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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. ÿ 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 19 order 19

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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. Held. 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 countriesÿy

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? ÿ

a new regionalism

The theory of new regionalism has received great attention in contemporary discussions in the category of human

geographyÿ. 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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Research ÿ. New regionalism has truly become a global phenomenon. On the one hand, it reflects the deep-seated interdependence of the world's political and economic systems. On the other hand, it reflects the interesting connection between regionalization and globalization. In general, today's world The new regionalism focuses more on extroversion rather than introversion. 2. Compared with the classic paradigm (old regionalism), the goals of the new regionalism are multidimensional, comprehensive, and more targeted.

Compared with the Cold War era, the goals of the new regionalism are multidimensional and comprehensive. Regionalism, new regionalism emerged in the context of a multipolar world. It is significantly different from the bipolar world during the Cold War. New regionalism

pays more attention to countries that are not superpowers. ÿ Although scholars have different definitions of new regionalism, new regionalism clearly shows that It was associated with the rise of the second wave of regional cooperation and integration in the 1980s. However, it was not until the end of the Cold War in 1989 that it began to receive attention. In the 1970s, as the European integration process slowed down, the influence of the old regionalism As its power gradually weakened, Europe fell into pessimism, which also brought about the general failure of free trade areas in the third world. In addition, the old regionalism not only failed to bring about development, but also caused the world to fall into a "center-periphery" structure, which made the regional Partners were polarized, conflicts between countries ensued, and the vision for regional cooperation and development was shattered. Nonetheless, there was once again a sense of optimism about regionalism and its effectiveness in different aspects. ÿÿ

Wang Yuzhu believes from another perspective that the capitalist world market is often closely related to international politics. Hans Morgenthau believes that countries realize their own interests by seeking to maximize power. In the process of pursuing power maximization, countries continue to maintain and strengthen and demonstrate power, thereby obtaining benefits. Regional powers are usually the main participants in new regionalism, pursuing national interests based on their regions. The behavior of new regionalism also reflects the demands of various countries for collective interests and the efforts made by regional powers to this end. Compromise ÿÿ Therefore, if we look at the BRICS countries from the perspective of new regionalism, in order to safeguard collective interests, member states need to make necessary compromises to achieve their stated goals.

2. BRICS Countries and Global Development

The BRICS countries have been committed to providing development funds to low-income countries to help them accelerate economic development and expand exports, because these two areas are still the main challenges facing these countries. Generally speaking, the funds provided by the BRICS countries focus on basic Facilities construction sector is tilted, which helps to increase productivity, reduce the cost of tradables and non-tradables sectors, and promote the expansion of trade and investment. Despite many positive effects, the debt sustainability of low-income countries and the enterprises of BRICS countries Topics such as access to export credit subsidies have attracted widespread attention, and people generally expect that development financing should promote sustainable and inclusive growthÿÿ

The role played and contributions made by the BRICS countries are huge, covering various fields that have an impact on development, including cooperation in science and technology, trade facilitation, energy, health, education, innovation, and combating transnational crime. BRICS The country has carried out inter-departmental cooperation in more than 30 thematic areas, benefiting all member states and their people. In 2014, two institutions of strategic significance were established at the sixth meeting of BRICS leaders, namely the New Development Bank (NDB).) and Contingency Reserve Arrangement (CRA), both of which have greatly promoted the economic growth and social and economic progress of member countries. In the past five years, the New Development Bank has approved 70 infrastructure construction and sustainable development projects with a scale of 250 700 million, including loans provided to member countries through the New Development Bank's emergency loan assistance facility. Through these initiatives, India has secured 18 projects with a total amount of \$60.9 billion. The BRICS-led meeting in Russia in 2020 The 12th People's Meeting further expanded the space for cooperation. The meeting proposed that promoting world stability, common security and innovative growth are necessary conditions for establishing a more complete, effective and efficient global economic order. ÿ. The BRICS countries

called for another kind of development The model replaces the traditional model including foreign aid, and advocates the
adoption of "development cooperation", a more extensive and innovative model, including business partnerships, trade and
peacekeeping operations. Therefore, with the influence of the BRICS countries With the improvement of the BRICS mechanism, the
BRICS mechanism has created a new cooperation paradigm for developing countries. It is worth noting that the BRICS countries have
promoted the concept of promoting cooperation through aid, which may pose a challenge to the traditional relationship between donors and recipient countries, and rep

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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 assistanceÿÿ

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 postcolonial 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 countriesÿ, 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.ÿÿSouth-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, v 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 developmenty

Three Impacts of the COVID-19 Epidemic and BRICS Countries' Contribution to Fighting the Epidemic

The COVID-19 epidemic has had a major impact on people's daily lives. In order to control the development of the epidemic, countries around the world have

The country was forced to implement severe blockade measures, which brought a lot of inconvenience to people's lives. The epidemic also brought a lot of inconvenience to developed countries.

In South Africa, where inflation has exceeded 10%, analysts warn that soaring petrol prices will

Gradually triggering social unrest. The sharp increase in fuel prices has also pushed up food prices. Electricity prices have increased.

