

## INFORMAL COOPERATION AS A PERSPECTIVE MULTIPOLARITY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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DOI: 10.52123/1994-2370-2022-744  
UDC 327"71"  
CICSTI 11.25.15

**Abstract.** The article presents the results of an analysis of the capabilities of the BRICS member countries to influence the political development of the modern world order and international relations in the new geopolitical conditions in terms of the distribution of regional development functions. When considering the political and economic documents for the development of the activities of the BRICS member countries on key issues related to military-political cooperation, economic policy, the development of digital technologies, attention is paid to key areas for the development of partnership and strategic cooperation in the crisis conditions of the development of the system of international relations.

**Keywords:** world order, BRICS member countries, regional security, trust partnership, strategic cooperation.

**JEL codes:** F50

**Аңдатпа.** Мақалада БРИКС-ке мүше елдердің жаңа геосаяси жағдайларда қазіргі әлемдік тәртіп пен халықаралық қатынастардың саяси дамуына әсер ету мүмкіндіктерін талдау нәтижелері берілген. Әскери-саяси ынтымақтастыққа, экономикалық саясатқа және цифрлық технологияларды дамытуға қатысты негізгі мәселелер бойынша БРИКС-ке мүше елдердің қызметін дамытуға арналған саяси және экономикалық құжаттарды қарау кезінде серіктестік пен стратегиялық қатынастарды дамытудың негізгі бағыттарына назар аударылады. халықаралық қатынастар жүйесінің дамуының дағдарыс жағдайында ынтымақтастық.

**Түйін сөздер:** әлемдік тәртіп, БРИКС елдері, аймақтық қауіпсіздік, сенімді серіктестік, стратегиялық ынтымақтастық.

**JEL codes:** F50

**Аннотация.** В статье представлены результаты анализа возможностей стран-участниц БРИКС влиять на политическое развитие современного миропорядка и международных отношений в новых геополитических условиях. При рассмотрении политико-экономических документов развития деятельности стран-участниц БРИКС по ключевым вопросам, связанных с военно-политическим сотрудничеством, экономической политикой, развитием цифровых технологий, внимание уделяется ключевым направлениям развития партнерства и стратегического сотрудничества в кризисных условиях развития системы международных отношений.

**Ключевые слова:** мировой порядок, страны БРИКС, региональная безопасность, доверительное партнерство, стратегическое сотрудничество.

**JEL codes:** F50

### Introduction

The strategic vision of informal cooperation and trust partnership to ensure regional security has become an urgent problem for the BRICS member states in the realities of the modern development of the world order. Based on the theoretical analysis of the foreign policy pursued by the BRICS countries, an approach to the discursive interpretation of the world order and political processes was developed, which allowed determining the parameters of the further development of the Commonwealth. The analysis of discussions on various aspects of the development of the

BRICS institute allows us to judge the role that this community may play in the near future in the search for a way out of the crisis generated by the agony of the neoliberal global world order.

### Materials and methods

In order to identify the problematic field of BRICS positioning (as an informal institute) and develop conceptual recommendations for the formation of a positive image of the institute, the theory of compromise (G. Laswell, A. Etzioni, A. Degtyarev, D. Kerimov, etc.) was considered, as well as problems of interstate

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cooperation emerging from the theory of conflictology, which become independent in theoretical understanding. To identify the problematic field of BRICS positioning (as an informal institution) and develop conceptual recommendations for the formation of a positive image of the institute, the theory of compromise (G.Laswell, A. Etzioni, A. Degtyarev, D.Kerimov, etc.), as well as problems of interstate cooperation emerging from the theory of conflictology and acquiring an independent character were used.

A comparative analysis of the scientific research of domestic and foreign scientists and political theorists, which has been conducted for more than a decade, clearly shows that today none of the existing paradigms of economic and socio-political theory can claim to be a monopoly lifesaver. The experience of recent decades clearly excludes the very possibility of transforming the economy and society on the basis of some kind of universal synthetic model. The ambiguous assessments of scientists and politicians of the BRICS Institute indicate the need to consider this commonwealth as a potentially global institution in the system of the modern world order. Accordingly, the task arises to find those technologies of cooperation between countries that could ensure the transfer of the existing potential capabilities of each country participating in the Eurasian Partnership. This is one of the most important tasks facing every State. In this context, the BRICS countries have significant economic potential.

The commitment declared by BRICS in its international activities to the principles of the UN is a significant evidence of the commonality of the political worldview of its participants. The first twentieth anniversary of the XX1 century demonstrated not only changes in political and economic processes in the system of international relations, but also the transformation of international cooperation.

