

A New Model of Cooperation BRICS, SCO, and ASEAN

The financial crisis and the preceding wars in the name of spreading democracy have caused the necessity of countries with fast-developing tendencies in particular, and The Global South in general, to establish mechanisms that would provide alternatives for enhancing security and generating new economic routes which Fukuyama's unilateral "one method fits all" standard started to deteriorate due to the problems I have mentioned above. Moreover, the Middle Power concept has emerged with fair ambitions in searching for new cooperation among countries to create new trade routes and enhance security in the emerging fragmented world. For these reasons, inter-governmental organizations such as the SCO and BRICS have constructed a landscape for mutual cooperation that could reach win-win solutions in regional and international trade. Moreover, chances were given for competing regional powers to find solutions to reduce tensions and find new ways to cooperate. Without the SCO and the BRICS, it might not have been possible. For instance, the border tensions between China and India, the regional competition of influence between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the clashes between India and Pakistan, etc. Thus, this experience proves that the willingness of countries to develop further trade and security should function in parallel. I want to emphasize that the ability of governments to bring a more peaceful atmosphere and the will to cooperate for having mutual benefits have generated 34 countries from the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa the notion to join the BRICS. Indeed, without exaggeration, I consider the diplomatic role of China, India, and Russia in mediating among competing regional powers as positive initiations in reducing regional tensions, drawing a path for peace, and enhancing economic cooperation.

ASEAN is another example of the importance of security and economic cooperation in Asia. An Inter-governmental organization of 10 countries in Southeast Asia. A fast-developing region with more than 660 million people, diverse in ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversities, has resolved several disputes among countries that have been crucial in developing trade and orchestrating a regional centrality among the member countries. Furthermore, the ASEAN countries have successfully overcome the Cold War mentality to benefit the region's stability, which, without the formation of ASEAN, would not have been possible to achieve. This case study also proves that

enhancing security and reaching peaceful conditions regionally could result in cooperation in a broader sense. For instance, the ASEAN success has forwarded the ASEAN + 3 to China, Japan, and South Korea—ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership (2021-2025), where the tourism and educational exchanges are rising. Indeed, the shift from the Unipolar World has opened new horizons for broader regional cooperation in the Global South to a level where several ASEAN member states have been invited lately to join BRICS, mainly to observe new markets and to be integrated into financial institutions, not relying on the US Dollar—for example, Thailand and Malaysia. Furthermore, Indonesia, on the path to becoming the next Asian economic giant, has repeatedly announced the importance of having a multipolar world. At present, instead of joining the BRICS, it has obtained a unique strategy of presenting itself as a non-aligned middle power by actively being in the Belt and Road Initiative and, separately, developing relations with Russia and bringing the signing of a free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union.

In the current multipolar world, the hedging policy performed by the fast-developing middle powers of the Global South has brought an extraordinary ability to develop relations with all Superpowers, even when there is a global tension evident since the rise of China. To name a few, the ability of countries such as India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia to cooperate beneficially with the Western and non-Western blocs to safeguard their national interests has brought another color to international relations. If, in the previous decade, the mechanism of balanced power was in the mentality of “economy from China, security from the U.S.,” in the current period, the middle powers are gaining more authority in their foreign affairs and seeking to enhance their security in diversifying mode with Russia. Such diversified security cooperations are taking place and will further shape the relationship between Saudi Arabia-Russia, India-Russia, and Indonesia-Russia. Fortunately, instead of the Clash of Civilizations, there are clear tendencies in the Global South to present a world known as the Cooperation of Civilizations.

With the emergence of the multipolar reality, diversity has become a key factor in international relations that needs new approaches to further security and economic cooperation. We should

recognize the current trust deficit among nations as well. To overcome such obstacles, we need to pay attention to the role of cultures and enhance the tourism sector and educational exchanges among the countries in the Global South not only to grasp knowledge and enrich our cultures but also to know the mindset and the preferences of diverse people. Regionalism today has created a national awakening, and the emergence of national or regional products and startups are evident today. In this diverse multipolar world, markets and labeling industries need to learn about local cultures and preferences more than ever. Therefore, cultural interactions and cooperation between think tanks are becoming crucial at this level.

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