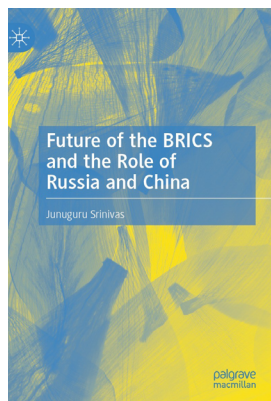


Book review

Future of the BRICS and the Role of Russia and China

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Future of the BRICS and the Role of Russia and China

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Future of the BRICS and the Role of Russia and China is a single-authored volume exploring the future of the BRICS grouping in the face of a global system that is rapidly changing. 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 in 1945.

The author spends considerable time examining the evolution of the BRICS and the international system, including Russia and China's evolving position in the global system. He addresses pertinent questions concerning the BRICS, contemporary international relations and monetary institutions. Most importantly, he sheds light on the future of the BRICS and the international financial system.

Srinivas deftly explains the tectonic shifts that have led to global economic transformation in the post-globalisation period in the BRICS countries. Additionally, the author laments the post-Cold War shifts in the international system that saw unipolarity becoming the dominant political international orientation. The initial shifts resulted from Western domination of multilateral monetary institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the G-8 and G-20. The emergence of the BRICS, and the changing international system, threaten to upend the status quo.

Interestingly, the author underscores Russia and China growing international role, particularly within multilateral groups such as the G-8 and the Group of 77 (G-77). The emergence of the BRICS promises to increase their influence. This observation aligns with the book's central argument, underscoring Russia and China's growing international role.

The book is well-researched, using qualitative and quantitative data and fieldwork. It is recommended for international relations scholars and practitioners or anyone interested in international politics and the emerging role of the BRICS. However, the author falls into the trap of current scholarship on the BRICS- it ignores South Africa's role. Although South Africa does not have economic or political muscle comparable to its BRICS partners, it plays an important role as a representative of African states. Moreover, what it lacks in material strength, it still has an ideological magnetism. Looking at the BRICS partners holistically would have provided a more credible prediction of the Future of the BRICS and its role as a strategic lever in reorientating the global world order.