

BRICS Expansion: Decoding the Parody Play

Anurag Paul

Indira Gandhi National Open University, India

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ABSTRACT

This study presents a critical analysis of the BRICS expansion, particularly with the inclusion of geopolitically uneasy members such as Ethiopia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Iran. It hypothesizes that this transformation in membership composition serves as a façade—masking the bloc’s true strategic objectives behind a discourse of global inclusivity and multipolarity. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the research combines an extensive literature review with a comparative analysis between BRICS and traditional Western-dominated institutions. This method reveals BRICS’ unique strategies, particularly its use of mimicry and institutional rhetoric, which enable it to navigate and subtly challenge the dominant global order. The central question addressed is whether BRICS’ expansion enhances its capacity to act as a genuine alternative in global development governance or undermines its effectiveness as a counterbalance to the prevailing Western hegemony. The findings offer new insights into BRICS’ identity, coherence, and strategic trajectory within the evolving landscape of international relations.

ABSTRAK

Studi ini menyajikan analisis kritis atas perluasan BRICS, khususnya dengan mengikutsertakan anggota yang secara geopolitik tidak nyaman seperti Ethiopia, Mesir, Arab Saudi, UEA, dan Iran. Hipotesisnya adalah bahwa transformasi dalam komposisi keanggotaan ini berfungsi sebagai kedok—menutupi tujuan strategis blok yang sebenarnya di balik wacana inklusivitas global dan multipolaritas. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan metode campuran, penelitian ini menggabungkan tinjauan pustaka yang luas dengan analisis komparatif antara BRICS dan lembaga-lembaga tradisional yang didominasi Barat. Metode ini mengungkap strategi unik BRICS, khususnya penggunaan mimikri dan retorika kelembagaan, yang memungkinkannya untuk menavigasi dan secara halus menantang tatanan global yang dominan. Pertanyaan utama yang dibahas adalah apakah perluasan BRICS meningkatkan kapasitasnya untuk bertindak sebagai alternatif sejati dalam tata kelola pembangunan global atau melemahkan efektivitasnya sebagai penyeimbang hegemoni Barat yang berlaku. Temuan-temuan ini menawarkan wawasan baru tentang identitas, koherensi, dan lintasan strategis BRICS dalam lanskap hubungan internasional yang terus berkembang.

A. INTRODUCTION

BRICS, originally coined by Jim O'Neill in 2001, has evolved from an economic concept into a powerful diplomatic entity with a growing political and economic influence on the global stage (Cooper, 2016). Initially emphasizing the shared economic traits of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, the group was later joined by South Africa in 2010, officially becoming BRICS. Over time, BRICS has transitioned from an

*Email : masterdannyydark@gmail.com

abstract economic grouping to a significant force that challenges the traditional North-South dichotomy, as conceptualized by Willy Brandt (Brandt & Chancellor, 2011). The group represents a shift in global power dynamics, with its member countries transcending traditional hierarchies, which was notably forecasted in the 2003 Goldman Sachs report that projected China and India to become the world's leading economies by 2050, with Brazil and Russia following closely (Goldman, 2003).

Throughout the 2000s, BRICS solidified its position as a counterpoint to Western dominance, emerging as a club-like entity with annual summits and a distinct geopolitical identity. This identity has been reinforced by a narrative that sees BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—as rising powers reshaping global political landscapes. However, with the expansion of BRICS membership in 2023 to include Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, effective January 1, 2024 (Thussu, 2024), the narrative has evolved once again. This expansion, which integrates countries from Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, represents a strategic reimagining of BRICS' purpose and significantly increases its geopolitical and economic influence. While the expansion symbolizes a broader shift in global power, it has also sparked concerns. Some critics, like Harsh V. Pant, suggest that the group's growth may dilute its original identity as a challenger to Western-dominated institutions, introducing uncertainties about whether the expanded BRICS will truly represent a cohesive force or succumb to the 'BRICS fallacy' of overreach.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining a literature review and comparative analysis (Jemna, 2016) to explore BRICS' expansion and its role in global governance. The literature review examined academic articles, policy briefs, and primary sources, identifying key themes around BRICS' use of the "Parody Play" to challenge the global order without directly confronting Western institutions. A comparative analysis highlighted the group's distinctive features, strengths, and limitations in relation to traditional international organizations. The central research question is: *"How does BRICS strategically reshape global norms without directly confronting Western-dominated institutions?"* This approach offers a deeper understanding of BRICS' strategic actions and their impact on international relations.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Alternative Rephrasing

As the official narrative goes, by expanding its membership BRICS seeks to bolster its efforts to de-dollarize global finance, transition away from Bretton Woods institutions, and redirect focus toward the New Development Bank as a viable alternative. Now with a 46% share of the global population and 35% of global GDP, BRICS have surpassed G7 in financial terms (Mostafa & Mahmood, 2015).