The new aggravation of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and the Middle East, due to the gross intervention of the United States and Western powers in the domestic policy of countries, has become of immediate importance for the security of peace

throughout the planet. The creation of a new association of three countries - the USA, Britain and Australia - AUKUS (an abbreviation of the names of the three participating countries: Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States) as a result of the adopted partnership agreement in the field of defense and security is unlikely to be a "field of confidence and security" for the countries of the region. Activities within the AUKUS group will allow member countries to simplify and expand the exchange of information and military technology. Among the main areas for interaction are developments in the field of artificial intelligence, cybernetic and underwater systems. In addition, the parties plan to develop the ability to strike from long distances. In the actions of the United States to destabilize the situation both in the Indo-Pacific region and in Central Asia and the Middle East, a direct threat to regional and national security remains. If the "chaos" of armed and social conflicts spreads to the entire geopolitical space from Suez to Tibet, BRICS countries will inevitably face the problem of ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of countries (*Scobell and Nader, 2016*).

### Main part

The BRICS as an international institution is aimed at development, the main task of which is reforming the financial system, expanding military ties based on military diplomacy and trust<sup>2</sup>, (*Weber, 2017*), and not directed against the "third country," which is also a certain counterweight to US policy aimed at creating a powerful military core. The BRICS countries may become the basis of a new, multipolar world order, they have similar approaches to the protection of international law and countering the unilateral sanctions policy of the West. Changes in the foreign policy of the BRICS countries have made adjustments to the distribution of both economic and military-political forces on the world stage, ensuring stability and sovereignty. It should be noted that the total economic power, the size of the territory and the population of the BRICS countries allows it to become dominant in the development of not only regional security,

<sup>2</sup> Without going into the conceptual essence of the concept of trust/distrust, a number of experts see in the growth of distrust the inevitable

manifestation of the negative aspects of globalization processes.

but also in the world as a whole<sup>3</sup>.

The emergence of the BRICS acronym and the formation of a political format against the backdrop of new rapidly growing markets was facilitated by the main unifying idea, which is to create a foreign policy instrument to protect the interests of member countries in certain regions and in the world as a whole. These tasks have not yet been solved, but their sharpness and methods of solution are variable values in connection with new realities in relations between developed countries. Russia's special operation in Ukraine has intensified the process of changing the unfair world order, which the United States and EU countries call "rules-based." Not all countries are ready to jeopardize the well-being of their citizens at the behest of Washington, imposing sanctions against Russia and breaking economic ties with it.

Political stability requires the preservation and development of trust, which is based on rationally explainable policy factors, morality and compromise conditions.

Promising resources of trust are laid down and concentrated in the development of reciprocity and symmetrical interaction in all macro-social spheres of social development. Meaningful and informed rational trust plays a significant role in the development and implementation of targeted projects in various fields, be it the economy or culture, the social or military sphere. Awareness of the goal can consolidate the confidence of leaders and political structures in achieving it. Trust such as political capital is based on an adequate and consistent interpretation of the meanings of security and welfare. For security today is significantly updated due to growing threats from certain states, military blocs or terrorist organizations. As you know, Confucius, speaking about the relationship between the ruler and the people, noted that sustainable development is impossible without mutual trust. This also applies to relations between countries, for "virtuous governance" in the Confucian sense means, among other things, the sufficiency of military forces and the trust of the people.

The category "trust" was cultivated not only in Chinese philosophy, but also in Indian philosophy and political thought of the state. "The government should look after subjects so they feel safe. It is very regrettable when the authorities, playing a political game, abuse the trust of people...." (*Bhaktivedanta Swami, 2007*).

Even though the BRICS countries gravitate towards different geostrategic poles and projects (which to a certain extent inhibits its influence in the world), its potential attracts more and more participants. The idea of multilateralism put forward by China is supported by Russia and other members of the organization. The fate of the modernization of relations between the BRICS countries clearly depends on the strength of this union. According to Beijing, the expansion of the organization will strengthen its influence in the world and the entry of new countries into informal unification may give a new impetus to economic cooperation. A significant synergistic effect of such cooperation can be used to further strengthen ties within the BRICS.

