

BRICS+: A Balancer to Shape the New World Order

Dr. Devender Kumar

Abstract

The BRICS grouping has highlighted a new chapter for the organisation in the recent meeting in Kazan, Russia. The grouping has the potential to change the current world order in the rapidly shifting global politics. This meeting showed the organisational strength, structure, and goals of the organization, with major powers such as India, China, and Russia coming on one platform, keeping aside the Ukraine War and border skirmishes between India and China. These countries are in search of a new alternative, such as BRICS+, against Western dominance in the international economic order to trade in local currencies. BRICS+ intends to create a new international economic order, free from Western dominance, to achieve de-dollarization of global trade. It has also made the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) and the New Development Bank (NDB) for loans and support to nations against the balance of payment crisis. This new order is based on cooperation and mutual growth to become an effective platform for promoting trade in local currencies. The rising strength of BRICS with new members can play an important role in establishing a new international economic order and play a significant role in the United Nations, as a major political force. The proposed study uses an empirical and qualitative approach to study BRICS+ and how it can challenge the existing dollar-led international economic order to strengthen its position. BRICS+ presents a substantial challenge to Western dominance in global affairs. Consequently, the future of the international order—whether it remains multipolar—will, to a large extent, be influenced by BRICS+ and how it contributes to shaping this emerging order. This paper aims to critically examine the position and role of BRICS+ within the broader context of contemporary global politics.

Key Words: BRICS+, Global Politics, New International Economic Order, China, India, Russia, and the World Order.

Introduction

This study offers a critical examination of Western responses to the rise of BRICS+ and exposes the underlying double standards often present in global politics, where actions deemed acceptable for the West are discouraged or penalized when undertaken by the Global South. The use of sanctions, tariffs, and political pressure reflects a broader pattern of asymmetrical power dynamics. The study argues that emerging economies within the Global South should be empowered to pursue their developmental goals independently, without yielding to external pressures from Western powers. The establishment of a cohesive

institutional framework within BRICS+ may take time but the pursuit of a just and equitable global order remains both necessary and justified.

The West has historically positioned itself as the standard-bearer of global norms and principles, expecting the Global South to conform to these frameworks, often under the threat of punitive measures in cases of deviation. This dynamic raises an important question: why must the Global South be compelled to follow the dictates of the West? For instance, President Donald Trump has issued tariff threats against BRICS+, should the grouping move toward adopting a common currency or shifting away from the U.S. dollar (Reuters, 2025). Despite having launched a cryptocurrency under his own name, “Official Donald Trump” (The Indian Express, 2025). If such an initiative is permissible for an individual, why is it discouraged when pursued by a coalition of sovereign states? However, the study highlights, despite establishing a new international economic order, how the grouping is being viewed by the countries in the West, and why the BRICS journey started and where it will go in the coming years.

BRICS+ is a result of the ideological reaction (West and non-West) to have a separate international economic order away from Western control and influence. The Major organizations, mainly Western ones, have emerged out of the fixed policy to pursue their interest, i.e., the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) etc. But organizations in the Global South are the result of a common goal, aspirations, and ideology. The best example of this is the Decolonization Movement and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), one was enforced after the Second World War, and the other became a doctrine in 1961 after the Belgrade Conference. Both were focused on separate space in global politics, politically, not economically.

Although the Global South countries take time to react due to distinct national interests and positioning, and often try to manage good ties with the Western states for concessions and favour on ideological, political, and economic lines. It took nearly 5 decades after the Second World War for these countries to realise that they do not have a rightful place in the international economic order. Jim O'Neill's 2003 prediction served as a wake-up call for the countries of the Global South, highlighting their potential to emerge as major economic players in the years ahead by stating that “BRIC economies have the potential to post higher growth than the developed world” and “will surpass G6 economies in the next 40 years” (Cherry, 2015).

This recognition sparked a broader discourse on the need for these nations to claim their rightful place in the international economic order, one that had long been shaped by Western dominance. In response, the idea of establishing a new international economic order, founded on principles of mutual growth and cooperation, began to take shape, distinct and independent from prevailing Western influence. The foundation for BRICS was laid in the post-2000 era. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS emerged as non-Western international organizations. The participation of major powers like China and Russia in these groupings has positioned the SCO, in particular, as a potential alternative to Western-led institutions (The Indian Express, 2024).

While the BRICS can emerge as a potential “counterbalance” to Western influence, especially in opposing the dollar-centric global trade system (Patrick, 2025). Nonetheless, the group has not yet outlined a detailed policy framework for this purpose and has chosen instead to concentrate on the overarching goal of creating an alternative international economic order.

In this direction, the foreign ministers of the BRICS states have concluded 16 sixteen summits starting with the first summit in 2009. The joining of South Africa in 2010 opened the possibility for other states to join, and the grouping became BRICS (Sharma, 2018). It created a New Development Bank in 2014 and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement for the sustainable development, infrastructure, and to fight balance of payment crises.