With six of the top ten oil producers as part of BRICS, the bloc has achieved a significant expansion in its combined oil production, with output increasing by nearly 50%. As a result, the bloc now accounts for approximately 30% of the world's total oil production, as reported by the Energy Institute (Richter, The Global Clout of the New BRICS, 2024). Over 25% of global exports now come under its avenue. As an economic powerhouse, BRICS can now effectively control oil flows, liberate the South from debilitating debt traps, and undermine the intimidative thuggery of the West which comes mostly as sanctions and supply chain cutoffs; and other times as forced kidnapping and torturing of civilians as in Guantanamo Bay and Abu Gharib. It also

gives the world a chance to alter the set linguistics of war and peace in terms that are unbiased and inclusive in etymology.

This wave of change confronts legacy institutions- from the United Nations to the World Trade Organization- with a stark choice, give into multipolarity truly or risk obsolescence (Peters, 2023). Nevertheless, beginnings too often collapse of incompatibilities rather than work when members choose to clash rather than collaborate.

The Originals:

China's one-party socialist state and Russia's controlled democracy with centralized power contrast sharply with the vibrant democracies of India, Brazil, and South Africa (Kurlantzick, 2016). Historical territorial disputes, particularly between India and China, and Russia and China, compound these differences. For instance, India and China compete over energy resources and supply chains, including port developments in neighboring countries, such as India's Chabahar project in Iran and China's Gwadar port in Pakistan (Khan & Omid, 2023). The Dipsang Valley border clash between China and India underscores the simmering tensions. Yet, driven by a shared desire to rectify the dominance of the US dollar and secure their rightful place in international organizations, the BRICS founding members have coalesced around a vision of challenging the existing global economic order. An alignment rooted in Hedley Bull (2019) concept of international society, emphasizing dialogue, consent to rules, and recognition of common interests in maintaining these arrangements. Thus, the founders even with their differences have gracefully executed cooperation in BRICS.

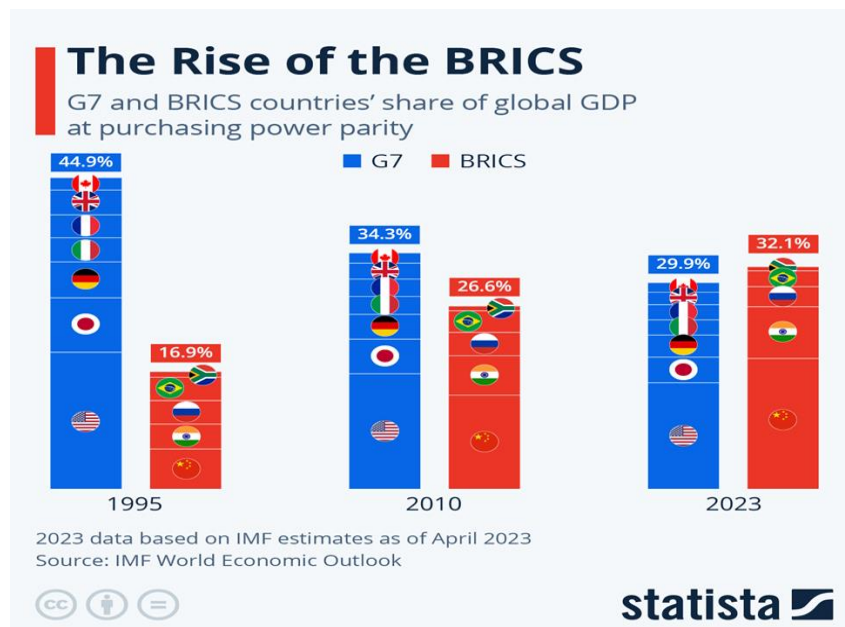


Figure 1: Comparative study of BRICS and G7 GDP in different time frames. (Richter, The Rise of the BRICS, 2023)

Source: <https://cdn.statcdn.com/Infographic/images/normal/30638.jpeg>

[Note: BRICS GDP was 32.1% of global GDP in 2023 and is 35% in 2024 as referred in Figure 2]

In support of this claim, the example of European integration via the European Union is particularly instructive. The European Union's precursor, the European Coal

and Steel Community (ECSC), was founded in 1951 to integrate the coal and steel sectors of six founding member states: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands (Zurstrassen, 2022). This initial collaboration laid the groundwork for a broader economic integration, which ultimately encompassed the whole of Western Europe. The success of the EU's integration project is a testament to the power of common interests in uniting nations with previously conflictual relationships. As noted by Robert Schuman, the architect of the European integration project, the pooling of coal and steel resources was a deliberate attempt to create a shared destiny among European nations (Ciappi, 2023). EU's evolution into a single market has been a remarkable achievement, demonstrating the potential for regional economic integration to drive growth and stability. However, the Gesellschaft-type association of BRICS that was pursuing an EU-styled integration with plans like-BRICS currency, Contingency Reserve Fund as well as visa-free travel, now faces challenges with new entrants.

