

## BRICS Research Topics

BRICS Cooperation in the Post-Epidemic Era:  
Opportunities and Challenges\*

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**Abstract:** In the context of the COVID-19 epidemic severely dragging down the global economy, it is of great significance to study emerging economies and their role in the world political landscape. It is precisely at this time to "build high-quality partnerships and jointly create a new era of global development" The 14th BRICS leaders' meeting with the theme of "" was held in China. BRICS member states joined hands to cooperate on global development issues. This article examines this from the perspective of new regionalism. The BRICS countries The practice of cooperation is based on a horizontal relationship, opposing the condescending charity of Western countries, and safeguarding the equality, dignity and autonomy of partner countries. The demand-oriented BRICS cooperation mechanism is considered to be a more effective way. Although the BRICS countries have withstood the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, they have still made great contributions to the global fight against the epidemic. This also proves that an alternative new world order is emerging that can compete with the "free" world dominated by the West. However, the BRICS countries may not be able to successfully replace the existing world order in the short term: first, the foreign policy goals and preferences of the BRICS members are different; second, there are differences among the member countries; third, there is a lack of collective world order. Vision of Order

**Keywords:** BRICS Global Development New Regionalism World Order COVID-19 Epidemic

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On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially announced that COVID-19 would be classified as a global pandemic. Since then, the COVID-19 epidemic has had a multifaceted impact on countries around the world. The economies of various countries have experienced sharp declines. However, after two years, in a lot of time, the world is expected to return to normal and get rid of the pandemic. At this time, the 14th BRICS leaders' meeting with the theme of "Building High-Quality Partnerships and Jointly Creating a New Era of Global Development" was held in China. BRICS member states join hands to cooperate on global development issues. This article examines this from the perspective of new regionalism. Can the goals envisaged in the 14th BRICS leaders' meeting document be achieved? Can it be achieved? Can an alternative point of view be suggested? This involves some important questions that we will answer in this article.

The most common type of research related to BRICS is economics-level research, which includes examining the economic development potential of the organization's member countries, their impact on the global economy and finance, and the economic, trade, financial, and economic development among member countries. Cooperation in environmental protection and other aspects, especially the ability of each member country to attract foreign direct investment. There is also a type of research focusing on comparing the overall economic strength of the Group of Seven (G7) and BRICS countries, and the similarities between the two groups. In addition, there are a few studies that analyze the BRICS countries as a special mechanism for cooperation between countries.

Few studies have interpreted the BRICS as an alternative to the existing world order. This shows that the study of the BRICS requires not only applied analysis, but also theoretical thinking. Relevant issues include: What are the main drivers of the BRICS? What is the power? Western countries dominate the current international organizations and international order. Are the BRICS countries trying to find alternatives? Can the BRICS countries be regarded as a new global governance system, or just another Intergovernmental cooperation mechanism?

## a new regionalism

The theory of new regionalism has received great attention in contemporary discussions in the category of human geography. The latest progress in international relations research believes that the world is a regionalized world. This also means that the world economy has been divided into several regions, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), etc. Since the 1990s, these manifestations of regionalization have gradually attracted widespread attention and have produced a large number of studies in social science disciplines, such as economics, international political economy, international relations, geography, and those related to identity and culture

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Horizontal partnerships. Although this transformation is far from complete, BRICS member countries have been called "new donors" and have a history of supporting the development of countries in need of assistance

Except for Russia, other BRICS member states have placed development cooperation within the framework of South-South development cooperation. Its foundation comes from the experience of colonization, anti-colonial struggles, post-independence or post-colonial structures, lag in technological development, and economic It was not until 1990 that South Africa announced the abolition of apartheid, implemented development policies, and joined South-South development cooperation. In 1978, at the technical cooperation conference hosted by the United Nations Development Program, it adopted the "Promotion and Implementation of Development Cooperation" The Buenos Aires Action Plan for Technical Cooperation among Countries » gives some explanations of South-South development cooperation and points to major changes in development assistance, emphasizing collective self-reliance and the establishment of a new international economic order. In order to upgrade the least developed countries potential, with knowledge pooling and strengthening technical cooperation as the primary goal of achieving development. The expressions used in South-South development cooperation can now also be found in the BRICS countries, such as solidarity, non-interference, mutual benefit, knowledge sharing, technology transfer, financial and monetary cooperation, etc. These expressions that convey the concepts of dignity, tolerance, and equality in the international system have appeared in meetings of the BRICS, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, etc. South-South development cooperation and traditional The fundamental difference of the aid model is that it follows the same principles as the BRICS. The principles of the development cooperation model include respecting each other's sovereignty when assisting other countries, opposing interference in other countries' affairs, and allowing countries to choose their own development paths. BRICS and South-South Development They all firmly believe that mutual benefit must be the driving factor in relations between countries. The traditional relationship between donors and recipient countries is based on the unequal model between developed and developing countries. On the contrary, the cooperation practices of BRICS countries are based on the unequal model between developed countries and developing countries. It is based on a horizontal relationship and opposes condescending charity, thereby ensuring the equality and dignity of partner countries. Demand-oriented cooperation is considered to be a more effective way. First, assess the needs of partner countries, and then act accordingly. to determine the amount of aid. This is obviously different from the donor-led approach, in which the donor country decides how much funding the recipient country receives. A demand-driven approach maintains the autonomy of partner countries and does not impose an agenda on them. Recently, Countries such as India and China regard self-reliance as a sustainable development model. Brazil has recognized the importance of civil society organizations and the role it plays in sustainable development

“South-South development cooperation is a new form of international cooperation that has emerged in the context of the Cold War. It is based on the principle of mutual benefit and non-interference, and aims to promote the development of developing countries through technical cooperation and knowledge sharing. This model of cooperation is different from the traditional aid model, which is based on the unequal relationship between developed and developing countries. South-South development cooperation emphasizes collective self-reliance and the establishment of a new international economic order. It is a more effective way to promote the development of developing countries.”