BRICS has made significant progress, but institutional challenges and internal issues remain a fundamental challenge to the rise of the grouping. The BRICS organization, with the entry of new players, has potentially impacted the contemporary world order. As the group highlights the sizable strength, which has ramifications for the contemporary world order, as BRICS+. China, Russia, and Iran are also forming a strategic alliance under the ‘Regional Comprehensive Strategic Agreement’ (Reuter, 2025a).

The BRICS+ diplomacy impacts the unipolarity of the US. But the organization also faces a challenge from within on the institutional arrangements and bilateral issues between China and India. The rise in activities such as China-Pakistan Economic Partnership (CPEC), border issues, and minerals exploration in Gilgit-Baltistan by China in the Indian territory under the occupation of Pakistan (Kumar, 2025) endangers future cooperation and is likely to disrupt cohesion within BRICS.

BRICS in the Contemporary Global Politics

BRICS in the contemporary era has witnessed growth as new members have joined the grouping. It comprises the world's 8th, 11th, 5th, 2nd, and 7th main economies. It collectively represents "35 percent of the international GDP" and "45 percent of the global population" (Patrick, 2025). The 16th BRICS meeting in Kazan, Russia, on 22-24 October 2024, highlighted the understanding amid China and India, the two main countries in BRICS, stressing they have major agendas to fulfil. Therefore, they must have a common understanding despite internal issues as the membership of the grouping rises with new members such as UAE, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt. While other states, i.e., Laos, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand in the Indo-Pacific and Türkiye from West Asia, expressed interest in joining the grouping as a counter-weight to the US-led order (Bloomberg, 2024). The Indo-Pacific nations and India have problems with China, but the Western-led dominance in the World Bank (WB), World Trade Organisation (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and dollar-induced commerce breaks the backbone of Global South countries.

The BRICS grouping, with the rise of membership, is transforming into a major bloc with countries from different regions that do not wish to be part of Western dictates, therefore joining BRICS for mutual growth. This rising strength is also viewed as a major political power in contemporary global politics, which can potentially shape and reshape the contemporary global order as well as situate itself as a major player.

The 16th BRICS showed key aspects of BRICS+ bonding under the rubric of "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security" by showcasing three major powers, such as China, India, and Russia, on one platform (Ministry of External Affairs, 2024). The BRICS organisation focuses on cooperation on 'political and security' to establish a "fairer international order" (MEA, 2024). The organisation has also embarked on an expansion, i.e., "BRICS Plus," to have countries from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe (MEA, 2024). It is seeking a world order that is fair to all and helps in reforming the multilateral system for sustainable development and inclusive growth.

The Western world did not appreciate such reflection, especially the G7 countries. The Western media refused to acknowledge the changes in the contemporary world order and the potential challenges to Western hegemony, but did disdain BRICS, unlike the over-glorification of G7 meetings (Mahbubani, 2024).

The West tried to enhance sanctions against Russia and gathered support for Ukraine to isolate Russia. Despite that, President Vladimir Putin hosted the 16th BRICS Summit and demonstrated Russia's defiance and resilience on the global stage. The summit was notable for bringing together several major world economies, underscoring the significance of BRICS as a platform for alternative global engagement (Sharma, 2024). The major highlight was India and China on one platform, as both faced contention on their borders recently. But joined one platform to project the political and economic power of the grouping. This is also visible in the membership drive, as many states from the Indo-Pacific (Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Laos), Latin America (Argentina), Africa (Uganda), Central Asia (Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan), and West Asia (Türkiye) wished to become part of the grouping, and many attained the title or partner country (Xinhua, 2025 & Kumar, 2024 & Kumar, 2024).

BRICS+ together represent the economic and demographic strength of the world—nearly 45% of the global population is represented by the grouping (The Business Today, 2024). It is pursuing approaches aimed at securing its developmental interests. Developed countries' forums, such as the G7, only represent the interests of developed countries and do not include emerging economies like India, Brazil, and China. The rise of BRICS+ has generated concern in the West. The Financial Express report calls it a “growing sense of unease” (The Financial Express, 2024). BRICS has identified an opportunity to challenge the structural imbalances within the international economic governance framework and called for comprehensive reform of multilateral institutions.

BRICS+ countries seek to break the Western hegemony and dominance in global institutions, practiced by denials, sanctions, and dollar-led trades. The strategy opted for by them is ‘multilateralism’ under the principle of participation and development of all partnered countries, as reiterated in the recent ‘Kazan Declaration 2024’—which focuses on ‘mutual cooperation,’ ‘spirit,’ ‘solidarity,’ and voices for the susceptible change in the international system as it is heavily influenced by the US-led West (MEA,2024).

The declaration came in the backdrop of the ongoing Ukraine-Russia War and Moscow's impetus to align with the world to showcase its strength against the US-dominated order to highlight the receding affection for US dollar-led trade among the BRICS+ countries (Paul & Villegas, 2024).

As a reaction to this, Donald Trump, President of the US, used his hegemonic tone to threaten these states via tariffs and denied the possibility of this organization replacing the dollar as a

global currency. Therefore, BRICS member states are steering away from the idea of a common currency, instead focusing on facilitating international payments in local currencies and reducing dependence on the dollar (Reuters, 2025). It is also examining technologies such as blockchain and integrating payment systems to minimize transaction costs, under the standards set by multilateral institutions, including the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) (Reuters, 2025b).