While mini-lateral arrangements can potentially expand into multilateral frameworks, BRICS' post-expansion prospects are uncertain. In the realm of regional organizations, success stories like the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are the tantalizing exceptions that prove the rule: for every triumph, there are countless tales of stagnation, disillusionment, and collapse. For every success story, there are multiple examples of failed or struggling regional initiatives, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, and the Organization of American States (OAS). The reasons for failure are stark: internal disturbances, intra-rivalry, diverse interests, lack of institutionalization, and unresolved regional disputes. Unfortunately, these challenges now define BRICS' expanded identity, making its long-term viability uncertain.

Animus Newcomers

The expansion of BRICS to welcome new nations within its fold raises concerns about crumbling cohesion and efficacy; testing its mettle and capacity. As *Danny Bradlow* (2023) notes *"It is hard to find commonalities among the six countries invited to join BRICS other than that they are each significant states in their region"*.

The expansion of BRICS membership marks a critical juncture in the bloc's evolution, raising concerns about the dilution of its core objectives. The inclusion of new members, who prioritize short-term economic gains and grapple with domestic challenges, may erode the group's cohesion and shared vision. This divergence from the founders' focus on long-term strategic objectives, such as reforming global financial institutions and promoting alternative reserve currencies, could undermine the bloc's collective bargaining power and weaken its influence on the international stage. The addition of new members with varying levels of economic development and political influence is likely to alter the internal power dynamics within BRICS, leading to increased internal competition and hindering consensus-building and decision-making processes. Moreover, the inclusion of smaller economies may reduce the overall economic weight of the bloc, diminishing its impact on global economic trends. The expansion of BRICS also necessitates a recalibration of the "growth engine" narrative, as the inclusion of newer members with relatively smaller GDPs could dilute the bloc's overall economic growth trajectory (Guttmann & Guttmann, 2022). This shift in the economic composition of BRICS may require a reassessment of the bloc's role and objectives, moving beyond a purely growth-

driven agenda to focus on other areas of cooperation. Ultimately, navigating the diverging interests and priorities of the expanded membership will present significant challenges for the bloc's cohesion. Balancing the needs and aspirations of large, established economies with those of smaller, developing nations will require skillful diplomacy and a nuanced understanding of the evolving geopolitical landscape. Failure to effectively navigate these internal divisions could lead to internal fragmentation and ultimately undermine the bloc's effectiveness.

