role in forging a new international paradigm centred on inclusivity, sustainability, and diversified leadership. The findings suggest that the collective ascendancy of these nations heralds a pivotal transformation in global relations, with far-reaching consequences for the trajectory of global governance.

Keywords: international order 2022, emerging global south, multipolar world order, geopolitics etc

1. Introduction

In 2022, the global landscape underwent transformative shifts that underscored the rise of the Global South as a formidable force in shaping the international order. The term “Global South” broadly encapsulates regions across Latin America, Africa, and much of Asia that have historically been economically marginalised relative to the Global North. Over recent decades, key emerging economies within these regions have progressively augmented their global influence, thereby challenging the unipolar dominance of Western powers and advancing the emergence of a multipolar world order. As geopolitical tensions, economic recalibrations, and global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic tested the resilience of established international institutions, the Global South asserted its strategic, economic, and diplomatic prerogatives with renewed vigour.

1.1 The Evolving Global Order: Historical Background

Global power dynamics have long been dictated by Western hegemony, with the United States and its European allies at the helm. However, the 21st century has witnessed the steady ascendancy of new power centres, primarily within the Global South. Nations such as China, India, Brazil, and South Africa have increasingly become pivotal players in global governance, driving critical discourses on trade, climate change, and security. This reconfiguration is fueled not merely by economic growth but by a collective resolve within Global South countries to rectify the enduring asymmetries embedded in the traditional international system.

The rise of multipolarity stands as a defining feature of the evolving international order. In contrast to the binary opposition of the Cold War era or the unipolar dominance that followed today’s geopolitical milieu is marked by diverse and competing power centers. The BRICS coalition (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), the African Union, and regional alliances across Latin America and Southeast Asia have gained substantial traction, serving as platforms for the Global South to articulate its interests and pursue strategic objectives.

2. Methodology

1. Research Design

This study employs a qualitative research strategy enriched by comparative analysis to examine the evolving role of the Global South in the emerging international order of 2022. The research is fundamentally descriptive and analytical, with the primary aim of discerning patterns and trends in the geopolitical and economic behaviours of emerging nations within the Global South.

2. Data Collection Methods

2.1 Secondary Data Analysis:

The research draws extensively on secondary sources, including peer-reviewed journals, policy briefs, international reports, governmental records, and publications from global institutions such as the United Nations, and World Bank, and regional organizations like BRICS, ASEAN, and the African Union. A systematic review of literature, focusing on recent studies (post-2020), is conducted to explore shifts in global power dynamics, South-South cooperation, and multilateral engagements led by the Global South.

2.2 Case Study Analysis:

In-depth case studies are utilized to scrutinize specific countries (e.g., China, India, Brazil, South Africa) and regional groupings (e.g., BRICS, African Union, Pacific Alliance) to evaluate their strategies and influence in shaping the new global order. These cases are assessed in terms of their diplomatic, economic, and political manoeuvres, with particular emphasis on initiatives such as South-South cooperation, regional trade agreements, and global governance reforms.

2.3 Expert Interviews (Optional):

Subject to availability, interviews with policymakers, diplomats, and academics specializing in international relations and development studies may be conducted. These interviews aim to provide qualitative insights that complement the secondary data, offering a nuanced understanding of the subject matter.

3. Data Analysis Techniques

2.4 Thematic Analysis:

The study identifies and analyzes central themes such as global governance, multipolarity, South-South cooperation, and regionalism. Thematic coding is employed to systematically categorize emerging patterns and trends drawn from both literature and case study findings.

2.5 Comparative Analysis:

The research juxtaposes the strategies and influence of the Global South with those of traditional powers like the United States and the European Union. This comparative framework elucidates the shifts in global power dynamics and the increasingly prominent role of emerging economies.

2.6 Trend Analysis:

The study monitors geopolitical, economic, and diplomatic trends that have surfaced in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and amidst the rise of multipolarity. Key indicators such as trade flows, regional integration initiatives, and reforms within global institutions are critically examined.