IMF, WB, WTO, and Global South

The West from the Westphalian era has dominated global politics and dictated terms, while the multipolar world demands greater cooperation in the globalised world, therefore, the WTO, WB, and IMF played a significant role in the contemporary international economic framework. As they are to (a) facilitate economic cooperation, (b) provide regular consultations, (c) mutual cooperation, and establish a mechanism for ‘greater coherence’ in international policymaking (WTO, 2025). All these institutions claim to ‘express’ these approaches in policies, i.e., the 1996 agreement that calls for economic cooperation. “Marrakesh Agreement,” on the other hand, established the WTO for raising the standard of living by trade and commerce and focused on (a) ‘optimal use of world resources’ and (b) “securing a share in the growth in international trade” for developing states (WTO, 2025).

The WB started in 1946, but all these institutions ended up fulfilling the Western agenda, funding colonial projects, and becoming institutions to counter Cold War rivalry via economic finance, etc. The WB supported colonial projects of Belgium, France, UK and transferred the loans to the newly independent states once the colonial state became independent, i.e., Mauritania and Congo (Toussaint, 2024).

The institutions under Western control have nearly completed 80 years and gave rise to a new economic colonialism by imposing “austerity policies” in the face of loan repayments (Toussaint, 2024). The US-led West has used these institutions since their inception against US rivals. The loans granted by the WB were mainly for industrialised states and were designed in a way to extract the Global South’s exports to the Global North to fulfil the demands of these states (CAID, 2024).

Nevertheless, these institutions laid conditions for Africa and Asia to avail loans. And believed that these countries must create conditions for the development of democracy and

have more economic and social development (Daniela and Nagar, 2016). The WB is not keen to provide big projects to support the domestic needs of developing countries. Which would decrease the imports to states in the Global North. While transferring the main funds to industrialised states of Europe, it also uses ‘great caution’ for granting loans to Global South countries (Toussaint, 2024). The US has enjoyed its position in these institutions and has been the most influential member with sizable shareholdings to use ‘multilateral institutions to enhance international engagement’ (Milner and Tingley 2011).

Even if the loans are given to developing states, the rates of interest are too high and largely come at the market rates, while the duration provided for repayments is short. The money lent by the WB, on the other hand, has to be spent essentially in industrialised countries “to meet the needs of Northern countries and enrich a handful of transnational companies in the relevant sectors” (CAID, 2024). The IMF, on the other hand, was built to have an American imprint on the international banks. The head of the WB has always been from the US, and it also has veto power in the WB (Bach, 2019).

Meanwhile, the terms for the loans to Global South countries are influenced by the US, as the policies for loans are set with intermediation from Washington DC, in businesses and banks, based on its political goals worldwide. The objectives enshrined by these institutions are subordinated to the strategic and political considerations of the US (Toussaint, 2024).

On the other hand, the dollar-induced trade adds an extra burden on the countries of the BRICS as it is getting stronger day by day, and nearly 54% of the global trade happens in dollars. It is also used in the management of foreign exchange. Nearly 59% of the global foreign reserves are in dollars, followed by the euro, which has a share of 20% (Boocker and Wessel, 2024). Governments around the world ‘borrow’ dollars to maintain exchange rates to ensure credit, and nearly 58% of payments globally happen in dollars and that had made it a symbol of US power in the global financial market. The dollar is showcased as a haven for foreign investors (Boocker and Wessel, 2024).

The US dollar has been so deeply internalised in global trade and transactions, and it firmly plays a significant role in international commerce as a major conductor of trade in terms of exchange, which helps the US to exercise its power to punish countries not in line with the policies of the US. It also dominates the “Clearing House Interbank Payments System” (CHIPS) and “Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication” (SWIFT) and economic order (Boocker and Wessel, 2024). This had severe consequences for Russia and

Iran whenever they faced sanctions. Both were removed from SWIFT (international payment system), and as a result, ordinary citizens from these countries suffered as they failed to send money to their relatives in different countries (The US Department of Treasury, 2022).

Nevertheless, earlier the grouping was hoping to have certain reforms in the economic institutions like WB, IMF, and WTO instead of building new institutions but now is looking in the direction of establishing a platform to facilitate trade within the member state under a win-win formula as the grouping has become powerful with the oil-producing states such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and UAE joining the grouping— which comprises the major chunk of the OPEC (Gard, 2024).

Argentina was also to join the grouping, but it withdrew its application. The rising membership of BRICS makes it have more members than the G7 and leads to its projection as a rival to the Western order. This will also alter the US and its allies, as they depend on the Gulf for energy, subsequently making BRICS a primary balancer not only against the US-led West but also in the energy market (Mooradian, 2024).

New Economic Order: Free from Western Dominance and De-dollarization

The BRICS countries have faced the economic and political control of the US-led West in the global institution, and as the world becomes more and more divided and fragmented along the proxies, alliances, competition, confrontations, and clubs under the multilateral settings. It raises questions on the contemporary state of the world order— is it multipolar, bio-polar, or unipolar under the Trump 2.0 administration?

