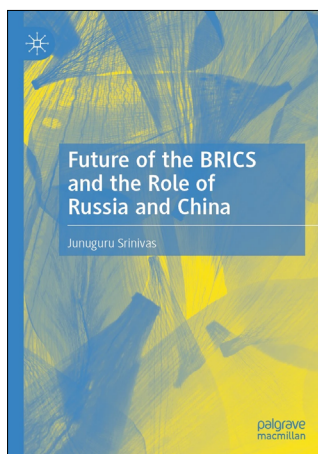


Future of the BRICS and the Role of Russia and China

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The rise of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and the severity of the 2008 global financial crisis have sparked a new round of debate about the long-term viability of transatlantic norms, ideas, and institutions that have dominated global governance since its commencement. Many of the bodies and organizations that contribute towards global governance were formed between 1945 and 1980, and have been dominated by Western actors and an agenda centered on the West. To support the main argument of the author there are various chapters in the book *Future of the BRICS and the Role of Russia and China* that focus on The Evolution of Brics and the international system, Russia and BRICS, China and BRICS and Russia and China in BRICS: Convergences and Divergences. The strength of this book is that it is based on empirical evidence and it address pertinent questions on BRICS, contemporary

international relations and monetary institutions. Most importantly, the book sheds light on the future of BRICS and the international financial system by providing a clear overview of BRICS and Unipolar and Bipolar world order systems.

The book helps understand global economic transformation and economic developments in the BRICS countries in the post-globalization period. The author laments on the international system trends which came after the end of the Cold War between Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and America in which the USA emerged as dominating player in international politics. Furthermore, the author argues that monetary institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, G-8 and G-20 are West dominated. I agree with the author that monetary institutions are West dominated this is because African countries are forever indebted to the West due to this monetary institution and this holds the development of African countries. Moreover, the author argues that Russia and China had certain interest in BRICS as the two countries believed that BRICS would be different from the Group of Eight and Group of 77.

The G-8 and G-77 groups gave Russia and China the opportunity to enhance their foreign policy interest when it comes to international politics. The author makes an argument that the structure of international system has been changing in multiple dimensions since the beginning of the twenty-first century and that the modern world is extremely interconnected.

The core of this book is that it seeks to emphasize the role of Russia and China in BRICS international affairs. In addition, the book proves that BRICS has necessary resources to become the center of global politics and international relations. Furthermore, the author debates that the main objectives of international institutions are to aid sustainable development in BRICS member states. Moreover, the author argues that BRICS is taking positions in various international issues on sustainable development and economic growth (page 44-47). The author believes that BRICS brings stability in global order and regional politics.

The author draws some of his arguments on international systems from the neo-realist prominent scholar, Kenneth Waltz, who argues that bipolarity was more stable than the multipolar system. On

page 53-57, the author acknowledges the COVID-19 pandemic which affected the world's economy. I agree with the author that COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns did not only affect BRICS countries economy, but it affected many other countries. During Covid-19 many countries were forced to lockdown their economy to monitor and manage the spread of the virus. The lockdown period forced countries to have little economic activities. Furthermore, a table on global financial crisis is drawn to show annual percentage change from the year 2007 to 2010. With the use of the IMF 2011 reports the author outlines how rising power countries have become stable in terms of economic growth. On page 58, the author states that multipolarity is considered as interpolar in the age of independence. Moreover, the author laments the fact that multipolarity became prevalent during Primakov's tenure as Foreign Ministry in 1996-1998. It was during Putin's presidency in 1991 that multipolarity became legitimate and received financial support from financial institutions.

The authors says that with the current world order is unbalanced and needs reformation. Therefore, multipolarity should be a new global political trend. However, Stanley (2023) states that Multilateralism is on the decline as consensus-based processes have proven unsuitable for negotiating among an ever broad and diverse membership. For instance, the United States' decision to obstruct the nomination of new members to the World Trade Organization's Appellate Body has jeopardized the organization's capacity to settle disputes, which is one of its primary functions. The shift from formal institutions to unilateral action and informal multilateralism indicates the emergence of a world that is multipolar. Furthermore, the author explains that multipolarity became popular in Russia around 1993 after the Soviet Union event and that the US-centric unipolar world should be replaced with a multipolar world order.

After reading the book *Future of the BRICS and the Role of Russia and China*, one can conclude that Srinivas is in favour of multipolarism. Therefore, the book is recommended for IR scholars, or anyone interested in IR politics. Furthermore, the book provides further understanding of the cause of international conflicts on rising power states fuelled by dominant powers which are not following the international rules on wars.

Book information

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