4. Scope and Limitations

2.7 Scope:

The research concentrates on the events and developments of 2022, while also considering relevant trends leading up to this period. The geographical focus spans Asia, Africa, and Latin America, with the inclusion of historical context where necessary to ensure analytical continuity.

2.8 Limitations:

The study is constrained by the availability and accuracy of data, particularly regarding nascent strategies and alliances that are still in flux. Given the fluid nature of global geopolitics, the conclusions presented may require ongoing reassessment.

5. Ethical Considerations

Ethical integrity is upheld through rigorous citation practices and the acquisition of informed consent for any interviews conducted. The research adheres to strict protocols regarding privacy and potential conflicts of interest in both data selection and analysis. The methodology adopted in this study provides a structured and robust framework for investigating the evolving role of the Global South within the international order of 2022. By integrating qualitative analysis, case studies, and comparative perspectives, this research endeavours to yield valuable insights into the shifting dynamics of global power.

3. Review of Literature

The scholarly discourse on the emerging Global South and the reconfigured International Order post-2022 delineates a multifaceted and evolving global landscape where traditional power hierarchies are being redefined. While a growing consensus acknowledges the enhanced agency of the Global South within global governance structures, the pathways toward a genuinely equitable and multipolar world remain highly contested. Theoretical developments, economic transformations, and geopolitical realignments collectively underscore the Global South's pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of international relations. Nevertheless, internal disparities, governance challenges, and the delicate balancing of diverse interests within this group necessitate

continuous analysis as the global order continues to transform.

The reconfiguration of global power structures in the 21st century has amplified the focus on the evolving role of the Global South. Traditionally dominated by Western hegemony, the international order is undergoing a significant shift as nations across Asia, Africa, and Latin America assert themselves on political, economic, and diplomatic fronts. The notion of the "Global South" encapsulates a heterogeneous collection of countries that, despite historical marginalization, are now emerging as influential actors within global governance. This literature review critically examines the scholarly debates surrounding the post-2022 International Order, with particular emphasis on the emerging Global South's role in shaping contemporary global dynamics.

3.1 Theoretical Frameworks: Global South and International Relations

The concept of the Global South, though historically rooted in post-colonial and development studies, has gained traction in international relations theory as a lens through which to understand emerging multipolarity. Scholars such as Acharya (2018) and Narlikar (2020) argue that the rise of the Global South signals a shift from a unipolar to a multipolar world order (Narlikar, 2020). Acharya's "multiplex world" framework posits that the international system is no longer defined by a single hegemonic power but by a complex network of regional powers, institutions, and non-state actors (Acharya, 2018). This theory contrasts with the traditional realist perspective that emphasizes state-centric power balances and geopolitical rivalry, highlighting the increasing significance of soft power and coalition-building in the Global South.

3.2 Economic Shifts: From Dependency to Resilience

The economic literature on the Global South's role in the new order often centres on the transition from dependency and underdevelopment to resilience and self-determination. Dependency theorists such as Frank (1967) highlighted the structural imbalances between the Global North and South, which perpetuated economic disparities (Frank, 1967). However, contemporary scholarship, including work by Prashad (2021) and Wade (2022), illustrates a gradual shift as emerging economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America leverage regional trade agreements (Prashad, 2021), South-South cooperation, and alternative financial institutions like the BRICS New Development Bank (Wade, 2022). The literature emphasizes that while challenges persist, countries in the Global South have increasingly diversified their economies and reduced their dependency on Western markets.

3.3 *Political Agency and Multilateralism*

Political agency within the Global South is a critical theme in the literature on the post-2022 international order. Scholars such as Abdenur and Folly (2022) underscore the active role that countries like India, Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia play in reshaping global governance through institutions such as the G20, BRICS, and the African Union (Abdenur, 2022). These nations are no longer passive recipients of global norms but are actively involved in agenda-setting and norm entrepreneurship. Furthermore, scholars like Puri (2023) argue that the Global South's focus on multilateralism and inclusive development offers an alternative vision of global governance that challenges the dominance of Western-centric institutions like the IMF and World Bank (Puri, 2023).