Both countries and developing countries have been under tremendous financial pressure, and the economies of various countries have continued to decline.

15% ÿÿ On the other hand, India's GDP growth rate has declined. It is estimated that between 2024 and 2025, if

There is a weak recovery in the Indian economy, and the GDP growth rate will be only 145%. If there is a strong recovery,

GDP growth rate will reach 745%. India's unemployment rate from 2020 to 2021 is expected to exceed 20%

The unemployment rate may fall to 18-13% in 2024-2025 (if the economy recovers weakly) or 12-13% (if the economy

Strong economic recovery), the inflation rate is expected to rise from 6% in 2020-2021 to 2024-2025

14% (weak recovery) or 8% (strong recovery) in 2018, the benchmark lending rate is expected to rise from

665% in 2020-2021, falling to 265% in 2024-2025 (a weak recovery), or rising

rose to 8 65% (strong recovery) ÿIndia 's industrial output increased between 2019 and February 2020

has remained normal, but it is expected to be -396% in 2020-2021. The annual growth rate in 2024-2025 is expected to be -3.96%.

- 1 96 (weak recovery) or 4 04% (strong recovery) ÿÿ

Scholars not only study the COVID-19 epidemic as a public health issue, but also examine its impact on

Serious impact on the economies of various countries around the world. Among all BRICS countries, Russia's performance is worth mentioning.

This is due to the country's fiscal policy and loose monetary policy that have a "cushion cushion" effect. Russia

 $Ross\ drove\ digital\ transformation\ before\ the\ outbreak,\ which\ helped\ manage\ many\ essential\ items\ during\ the\ lockdown.$

Newly confirmed cases of new coronavirus pneumonia in Russia are under control, and the epidemic situation has stabilized. Group of Petroleum Exporting Countries

The "OPEC+" formed by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its oil-producing allies has relaxed production cuts, which will help

Russia Contains Economic Recession. The Russian economy is expected to grow during 2021 and 2022

3.2% y\u00fc Brazil is the country most severely affected by the epidemic among the BRICS countries. In terms of health, society and economy

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Faced with an unprecedented recession, Brazil's GDP fell by 41% in 2020

Economic growth forecast for 2021

The period is 53%. Brazil's death toll from COVID-19 ranks second in the world, second only to the United States. The cumulative number of deaths

The number of confirmed cases reached 590,000, and the cumulative number of confirmed cases is approximately 21 million. The COVID-19 epidemic seriously threatens Brazil's poverty alleviation. It is expected that

The poverty rate is expected to rise to 15.7% in 2021, although the country issued a new round of emergency funds in April 2021.

Emergency assistance fundÿÿ

Although all BRICS member countries are facing challenges brought by the COVID-19 epidemic, all countries have unanimously agreed

We are willing to work together to fight the epidemic, strengthen cooperation in vaccine research and development, production and certification, and improve the efficiency of vaccine development.

accessibility and affordability in developing countries. In March 2022, the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Center launched online

The launching ceremony and vaccine cooperation seminar were heldy in order to strengthen the effective response to global public health emergencies.

In response, the five countries advocated fair and reasonable distribution of vaccines as global public goods, and also stated that they would provide

Improve the BRICS countries' infectious disease prevention and control capabilities, and strengthen exchanges and cooperation in vaccine research and development, epidemic surveillance, etc.

At the meeting, Wang Zhigang, Minister of Science and Technology of China, said that the establishment of the BRICS vaccine research and development center is an important step for the BRICS.

A reflection of pragmatic national cooperation, member states will work together to address common challenges in the field of public health. BRICS

The five countries have donated more than 1 billion doses of vaccines to countries around the world through various initiatives and international organizationsyy Indian Health

The Minister of Health stated at the meeting that given India's potential and being one of the largest vaccine producers in the world. He also pointed out that

"This proves the commitment of BRICS countries to fight the new crown epidemic'yy

Many emerging economies have been hit hard by the COVID-19 epidemic. BRICS countries have extended a helping hand to help

Countries around the world are fighting the epidemic. India, as a rapidly emerging "pharmacy of the world" chloroquine , and the world's largest hydroxy

producer, not only exports urgently needed drugs to SAARC countries, but also exports to overseas markets.

"Extended neighbors" in the Gulf region, Russia, Brazii, Israel and the United States. China provides countries around the world with

We have provided masks, gloves, work clothes, shoe covers, testing kits and other urgently needed supplies.

Under the "Healthy Silk Road" initiative, China has provided assistance to Italy and Iran, two areas severely affected by the epidemic.

In March 2020, China provided 31 tons of medical supplies to Italy, including respirators, protective equipment,

Protective clothing, masks and medicinesÿ. 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 ÿ 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 crisisŷ. 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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Countries have outstanding performance and huge development potential in the global economy. They are systemically important in the world economic pattern. Their national actions will have far-reaching impacts at the regional and global levels and can affect global economic governance.

In fact, from the perspective of population, resources, nominal GDP and foreign exchange reserves, the collective strength of the BRICS countries is.