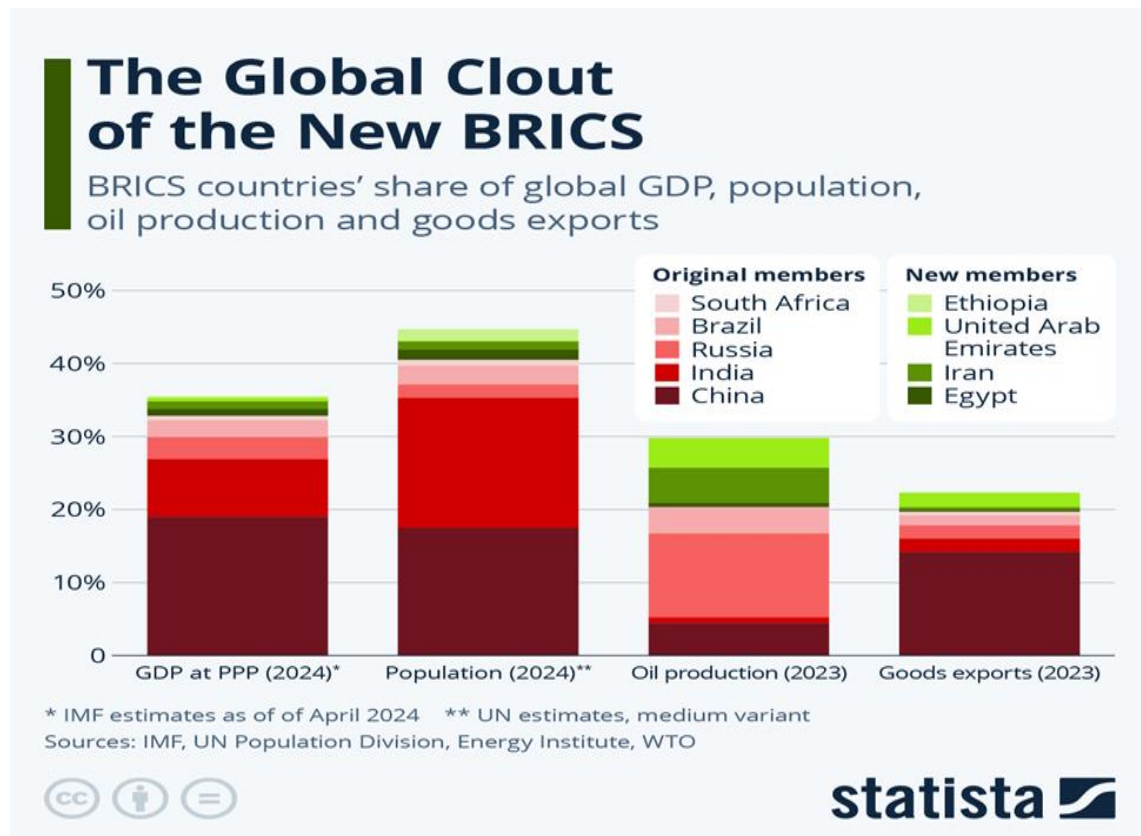


Figure 2: BRICS countries' share of Global GDP, Population, Oil Production, and Goods Exports as of April 2024

Source: (Richter, The Global Clout of the New BRICS, 2024)
<https://cdn.statcdn.com/Infographic/images/normal/33311.jpeg>

These social divergences and financial disjuncture as *M. Taylor Fravel* (2019) caution risks diluting BRICS' influence, as divergent interests and priorities may impede consensus-building, potentially undermining the group's cohesion and global clout.

1. Egypt and Ethiopia have a complex and contentious relationship, primarily centered around the Nile River and its resources. Historical treaties, negotiated by colonial powers, allocated a significant portion of the Nile's waters to Egypt, which Ethiopia did not recognize. Tensions escalated with Ethiopia's announcement of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) in 2011, which Egypt fears will reduce its water supply.
2. Ethiopia and UAE have had a strained relationship in recent years, particularly after the UAE supported Eritrea's bid for independence from Ethiopia in the 1990s.

3. UAE and Egypt's differing views on the Muslim Brotherhood, which is banned in the UAE but has historically had support in Egypt have led to tensions, more so since the Libyan War where the UAE and Egypt support rival factions. In the complex web of Libyan politics, the UAE and Egypt find themselves on opposite sides of the divide, their allegiances tangled in a delicate dance of power. The UAE's backing of the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord stands in stark contrast to Egypt's steadfast support for the Tobruk-based House of Representatives and the formidable Libyan National Army, led by the enigmatic Khalifa Haftar.
4. Egypt and Iran have a complex and tense relationship due to their differing religious and political views. Egypt, a predominantly Sunni Muslim country, is wary of Iran's Shia Muslim ideology and its potential influence in the region. The Iran-Egypt relationship has been a decades-long saga of diplomatic disagreements. However, under Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the tide has shifted. A 2019 meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers marked a turning point, driven by a shared desire to combat extremism and promote regional stability. Despite these efforts, tensions remain, and the two nations continue to have differing views on various regional issues, including the Syrian Civil War and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
5. Saudi Arabia and Iran are regional rivals with a complex and tense relationship rooted in religious, political, and ideological differences. The two nations support opposing sides in conflicts such as Yemen and Syria, further fueling tensions. Diplomatic relations have been severed since 2016, and the rivalry has led to proxy wars, propaganda campaigns, and cyberattacks, making it one of the most significant and volatile conflicts in the region. Despite regional and international efforts to ease tensions, the mutual distrust and animosity between Saudi Arabia and Iran remain deep-seated.
6. Iran and UAE have had diplomatic relations since 1971, but their relationship has been tense in recent years. The UAE has been critical of Iran's nuclear program and has supported international sanctions against Iran. Additionally, the UAE has been involved in the conflict in Yemen, where Iran supports the Houthi rebels.

Furthermore, the regime types of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE exhibit profound differences, underscoring potential incompatibilities within the expanded BRICS grouping. Iran's theocratic Islamic republic contrasts sharply with Egypt's authoritarian presidential regime, Ethiopia's hybrid federal parliamentary system, Saudi Arabia's absolute monarchy, and the UAE's federal constitutional monarchy. All this tension could spill over into BRICS, making it difficult for the group to achieve consensus on key issues.