Strategic cooperation based on mutual benefit and complementarity significantly reduces challenges and concerns, reducing the number of commitments from participating partners focused on interests and promoting potential competition. Although it is worth noting that China has discrepancies in the concepts of "cooperation" and "partnership," which consists in the fact that partnership compared to cooperation is smaller in scale and already in the number of areas of interaction (*Bedareva, 2019*). Many researchers, analyzing the diversity of economic development of the BRICS countries, note the effect of complementarity. Thus, China can be described as a world plant, Russia - an energy empire, India - an external one, Brazil - a warehouse of resources and South Africa - a "golden" country. The economies of the BRICS countries harmoniously complement each other (*Action Plan 2021-2024 for Agricultural Cooperation of BRICS Countries*).

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<sup>3</sup> The BRICS make up the 5 largest countries of different continents: these are densely populated countries - China and India, the largest states of South America and Africa and Russia - the

largest country in the world by territory. More than 43% of the total world population live in the BRICS countries.

**Table 1 - Main economic indicators of the BRICS countries, 2019-2020 (according to GII-2020)**

Country	Population, million people	PPP GDP, billion dollars	GDP per capita (per PPP), USD	General GII-2019	General GII-2020	Change in the position in the GII-2020 rating compared to GII-2019
China	1433,8	27308,9	17027,5	14	14	0
Russia	145,9	4349,4	26878,7	46	47	-1
India	1366,4	11325,7	7314,6	52	48	+4
South Africa	58,6	809,0	12007,5	63	60	+3
Brazil	211,0	3456,4	14371,6	66	62	+4

Source: Journal of Creative Economy .2021 Vol. 15, Num. 8,- p. 3176

The economies of the BRICS countries will play an important role in the global economic recovery after the coronavirus. BRICS member countries are leaders in their regions. Thus, trade of the BRICS countries is developing within the framework of mutually beneficial cooperation, free from sanctions. If we analyze the positions of the BRICS countries in the global innovation index of 2020 in the context of individual elements, then we can see that China, which occupies the highest position among the BRICS countries, achieves success through the development of technologies and the knowledge economy, the development of creative activity, business development, a capacious domestic market and the development of human capital.

India, which is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, is not far behind China. The country's leadership believes that India's strengths lie in its labor resources, quality services, in the production of analog pharmaceuticals, which contributes to the strengthening of the health care system of the five countries, in the promotion of information technologies, in the creation of a food and environmental security system as part of the prevention of any natural disasters. Cooperation with other BRICS partners through the New Development Bank (NDB) is one of the most promising areas of interaction in BRICS.

India also supported the financial and economic development of the association. The portfolio of approved projects has already exceeded \$25 billion.

Brazil is also actively involved in attempts to reform the global financial systems, constantly offering ways to change the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which are monopolists in the lending market of countries. The country is actively involved in changing the world public opinion about "Western civilization," constantly demonstrating progress, holding top-level international events, various summits, scientific symposia, etc.

Participation in the BRICS of the Republic of South Africa not only increased its international status, but at the same time strengthened its position as a representative of the African continent.

It was the entry in 2009 into the BRICS that became an important moment in South Africa's foreign multi-vector policy. Relations with the United States and the European Union are an important vector, but ties are growing with China, which acts as a competitor to the West. South Africa positions itself as a regional superpower, which causes a not very positive reaction, for example, Nigeria, which takes the first place in Africa<sup>4</sup>. Of course, among the tasks of foreign policy is the diversification of trade and economic ties, an attempt to increase

<sup>4</sup> Both Nigeria, South Africa, and Egypt - three African countries - seek to gain a permanent seat on the Security Council in the event of a change in the UN structure. It is worth recalling that

almost 20 leaders of African countries were invited to the BRICS summit, which was held in Durban in 2013.



the share of goods with added value in exports, and not just minerals and agricultural products. The African component has become important in world politics, given that despite crises and conflicts, Africa as a whole is developing faster on average than the rest of the world, with the exception of China and India. South Africa provides all possible assistance to international security and stability, actively participating in the search for a resolution of contradictions in conflict situations, in the observance of human rights and democracy, strengthening South-South ties, protecting the interests of the states of the African continent.

An analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the innovative systems of the BRICS countries, conducted on the basis of GII-2020 rating data, shows a clear idea of the competitive advantages of innovative systems in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa and provides an opportunity to identify the reasons for their lag. The competitive advantages of most BRICS countries include: the size of the domestic market; development of higher education and science; payments related to intellectual property; number of patents for inventions, etc. Among the main reasons for the lag of the BRICS countries are insufficient efficiency of public administration, low environmental sustainability, difficulties with doing business. Thus, Thomas Halbling, head of the World Economic Outlook of the International Monetary Fund, noted that "the success of the BRICS countries depends on two things: integration into the world community and trade, as well as on structural reforms....".