The West formed the G7 and EU for cooperation on economic and political matters, but the Global South was not allowed in these groups, as these countries maintained a monopoly in the financial institutions. BRICS formed its group to facilitate trade among themselves, free from Western influence and control. It has also made the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) and New Development Bank (NDB) for loans and helped countries (Batista, 2023). BRICS seeks to move away from Western dominance and dollar-centric global trade by promoting a new economic order founded on cooperation and mutual growth. The NDB is to provide nearly \$5 billion in loans, and many countries in the world are seeking to avail themselves of this facility (Reuters, 2024).

While the CRA facility can be utilised to fight the balance of payment crisis, BRICS facilitates financial safety without conditions and high rates for repayments. Many countries worldwide have also identified common areas such as energy security, supply-chain connectivity, promotion of local currencies, technology, food security, trade, investment, and digital transactions to connect with BRICS (Kumar, 2024).

In the recent BRICS summit, the member states tried to advance the 'BRICS Pay initiative,' which can challenge the global payment network of the US-led West, i.e., SWIFT, which facilitates international bank transactions in US dollars. As BRICS is the representative of 35% of the world's GDP and nearly 45% of the global population, it is evident that it has the substantial power to impact the control exercised by the US-led West on the economic order (Crowe, 2025).

The contemporary system is under the domination of the US dollar, which captures nearly 90% of the global currency trade. Previously, 100% of the total trade of oil was conducted in dollars, but US sanctions on Russia and Iran made these countries opt for a non-dollar mechanism for payment; hence, a fifth of global oil trade in 2023 was conducted in non-dollar currencies (Slav, 2023). This makes countries have new reserve currencies, as it would majorly impact the dollar and decrease demand, eventually leading to de-dollarization. But Trump 2.0 is likely to enforce dollar-induced trade and pressure the BRICS countries to pursue new strategies to avoid the dollar as an accepted denomination for trade at least among the member states (Pistilli, 2025).

The de-dollarization also promotes regional and bilateral cooperation to secure interests against the risky geopolitical situation and non-US economic order. It reduces the dependence on the dollar for trade in bilateral trade, oil purchases, other commodities, and foreign exchange reserves that place the US in the dominant position in the global system (Pistilli, 2025). There is a higher chance that BRICS countries may come up with their own currency or opt for cryptocurrency as a currency for trade payments.

Such economic manoeuvring highlights that the BRICS has the potential to change the current world order, as balancing has been opted for by countries against the members of the same grouping. Recently, Türkiye, despite being a NATO member, tried for BRICS membership and demanded \$400 from Russia— at the same time, it held its fellow NATO ally, US, responsible for the economic downfall (Kumar, 2024a).

The grouping has become an option against the G7, marking a significant challenge to Western dominance. As its NATO allies, i.e., Türkiye, is trying to have a closer partnership with Russia and focusing on an 'axis shift' strategy after it failed to attain EU membership (Kumar, 2024a). Many countries, especially the ASEAN states, are not happy with the stance of the US and the West on the Israel-Palestine conflict and the killing of many Palestinians. Countries such as Malaysia have criticised the US and praised South Africa, especially for the genocide case against Israel, which highlights the anti-US sentiments in Malaysia (Prime Minister's Office Malaysia, 2024). The ASEAN countries are looking towards an 'inclusive world order' to cooperate on common areas for having inclusive economic growth outside the scope of Western intervention in the economic framework (Kumar, 2024).

Power Asymmetries Within BRICS (Particularly China's Dominance)

BRICS was formed primarily as an economic initiative to reflect the shift in the Western dominance of the global economic order to emerging economies. It later evolved into one of the rather significant geopolitical groupings. The BRICS grouping is majorly dominated by China because of its huge economy, five times that of India-and also because of its aggressive foreign policy (East Asia Forum, 2025).

The trade between the BRICS+ countries, excluding China, is very low and hence further underscores the dominant role of China. This dominance is also reflected in the positions that the members of BRICS+ often take with China in the United Nations. Recently, Ethiopia and Egypt have joined the grouping, but they come under Africa, which is a significant region for China and Indian. Whereas China's key role and the varied composition of BRICS+ allow it to increase influence, which also poses a challenge to internal unity and balance (EAF, 2025).

Bilateral Tensions (India-China Border Disputes) Affect Multilateral Cooperation

The most fundamental block to the growth of BRICS is how to establish a strategic peace between India and China on the border issues. The longer sustenance and growth of this organization depend on the resolution of the India-China border dispute (Singh, 2023). Beijing has not adhered to the border agreement that it signed with India since the 1990s (Singh, 2025). India has strongly opposed maps issued by China that illegally occupy Indian territory (Rahman, 2023). India has not accepted the "illegal Chinese occupation of Indian

territory,” and China has enhanced infrastructure development in the Aksai Chin region while it continues to develop border infrastructure (NDTV, 2025).