Protective clothing, masks and medicines. Russia sent a medical team composed of doctors and virology experts to Italy and put the slogan "Love from Russia" on the rescue equipment. At the request of then President Trump, Russia sent a medical team to the United States. An AN-124 transport plane carrying medical aid was flown. South Africa participated in the development of a pan-African response to the new coronavirus epidemic. On the other hand, Brazil should revise its guidelines for responding to the epidemic and impose travel bans, blockades, quarantines and testing. The boycott led to a surge in infections. In addition to these efforts, the BRICS New Development Bank demonstrated its determination to provide financial support to fight the global epidemic. China received a US\$1 billion loan, followed by Brazil, India and South Africa. Loan

It can now be clearly seen that although the BRICS countries have withstood the

impact of the new crown epidemic, they can still make outstanding contributions to the global fight against the epidemic to a certain extent. This also proves that an alternative new world order is emerging to rival the current Western-dominated "liberal" world order.

#### Four BRICS countries as alternatives to the existing world order and the challenges they face

In the past 10 years, the growth rate of emerging economies has been higher than that of developed economies, which has significantly increased the share of the former in global GDP, international trade, foreign direct investment and international financial markets. The 2008 financial crisis became a global As a catalyst for changes in economic and governance structures, the G20 replaced the Group of Eight (G8) as the leader on the international stage. Disappointingly, the commitments of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have not been fully fulfilled, and the annual investment deficit has More than 1 trillion US dollars, these developments threaten the future of the world, especially the impact on emerging markets and developing economies. Therefore, people are calling for another Bretton Woods-style international conference to completely reform the international financial system. Establish a strong international financial regulatory mechanism. Against this background, the G20 Leaders' Financial Market and World Economic Summit was held in Washington, the capital of the United States, in November 2008. The meeting assessed the impact of the global economic crisis and formulated response strategies. After the meeting, the G20 issued a communique emphasizing that a combination of short-term and long-term measures should stabilize the global financial system, stimulate domestic demand, and help emerging economies and developing countries affected by the financial crisis. These changes herald a multi-polar international economy. The arrival of a new order. BRICS members showed similar characteristics during this period. For example, they were all developing countries.

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It plays an important role in the economic structure, which confirms the argument to a certain extent. One of the foundations of the multipolar vision of the BRICS countries is the 1997 "Joint Statement of China and Russia on World Multipolarity and the Establishment of a New International Order" where China and Russia are determined to promote the development of a multi-polar world. In the context of multi-polar international politics, no country will seek hegemony, pursue power politics, and monopolize international affairs. The multipolar vision of the BRICS countries is also influenced by India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, drawing on the concepts proposed by the forum, such as the establishment of a just and multipolar world based on the rules of international law, equality, mutual respect, cooperation, coordinated action, and joint decision-making by all countries. However, some people believe that the BRICS cooperation mechanism cannot become an alternative to the US-led international order, and there is no need to worry about this. Although the center of gravity of the global economy is shifting, some scholars point out that the BRICS countries lack alliance cohesion and community-building capabilities. There is also a view that it is difficult for the BRICS countries to establish a common platform that matches the interests, capabilities and policy preferences of developing economies. Therefore, when examining whether the rise of the BRICS countries can become an important factor in the existing world order, when looking at alternatives, people may draw less optimistic conclusions. Replacing the US-led international order can only become the long-term ideal of the BRICS countries. Why is this? What challenges does this goal face?

From the following three aspects, BRICS may not be able to successfully replace the existing world order in the short term. First, BRICS members have different foreign policy goals and preferences; second, there are differences among members; and third, there is a lack of collective cooperation. We can clearly observe that the Western liberal order has a common Atlanticism spirit, which reflects the convergence of Western countries on key issues after World War II. Unity and mutual trust became the basis of the new world order at that time. And the BRICS countries A higher degree of mutual trust needs to be established in foreign policy and security policy. In addition, the BRICS countries follow the universal principles established by the World Trade Organization and have not formulated unique principles that may pose a strong challenge to the dominance of the Western order. In unification In terms of gender, Western countries are also stronger than the BRICS countries because Western European and North American countries share common values and similar economic and political systems. In addition, Western countries headed by the United States are functional democracies and can control foreign policy and economic policy. Therefore, in the face of political, economic, ideological and strategic differences, it will be difficult to establish a new world order in the near future.

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1. 2020年10月，金砖国家领导人第十二次会晤在巴西利亚举行，发表了《金砖国家领导人第十二次会晤宣言》。宣言指出，金砖国家将致力于推动构建人类命运共同体，维护世界和平稳定，促进全球发展繁荣。宣言还强调，金砖国家将加强在政治、经济、文化、教育、科技、环保等领域的合作，共同应对全球性挑战。

2. 2021年10月，金砖国家领导人第十三次会晤在南非约翰内斯堡举行，发表了《金砖国家领导人第十三次会晤宣言》。宣言指出，金砖国家将坚持多边主义，维护国际公平正义，推动全球治理体系变革。宣言还强调，金砖国家将加强在数字经济、绿色发展、公共卫生等领域的合作，共同应对全球性挑战。

3. 2022年10月，金砖国家领导人第十四次会晤在印度新德里举行，发表了《金砖国家领导人第十四次会晤宣言》。宣言指出，金砖国家将坚持多边主义，维护国际公平正义，推动全球治理体系变革。宣言还强调，金砖国家将加强在数字经济、绿色发展、公共卫生等领域的合作，共同应对全球性挑战。