The volume demonstrates the vitality of the BRICS mechanism. The BRICS countries have a population of 3 billion, accounting for about 43% of the world's population, foreign exchange reserves of about 4 trillion US dollars, and a total GDP of more than 13 trillion US dollars. 2. According to a 2003 report by Goldman Sachs titled According to the global economic report "Dream with the BRICS: Looking ahead to 2050", by 2050, the total economic output of the BRICS will surpass that of the six major Western industrial countries (excluding Canada in the G7)ÿ. The BRICS' response to the International Monetary Fund in 2010 Dissatisfaction with the failure to implement the quota and governance reform plans for the year was increasing, so the New Development Bank was established. This was a landmark event for BRICS cooperation. The fifth BRICS leaders' meeting held in Durban, South Africa, in 2013 decided Preparing for the establishment of the New Development Bank and the Contingency Reserve Arrangement is an initiative to replace the Bretton Woods system. Although many public opinions believe that the New Development Bank and the Contingency Reserve Arrangement are alternatives to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the BRICS countries say It complements rather than replaces existing institutions, and is committed to supporting developing countries and emerging economies. 4 Given the potential, resources and growth of the BRICS, can it really replace the existing neoliberal world order? Many Scholars and policymakers believe that the rise of the BRICS, as a powerful association of emerging economies, is a major challenge or even threat to the U.S.-led international order. For

example, the Obama administration believes that the New Development Bank and the Asian Foundation The Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was established by China to increase its geopolitical influence and limit the influence of the United States in Asia. Some Asian analysts even pointed out that getting rid of the dominant position of the United States is the goal of the BRICS countries, which includes modifying The rules of the international order since 1945 and the formulation of new rulesÿ. It needs to be added here that academic circles have been debating whether the world is gradually moving towards multipolarity. Emerging economies are indeed playing an important role in global politics and global economics.

It plays an important role in the economic structure, which confirms the argument to a certain extenty. 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" y 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 multi-polar 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. Orderyy 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. y 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 futureÿÿ

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Although emerging market economies have created huge wealth, accumulated significant net claims on the rest of the world, and improved their status in the international financial system, it still seems difficult to judge whether this will result in an alternative to the current world order. As of At the end of 2010, developing countries and emerging economies held 2/3 of the world's US\$9 trillion official foreign exchange reserves. According to the baseline scenario proposed in the "Global Development Outlook 2011" report released by the World Bank, it is expected that by 2025 their collective The net international investment position will exceed US\$1.52 trillion. Nonetheless, there is a huge difference between the economic size of emerging market economies and the role they play in the international monetary system. This is mainly because the local currencies of these economies are not international currencies. ÿ There are currency mismatch risks in trade, investment, and financial transactions. Although the U.S. dollar faces considerable challenges in the international financial system, currently only the euro is considered a potential substitute for the U.S. dollary. The RMB may also become a substitute for the U.S. dollar . First, China has US\$313 trillion in foreign exchange reserves, making the RMB the second largest currency after the US dollar. 3. In order to further promote the international status of the RMB, the Chinese government has adopted a two-pronged approach. First, develop offshore RMB. market, and the second is to encourage the use of RMB in trade pricing and settlement. The effects of these measures are beginning to show. Three situations may occur in the future: (1) Maintain the dollar-centered status quo (the United States is most likely to try to maintain the status quo); (2) A diversified international monetary system, (3) A system with the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) as the main international currency. The World Bank predicts that the most likely one is the arrival of a diversified monetary system. The dominance of the US dollar will end. The US dollar will , the euro and the renminbi are listed as international currencies. The development of the situation shows the positive growth and influence of emerging economies, but there are also downside risks, which will have a direct and long-term impact on these countries. Therefore, can the BRICS countries become the current Alternatives to a U.S.-led world order remain uncertain.

Five Conclusions

The BRICS countries have the potential and resources to build an alternative to the current Western liberal world order.

However, on the way forward for the BRICS mechanism to become an alternative to the current international order, BRICS cooperation

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

We are also facing various challenges. As Chinese President Xi Jinping said, the BRICS countries must persist in working together to maintain world peace and tranquility. We must persist in cooperative development and jointly respond to risks and challenges. We must persist in pioneering and innovation to stimulate the potential and vitality of cooperation. ÿ We must adhere to openness and inclusiveness and pool collective wisdom and strength. He also emphasized that BRICS countries should support each other on issues involving each other's core interests, practice true multilateralism, safeguard justice and oppose hegemony, safeguard fairness and oppose bullying, Maintain unity and oppose divisionÿ. The 2022 BRICS leaders' meeting in China must become a platform to overcome these challenges. At least for now, it should open up new ways to support

world development and maintain peace and security. In addition, BRICS countries should strengthen Exchanges between people of various countries and expand friendly exchange channels to overcome the challenges in this cooperation mechanism. We can consider establishing cultural institutions like the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in BRICS member states to promote personnel exchanges. We can also follow the example of Japan The "World Youth Ship" program allows BRICS members and other developing countries to establish scholarships and provide exchange programs for students and scholars to participate in research and other development projects to better understand the cultures of these countries. The new strategy helps resolve existing problems among BRICS member states and further promotes BRICS as an alternative to the current international order dominated by the West.

(Editor Huang Nian)

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