Both countries fought a war in 1962 over the border dispute, and recently clashed on the Galwan Valley, which was “fought with sticks and clubs” (BBC, 2022). Both sides have signed the “disengagement” of soldiers at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) agreement (NDTV, 2025). Both countries have a distrust of each other, and China does not recognize India as a regional power. India does not have any rivalry, unlike China, for a global power status. China’s rise is also seen with suspicion, and it must critically assess whether the global and strategic dimensions of its relationship with India have weakened to the extent that bilateral disputes are increasingly taking precedence. Concurrently, the policy adjustments are required from both sides to respond to the shifting contours of international geopolitics. Neither of the nations would achieve anything from conflict, and they are engaged in economic activities, upholding legitimacy and managing ethnic issues (Singh, 2023).

India currently pursues the policy of “Equi-distance” and “Equi-closeness”, marking the close cooperation with all. Therefore, the partnership is visible on the BRICS+ platform, but India may choose a realist course to secure its sovereignty, which will harm the internal cooperation within the BRICS+ organization due to Chinese action on the Indian territories, especially in the North East, and the Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (PoJK). India might switch back to the earlier policy of “Equi-distance”- “to be away from major powers” (First India, 2025).

Contradictions between BRICS' Stated Goals and Members' National Interests

The 2008 financial crisis has provided an opportunity for the consideration of non-Western alternatives to the economic order. The SCO and BRICS work as a ‘counterbalance to the Western order. The grouping has its own issues as internal issues that impede the organizational structure and decision-making; a.) Both India and China have good ties with the US; b.) China backs Pakistan on Kashmir c.) member states of BRICS have different political system that serves as a barrier; d.) American perception of BRICS (Singh, 2023). Also, International monetary institutions must reform and adhere to the demands of developing countries. BRICS can become a platform for cooperation, as for example ASEAN, despite having bilateral or border issues, but it still serves as an example of cooperation.

BRICS, meanwhile, works on the principle of shared values and beliefs. The major agenda of the grouping is to navigate through the Western-dominated order of neo-colonialism in the financial institutions and establish a new economic order against the US-led order. Predictions were made by Jim O'Neil, a banker at Goldman Sachs, that "Brazil, Russia, India, and China" will drive the world order and economic growth (O'Neill, 2018). The grouping has indeed witnessed growth at the economic level and is now becoming another bloc in the divided and fragmented world order.

BRICS came as an organisation, but has made a significant change in the world order with several shuffles. And also played the role of a balancer to stabilise changes and become a platform for discussion and debate. While making provisions for representing the organisational strengths (Ferragamo, 2024). BRICS, in the same way, is an organisation that represents its organisational strengths as a group internally divided on various bilateral issues and has a position on the world economic order. Each member of BRICS is trying to work towards navigating through the Western-led global economic order, which provides more benefits to the Western states than to the Global South. Moreover, many member states hold different viewpoints and want to keep the grouping for economic advantage, navigate through the high rates and difficult loans, and achieve economic sustainability to establish a new financial order (Patrick, 2024).

BRICS: World Order and Multipolarity

The grouping questions the existing global economic order. BRICS largely is in the direction of establishing a 'new international economic order' as these theories outline the economic exploitation of the Periphery (Global South) by the Core, that is the West. It represents the modernisation theory phenomenon of progress and 'change from A to B, B to C' (Chirot & Hall, 1982: 82). And marking the progress in international politics to navigate through alliances to secure the best for the citizens is also outlined in the BRICS agenda to be an option against the West-led economic order.

The world has become a competing bloc of the Global North and Global South as developing states have started to ask for their rightful place in the contemporary world order. There is a growing sense of resentment toward the United States and its affluent allies, specifically the G7, G8, and the European Union, who are seen as having impeded effective international cooperation within the multilateral framework. BRICS, on the other hand, shows the strength

of ‘like-minded’ countries to challenge the hegemony of the Global North and advanced markets that control the world order (Patrick, 2024).

For centuries the West has ruled over world order and neglected the strengths of the Global South, especially Africa and Asia. The former European colonies—have risen to challenge the global hegemony via the BRICS. Throughout history, the world order has changed whether after the First World War (the rise of the League of Nations as a group) or the Second World War (the United Nations) both events substantially altered the world order and established the West-led world order. But the post-Covid-19 era embarks on the changes to world order as major powers compete for their rightful place in the international system. The world order is manufactured to serve the Western agenda and provides fewer privileges to global South countries (Bordachev, 2022).

The institutions came after major events in global history: the First and the Second World Wars helped the Western states in the contemporary political and economic order. After the Cold War, the Global North's attempts to consolidate the world order gave rise to a ‘crisis’ in the international economic order and the ‘welfare state’. It made it difficult for the Global South to rely on the international economic order made by the West for economic stability. Therefore, there is a desire among the middle and major powers countries in the world to increase cooperation among the Global South countries. Mainly to have a coalition of states, different from the Cold War bloc, but to provide diplomatic flexibility within the multilateral setups, including G20, to make a new international financial order (Patrick, 2024).