BRICS currently acts primarily as a "lending platform for new infrastructure projects" - projects related to the new vector of the scientific and technical revolution and industrial transformations, with artificial intelligence, quantum information, cloud Internet, etc. In this regard, an important place was taken by the XIII International IT Forum held on June 7-9, 2022 with the participation of the BRICS and SCO countries. The forum platform has combined more than 40 events in a mixed format. Particular attention was paid to the topics of digital transformation, artificial intelligence and security in the digital environment. Representatives of the world's leading companies and government authorities

discussed innovations in key industries, the role of digital technologies in modern conditions, as well as digital sovereignty and prospects for international cooperation and, first of all, within the framework of multilateral network control over the information space, including the Internet.

The world is changing, regardless of certain opposition from a number of developed countries, and awareness of this process is growing in the United States and in the European Union. With these changes, the importance of a flexible network diplomacy system increases, the role of collective leadership that can solve crisis problems and confront threats and challenges. So, in September 2021, within the framework of the BRICS Forum "Partnership for the Industrial Revolution" (in connection with the coronavirus pandemic, it was held online) Representatives of Brazil, Russia, South Africa, BRICS think tanks, the BRICS Business Council and other countries and institutions, the BRICS Partnership Center for Innovation of the New Industrial Revolution and the Chinese-Russian Center for Digital Economy spoke (*Wu, 2021*). The total investment in the 28 projects signed this time is up to 13.404 billion yuan. 19 projects involve Russia, India - in 13, Brazil - in 16, South Africa - in 11, China - in all projects. Contract projects and businesses cover a wide range of industries - software, maintenance, logistics, transport, economics, health, culture arts, with collaborations focusing on new forms of industries and related services.

The BRICS communiqués adopted every year declare values alternative to the West, and this became its basis. And if, from each continent, one more country will be accepted, then this will help create BRICS regional clusters, which will additionally contribute to economic development within it.

The current state of foreign policy of the PRC and the Russian Federation, as members of the BRICS, in this direction is determined by the processes of mutual influence to ensure the national security of states. In solving security problems, the PRC is increasing military-technical ties with Middle Eastern countries, expanding trade in arms and military equipment and other military products. Among the most significant were the 2018-2019 deals on the supply of Chinese air defense systems and ballistic

missile detection and escort systems to Algeria, the UAE, Morocco, Pakistan (*The world aviation*, 2020).

An important participant in the development of new projects is India, which by 2032 is predicted to become the third largest economy in the world, after the United States and China, and increase its political influence. In resolving the issue of curbing India's claims to regional leadership, China has become more active in developing a strategic partnership with Pakistan, in which it sees an "all-weather ally," as well as in curbing threats to its own security emanating from Afghanistan. We must not forget that the unresolved territorial issues between China and India at the junction of the borders of India, China and Pakistan are a dispute between the three nuclear powers. In this context, China is significantly expanding military-technical cooperation not only with Russia, but also with Iran and Pakistan in such areas as training military personnel, improving logistics, and developing Iranian cyber weapons (*Office of the State Council of the PRC*, 2019).

### Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to note that the BRICS countries do not seek world

domination. They are not going to claim to be a world leader. Moreover, the members of the Commonwealth are searching for ways to build a new system of international relations based on the ideals of freedom of choice in their development, democracy, respect, justice, equality, and build their cooperation on the principles of constructiveness, conflict-free, non-blocking and non-orientation against third countries.

In the context of the principles of solidarity and self-sufficiency, BRICS is becoming very attractive to other countries. Many analysts, including foreign ones, note the possibility of an increase in the BRICS member countries. For example, the entry of Indonesia, Egypt, Nigeria, Argentina, Turkey is predicted, which will be discussed at the Johannesburg meeting in 2023. But at the same time, BRICS does not yet have clear standards and procedures for the entry of new members - in fact, it only needs the approval of new candidates by all the old members of the organization. However, compromise coordination in the joint actions of the countries can cause significant damage to the attempts of the United States to restore leadership in international relations and world economic processes.

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### **КӨППОЛЯРЛЫҚТЫҢ ЖӘНЕ ӨҢІРЛІК ДАМУДЫҢ БОЛАШАҒЫ РЕТІНДЕГІ БЕЙРЕСМИ ЫНТЫМАҚТАСТЫҚ**

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### **НЕФОРМАЛЬНОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО КАК ПЕРСПЕКТИВА МНОГОПОЛЯРНОСТИ И РЕГИОНАЛЬНОГО РАЗВИТИЯ**

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