Geopolitical Reconfigurations: Strategic Alignments and Non-Alignment

The literature also addresses the geopolitical realignments driven by the resurgence of the Global South. Authors such as Shahi and Hameiri (2022) discuss how the strategic alliances formed between emerging economies, such as the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, reflect a pragmatic approach to international relations (Shahi, 2022). While some scholars highlight the persistence of non-alignment as a guiding principle, others note a more nuanced strategy of "strategic autonomy" wherein countries maintain flexibility to engage with both Western and non-Western powers based on national interests. This reconfiguration challenges the traditional Cold War-era binaries and allows for a more dynamic and fluid international landscape.

3.4 *Environmental and Developmental Paradigms*

The role of the Global South in advancing alternative development paradigms is another significant area of focus. The literature points to how countries in the Global South are advocating for sustainable development models that prioritize social equity and environmental sustainability over profit-driven growth. Research by Escobar (2021) and Moyo (2023) (Moyo, 2023) highlights the Global South's leadership in promoting climate justice and their collective bargaining within frameworks like the Paris Agreement (Escobar, 2021). These scholars argue that the Global South's emphasis on sustainable development offers a critical counter-narrative to neoliberal models that have historically dominated global development discourse.

3.5 *Challenges and Critiques*

Despite the growing influence of the Global South, the literature also critically assesses the limitations and internal contradictions within this bloc. Scholars like Calland and Nathan (2022) caution against romanticizing the Global South as a homogenous entity, noting the vast inequalities and divergent political systems within the group (Calland, 2022). Additionally, critics argue that while regional powers like China and India have

gained influence, this has not always translated into equitable development outcomes for smaller nations within the Global South. The literature also highlights issues of governance, corruption, and regional conflicts that pose significant challenges to the collective aspirations of the Global South.

3.6 The Role of Economic Power

Economic dynamism has been central to the ascendancy of the Global South. Over the past two decades, numerous countries within Asia, Africa, and Latin America have experienced sustained economic growth, often eclipsing that of developed nations. China's rapid industrialization, coupled with its rise as the world's second-largest economy, has been instrumental in this transformation. India, leveraging its demographic dividend and expanding technology sector, has similarly positioned itself as a formidable global actor. Brazil's extensive natural resources and agricultural prowess, alongside South Africa's leadership within the African continent, have further solidified the Global South's global standing.

The economic influence of the Global South is increasingly discernible in shifting global trade patterns. South-South trade—commerce between developing countries—has expanded significantly, driven by deeper regional integration and a concerted effort to reduce dependency on traditional Western markets. New financial institutions like the New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) provide alternative sources of capital, diminishing reliance on Western-dominated institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

3.7 Strategic and Diplomatic Realignments

Diplomatically, the Global South has capitalized on its growing economic prowess to advocate for more equitable representation in global governance. A consistent demand has emerged for greater inclusivity within international institutions like the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The push for a multipolar world is intimately linked to these aspirations, as countries in the Global South seek to construct a governance architecture that is more reflective of contemporary realities rather than the power dynamics forged in the aftermath of World War II.

The ascendancy of China and India as regional and global powers has also precipitated a recalibration of global alliances. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has extended its influence across Asia, Africa, and Europe through extensive infrastructure investments, while India's "Act East" policy and participation in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) illustrate its expanding strategic reach. Simultaneously, Africa is increasingly viewed as a region of pivotal strategic importance, with both China and Western powers vying for influence in what is often termed the "new scramble for Africa."