BRICS desires to be the ‘global representative’ of the countries in the Global South. In the recent meeting in Kazan, almost 40 countries showed a willingness to join BRICS, namely, Vietnam Malaysia, Thailand, and Laos, —made requests to the grouping for membership. All the organizations utilized different platforms to communicate with BRICS states, i.e., Russia’s “Eastern Economic Forum” (EEF) and “BRICS Dialogue with Developing Countries,” and attended various BRICS summits as an observer and developed interests in the grouping (Kumar, 2024). These countries understand that the world is changing and multipolarity is shaping the contemporary world order, and BRICS focuses on multipolarity for integration on economic and political issues.

The grouping has embarked on economic growth, and according to a report, the GDP of BRICS (37.4%) has surpassed G7 (29.3%) and stands at more than \$60 trillion (The Doordarshan News, 2024). It is to play a major role in the global economy, and the gap in

GDP will increase in the future— as new countries will join the grouping. The volume of exports will also grow as it is nearly 25% of the global exports —at the same time, BRICS states are major markets for food, energy, spices workforce, and metals essential for sustaining financial growth (TDN, 2024).

However, the US and the West see the growing membership and influence of BRICS as a challenge to G7 and Western domination in the world order. In response, they have sought to counter this rise by reinforcing alliances among Western partners and employing measures such as sanctions, tariffs, and regulatory restrictions targeting BRICS member states and their influence.

Conclusion

BRICS+ tends to give rise to a grouping of middle and major-power countries with overlapping interests under the multilateral order to counter the influence of the US-led West in the international institution and establish a new economic order—free from Western influence and practices. And wants to provide the countries of the Global South bargaining chip against the Western-dominated order with the option to choose BRICS and its economic order if countries of the Global South are denied— equal treatment by the major institution. Moreover, The primary challenges BRICS faces, which also constitute broader concerns for the West, include internal divisions among member states, the imposition of tariffs by the United States, and institutional limitations such as the absence of a formal structure, clear decision-making processes, and reliance on consensus. Additionally, the growing influence of China—particularly in the absence of a defined framework—raises apprehensions, as it may place new BRICS members at a disadvantage, especially under initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

While decreasing reliance on the Western world's financial system via the usage of local currencies, BRICS was initially created to bolster trade and economic relations between member states. Now, it is slowly posturing itself for a potential political assertiveness on the world stage. Political activity on the international arena and the growing activity of the bloc being the expansion of its membership and the increase of its significance in international relations enhances that trajectory. Despite the increased alignment towards global issues, the internal splits and geopolitical tensions between member states continue to be the greatest challenge towards achieving full cohesion and operational efficiency.

References

- Bloomberg (2024), “A Divided BRICS Seeks to Challenge US-led Order”, Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2024-10-22/a-divided-brics-seeks-to-challenge-us-led-order> (accessed on 16 April 2025).
- Boocker, Sam and Wessel, David (2024) “The changing role of the US dollar”, Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-changing-role-of-the-us-dollar/> (Accessed on 7 January 2025).
- Bordachev, Timofei (2022), “Factors Influencing the World Order's Structure”, Retrieved from <https://www.institutmontaigne.org/en/expressions/factors-influencing-world-orders-structure> (accessed on 12 January 2025).
- Bach, Natasha (2019), “Why the World Bank President Has Always Been an American”, Retrieved from <https://fortune.com/2019/01/11/next-world-bank-president-jim-yong-kim/> (accessed on 17 January 2025).
- Batista, Paulo Nogueira (2023), “BRICS Financial and Monetary Initiatives – the New Development Bank, the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, and a Possible New Currency”, Retrieved from <https://valdaicclub.com/a/highlights/brics-financial-and-monetary-initiatives/> (accessed on 18 January 2025).
- British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) (2022), “India-China Dispute: The Border Row Explained in 400 Words”, Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-53062484> (accessed on 15 April 2025).
- Chirot, Daniel and Hall, T D (1982), “World-System Theory”, *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 8, pp. 81-106.
- Cherry, Rachel (2015), “Are Jim O’Neil’s BRIC Predictions Turning Out to Be True? Analytical Study to Compare Jim O’Neil’s Prediction on Macroeconomic Indicators with the Actuals from the Last 15 Years”, Retrieved from <https://business.cornell.edu/article/2015/05/are-jim-oneils-bric-predictions-turning-out-to-be-true-analytical-study-to-compare-jim-oneils-prediction-on-macroeconomic-indicators-with-the-actuals/> (accessed on 13 April 2025).

- Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt (CAID), (2024), “Domination of the United States on the World Bank”, Retrieved from <https://www.cadtm.org/Domination-of-the-United-States-on-the-World-Bank> (accessed on 4 January 2025).
- Crowe, Chris (2025), “Trade: BRICS expansion into payment systems poses threat to dominance of US dollar”, Retrieved from <https://www.ibanet.org/BRICS#:~:text=advertising%20Leaderboard%20advertising-Trade%3A%20BRICS%20expansion%20into%20payment%20systems%20poses,to%20dominance%20of%20US%20dollar&text=The%20recent%20expansion%20and%20shifting,US%20dollar%20within%20international%20trade> (Accessed on 8 January 2025).
- Daniel, Rosaline and Nagar, Dawn (2016), “Africa, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organisation”, Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/resrep05137.12.pdf> (accessed on 16 January 2025).
- East Asia Forum (EAF) (2025), “China Continues to Dominate an Expanded BRICS”, Retrieved from <https://eastasiaforum.org/2024/04/12/china-continues-to-dominate-an-expanded-brics/> (accessed on 12 April 2025)
- Ferragamo, Mariel (2024), “What Is the BRICS Group and Why Is It Expanding?”, Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/background/what-brics-group-and-why-it-expanding> (accessed on 25 January 2025).
- First India (2025), “India's Policy has Changed from Equi-distance to Equi-closeness, Mantra is India First: PM Modi”, Retrieved from <https://firstindia.co.in/articles/indias-policy-has-changed-from-equi-distance-to-equi-closeness-mantra-is-india-first-pm-modi> (accessed on 16 April 2025).
- Gard, James (2024), “Saudi Arabia Boosts the BRICS”, Retrieved from <https://www.morningstar.co.uk/uk/news/244411/saudi-arabia-boosts-the-brics.aspx> (accessed on 19 January 2025).
- Kumar, Devender (2025), “China’s Unauthorized Mineral Exploration in Gilgit-Baltistan: A Challenge to Indian Sovereignty”, Retrieved from <https://www.geopolitics.reva.edu.in/> (accessed on 16 April 2025).
- (2024), “ASEAN Countries Seek BRICS Membership”, Retrieved from <https://www.geopolitics.reva.edu.in/highlights12.html> (accessed on 10 January 2025).

- (2024a), “Türkiye’s Quest for BRICS Membership”, Retrieved from <https://www.geopolitics.reva.edu.in/highlights13.html> (accessed on 10 January 2025).
- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) (2024), “Kazan Declaration: "Strengthening Multilateralism For Just Global Development And Security", 23 October 2023, Retrieved from https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateraldocuments.htm?dtl/38450/Kazan_Declaration_Strengthening_Multilateralism_For_Just_Global_Development_And_Security#:~:text=We%2C%20the%20Leaders%20of%20BRICS,Global%20Development%20and%20Security (accessed on 1 January 2024).
- Mahbubani, Kishore (2024), “The G7 Versus The BRICS: Who Wins?”, Retrieved from <https://www.ndtv.com/opinion/the-g7-versus-the-brics-who-wins-7126713> (accessed 15 January 2025).
- Milner H V and Tingley D (2011) “The Choice for Multilateralism: Foreign Aid and American Foreign Policy” Retrieved from https://wp.peio.me/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Conf4_Milner-Tingley-17.01.2011.pdf accessed on 6 January 2025.
- Mooradian, M G (2024), “The BRICS Challenge to the G7 Established International Order”, Retrieved from <https://www.fpri.org/article/2024/09/the-brics-challenge-to-the-g7-established-international-order/> (accessed on 27 January 2025).
- NDTV (2025), “Never Accepted Illegal Chinese Occupation Of Indian Territory: Centre”, Retrieved from <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/never-accepted-illegal-chinese-occupation-of-indian-territory-centre-7981007> (accessed on 15 April 2025).
- O'Neill, Jim (2018), “Why the G7 Is a Zero”, Retrieved from <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/trump-g7-and-global-leadership-by-jim-o-neill-2018-06> (accessed 14 January 2025).
- Pistilli, Melissa (2025), “How Would a New BRICS Currency Affect the US Dollar?”, Retrieved from <https://investingnews.com/brics-currency/> (accessed on 21 January 2025).
- Pistilli, Meliss (2025a), “What is De-Dollarization and is it Good or Bad?”, Retrieved from [What is De-Dollarization and is it Good or Bad? | INN](https://www.inn.com/what-is-de-dollarization-and-is-it-good-or-bad/) (accessed on 23 January 2025).
- Prime Minister Office Malaysia (2024), “Malaysia Reaffirms Support for South Africa’s Action Against Israel – Pm Anwar”, Retrieved from

<https://www.pmo.gov.my/2024/01/malaysia-reaffirms-support-for-south-africas-action-against-israel-pm-anwar/> (accessed on 13 January 2025).

- Patrick, Stewart (2024), “BRICS Expansion, the G20, and the Future of World Order”, Retrieved from <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2024/10/brics-summit-emerging-middle-powers-g7-g20?lang=en> (accessed on 11 January 2025).
- Paul, Amanda and Villegas, Raul (2024), “BRICS After Kazan – Picking Up Pace but Not To Russia’s Tune”, Retrieved from <https://www.epc.eu/en/publications/BRICS-after-Kazan-Picking-up-pace-but-not-to-Russias-tune~5ec9a0> (accessed 5 January 2025).
- Patrick, Stewart et al., (2025), “BRICS Expansion and the Future of World Order: Perspectives from Member States, Partners, and Aspirants”, Retrieved from <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2025/03/brics-expansion-and-the-future-of-world-order-perspectives-from-member-states-partners-and-aspirants?lang=en> (accessed on 13 April 2025).
- Rahman, S A (2023), “India Protests Chinese Map Claiming Disputed Territories”, Retrieved from <https://www.voanews.com/a/india-protests-chinese-map-claiming-disputed-territories/7246891.html> (accessed on 15 April 2025).
- Reuter (2025), “Trump Repeats Tariffs Threat to Dissuade BRICS Nations from Replacing US Dollar”, Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/markets/currencies/trump-repeats-tariffs-threat-dissuade-brics-nations-replacing-us-dollar-2025-01-31/> (accessed on 15 April 2025).
- Reuters (2025a), “What are Russia's Strategic Treaties with Iran, North Korea and China”, Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/world/what-are-russias-strategic-treaties-with-iran-north-korea-china-2025-01-17/> (accessed on 16 April 2025).
- Reuters (2025b), “Brazil Nixes BRICS Currency, Eyes Less Reliance on 'Mighty' Dollar”, Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/markets/currencies/brazil-nixes-brics-currency-eyes-less-reliance-mighty-dollar-2025-02-13/> (accessed on 14 April 2025).
- Sharma, Runjhun (2024), “Up Close with Vladimir Putin at BRICS Meet”, Retrieved from <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/up-close-with-vladimir-putin-at-brics-meet/articleshow/115123852.cms?from=mdr> (accessed on 13 April 2025).

- Slav, Irina (2023), “Fifth of Global Oil Trade Used Non-Dollar Currencies in 2023”, Retrieved from Fifth of Global Oil Trade Used Non-Dollar Currencies in 2023 | OilPrice.com (accessed on 22 January 2025).
- Singh, Sushant (2025), “China and India Haven’t Patched Things Up on the Border”, Retrieved from https://foreignpolicy.com/2025/04/03/china-india-border-rapprochement-diplomacy-modi-xi/?tpcc=recirc_latest062921 (accessed on 14 April 2025).
- Singh, Ridipt (2023), “Russia, India, and China Alliance – Towards Balancing the World Order”, *Electronic Journal of Social and Strategic Studies*, Volume 3, Issue 3, pp. 328-350.
- Sharma, Arundhati (2018), “BRICS: A Decade of Socio-Economic Cooperation”, Retrieved from https://icwa.in/show_content.php?lang=1&level=3&ls_id=2382&lid=1782 (accessed on 13 April 2025).
- The Doordarshan News (TDN) (2024), “BRICS Countries Drive Global Economic Growth, Exceed GDP Of G7 Nations: Putin”, Retrieved from <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/brics-countries-drive-global-economic-growth-exceed-gdp-of-g7-nations-putin/> (accessed on 12 January 2025).
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) (2025), “The WTO and World Bank”, Retrieved from https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coher_e/wto_wb_e.htm (accessed on 2 January 2025).
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) (2025a), “Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization”, Retrieved from https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/marag_e.htm#articleIII (accessed on 3 January 2025).
- Toussaint, Eric (2024), “The WB assists those in power in a witch-hunting context”, Retrieved from <https://www.cadtm.org/The-WB-assists-those-in-power-in-a-witch-hunting-context> (accessed on 4 January 2025).
- The Financial Express (TFR) (2024), “The Growing Anxiety of the West Over BRICS”, Retrieved from <https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-the-growing-anxiety-of-the-west-over-brics-3611964/> (accessed on 14 April 2025).

- The Indian Express (2025), “Trump Launches his Own Cryptocurrency \$Trump, Market Value Soars to \$5.5 Billion”, Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/trump-launches-cryptocurrency-9786504/> (accessed on 15 April 2025).
- The Indian Express (2024), “EAM Jaishankar Attends Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit: What the Grouping is, Why it Matters”, Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/everyday-explainers/what-is-shanghai-cooperation-organisation-9432151/> (accessed on 4 April 2025).
- The Business Today (2024), “BRICS Group Accounts for 45% Of World Population, 35% Of Its Economy: Vladimir Putin”, Retrieved from <https://www.businesstoday.in/world/story/brics-group-accounts-for-45-of-world-population-35-of-its-economy-vladimir-putin-450973-2024-10-22> (accessed on 31 December 2024).
- The US Department of Treasury (2022), “U.S. Treasury Announces Unprecedented & Expansive Sanctions Against Russia, Imposing Swift and Severe Economic Costs”, Retrieved from <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0608> (accessed on 24 January 2025).
- Xinhua (2025), “Uganda to Benefit from BRICS Cooperation As Partner State: Ugandan Minister”, Retrieved from <https://english.news.cn/20250112/8b3f628ac742476ebab19c6311121cb0/c.html> (accessed on 20 January 2025)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr. Devender Kumar is Assistant Professor at the Center of Excellence for Geopolitics and International Studies (CEGIS), REVA University. He is a Visiting Faculty at (SIF) and a member of the Indian Political Science Association. He earlier worked as an Assistant Professor of International Relations and Security Studies at the Rashtriya Raksha University under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is the author of the book *Palestine, Jordan and the Making of Israel*. He has edited several books, with the most recent one co-edited with Vijay Sakhuja titled *Cold War 2.0 and India*. Another edited volume is titled *International Relations and Contemporary Security Issues*. A review of his edited volume appeared in the “Indian Journal of Public Administration,” published by Sage in Volume 26, Issue 1, March 2022. He holds an M.Phil. in West Asian Studies and a Masters in International Relations from the School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University.