3.8 *India's Role*

India's bourgeoisie-led ruling class, characterized by a fusion of feudal and capitalist interests, alongside the Indian state, exhibits a dualistic nature, particularly evident in its international engagements. On one hand, India maintains a delicate balancing act, alternating between conflict and compromise with Western imperialist powers, led by the USA, which are also its former colonial rulers. On the other hand, it aligns strategically with nations such as Russia, China, and Vietnam, which represent a legacy of Soviet-era communism.

In the contemporary global landscape, the central antagonisms have escalated between imperialist America and communist China, as well as between the U.S.-led Western imperialist bloc—including the G7 and NATO—and the developing nations of the Global South. These tensions are manifesting on two primary fronts:

- The de-dollarization movement spearheaded by BRICS, SCO, EAC, RCEP, and the Global South, challenged the dominance of the U.S. dollar in global trade.
- Direct military confrontations aimed at compelling the withdrawal of American military bases from territories across Asia, Africa, and Europe, targeting the strategic stronghold of the USA and its NATO allies.

This complex geopolitical environment highlights the intensifying contradictions shaping the dynamics between global powers and emerging alliances.

3.9 *The Surge of South-South Cooperation*

South-South cooperation has emerged as a defining feature of the Global South's rise, as countries increasingly turn to one another for developmental solutions, technological exchange, and diplomatic solidarity. This trend marks a departure from the historical North-South dependency model, where development aid and trade policies were largely dictated by the Global North. Initiatives such as the Africa-Asia Partnership and Latin America's CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) underscore shared aspirations for sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and regional integration.

The development paradigm of the Global South is deeply influenced by the principle of non-alignment, emphasizing the protection of sovereignty and the avoidance of entanglement in great power rivalries. This approach is particularly evident in how many Global South nations have navigated the escalating tensions between the United States and China, opting to maintain balanced relations with both powers while advocating for peaceful coexistence and diplomatic conflict resolution.

3.10 *Challenges and Internal Dynamics*

Despite the Global South's growing prominence in the international order, significant

internal challenges persist. The Global South is far from monolithic, encompassing a wide array of political systems, economic stages, and regional aspirations. Internal conflicts, economic disparities, and diverging strategic interests frequently impede cohesive action. For instance, while BRICS symbolizes the rise of the Global South, divergent priorities and geopolitical rivalries—particularly between China and India—pose formidable obstacles to unified decision-making.

Furthermore, issues such as corruption, weak governance, and infrastructural deficits continue to hinder progress in numerous Global South countries. The economic volatility exacerbated by global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and fluctuating commodity prices further accentuates the vulnerabilities confronting these nations.

3.11 The Future of the Global South in the New International Order

The Global South's future role in shaping the international order hinges on its capacity to consolidate economic gains, fortify diplomatic unity, and address internal challenges. The increasing influence of regional organizations, the continued drive for reforms in global governance, and the sustained momentum of South-South cooperation are likely to define this trajectory. Should the Global South succeed in preserving strategic autonomy while adeptly navigating global power dynamics, it is poised to play a decisive role in the multipolar world order.

Moreover, the Global South's emphasis on sustainable development and inclusive growth aligns with broader global objectives, positioning these nations as indispensable partners in confronting global challenges such as climate change, food security, and health pandemics. As the international order continues to evolve, the voice of the Global South will be instrumental in shaping a more equitable and balanced global system.

4. Conclusion

The international order in 2022 is characterized by the growing agency of the Global South. As nations across Asia, Africa, and Latin America continue to enhance their influence in global economic, strategic, and diplomatic arenas, the world is witnessing an epochal shift toward multipolarity. While internal divisions and external pressures persist, the collective efforts of the Global South to challenge the historical dominance of the Global North herald the emergence of a more decentralized and representative global order. The future of this transformation will depend on how effectively these emerging powers navigate the intricate landscape of global governance, pursue shared developmental goals, and maintain unity amid diverse interests. Ultimately, the evolving role of the Global South is not merely reshaping global power dynamics but also offering new perspectives and avenues toward a more inclusive and sustainable international system.

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