Transforming Identities

Since its inception, the BRICS economic trajectory has been marked by uneven progress, evolving from a coalition of ascending powers to a grouping characterized more by its symbolic initialism than substantive unity (Cooper, 2021). The incorporation of South Africa and subsequent expansion have transformed BRICS into a heterogeneous ensemble, often criticized as a 'Petro-state pivot' or 'oil-rich

club'. This shift has diluted the group's original essence, morphing it from a dynamic bloc of emerging nations into a diverse collective of countries with disparate economic profiles, effectively blurring the lines of emerging from nascent and/or budding powers.

This identity crisis which seems to be a mere phase of development might scar the institution permanently, for the message it sends to the world becomes very ambiguous. Such a lack of vision might forestall the application or intent, of the more than two dozen countries invited at the 2024 Kazan summit of BRICS, to join the institution. Vladimir Putin while responding to the Press, particularly a Russia-based news agency RIA Novosti, has also confirmed BRICS intent to expand further and hinted at a list of candidates to be approved by the partners in Kazan itself. This regular and speedy expansion policy seems to be mimicking already established institutions (DDNews, 2024). BRICS' rapid expansion risks mirror the decline of the Non-Aligned Movement and G77, whose technical existence belies diminished influence and effectiveness. Leadership deficits, internal divisions, and cohesion challenges, if unaddressed, may similarly erode BRICS' impact, rendering it a symbolic entity lacking geopolitical sway.

Despite the eventual decline of institutions like NAM and G77, their well-defined objectives – decolonization and advancing developing countries' economic interests – ensured enduring relevance for decades. In sharp contrast, BRICS, 15 years after its inaugural Yekaterinburg summit, continues to grapple with defining its core purpose, lacking a cohesive vision to guide its growth. This directional void, exacerbated by unchecked expansion, has yielded developmental stagnation, undermining BRICS' capacity to effectively address pressing global issues.

Jim O'Neill (2021) notes that beyond the establishment of the New Development Bank (NBD), *'it is difficult to see what the group has done other than meet annually'*, and ask a rather awkward question: When is that influence, he predicted, going to show up?

Then again to be influential, one needs to have a proper institutional setup. Torn between its informal nature and the need for a robust institutional framework to support its growth and ensure its continued effectiveness, BRICS should be warned that mimicking the membership length of established organizations without establishing a commensurate level of institutional support may be a recipe for disaster, as it may convey a sense of lack of seriousness to competitors and the world at large. As Dr. Oliver Stuenkel (Stuenkel, 2023), a leading expert on BRICS, astutely observes, *"BRICS' informality has been both a blessing and a curse. While it has allowed the group to be more flexible and adaptable, it has also limited its ability to take collective action and make decisions."*

The fate of BRICS hangs in the balance, as the grouping must skillfully navigate the treacherous waters of divergent interests and conflicting agendas. Will it sink or swim? Only time will tell, but one thing is certain: the success of BRICS hinges on its ability to transcend its differences and forge a united path toward meaningful progress and cooperation.

Why expand?

A version for all to see

China, facing stringent economic pressures from the West, seeks to bolster its position by integrating the Global South into its sphere of influence through BRICS.

This strategic maneuver serves as a survival mechanism for China, enabling it to counterbalance Western opposition. Russia, reeling from Western sanctions following the Ukraine crisis, finds solace in China's support and consequently backs BRICS expansion. In contrast, Brazil and India exhibit hesitation, prioritizing strategic autonomy and being cautious of being drawn into a possibly anti-Western bloc that may compromise their relationships with Western nations. Their reservations stem from a desire to maintain flexibility in their foreign policy and avoid entanglement in a potentially polarizing alliance. Also, for India, Russia has been a time-tested ally- a relationship so good that Vladimir Putin while referring to Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi said “...our relations are so good, I thought you understand everything without translation” (Sharma, 2023). Brazil, on the other hand, has China as its largest trading partner (Institute of Directors, 2024), accounting for 30% of its foreign trade. With investments in infrastructure, energy, and agriculture; Brazil can't afford to contradict the expansion. Hence, expansion became evident.

A version that's off-limits

The dynamic landscape of international politics underscores the ephemeral nature of alliances, even in the face of expansion. History whispers a haunting tale of fleeting alliances, as the wartime alliance between the United States and the Soviet Union succumbed to the icy grip of ideology, plunging the world into the dark depths of the Cold War. Cognizant of this historical precedent, the founders of BRICS strategically included nations with intricate and sometimes adversarial relationships, thereby harnessing these rivalries to prevent any single member from gaining undue influence. This calculated approach ensures that no founder nation can disproportionately benefit from the inclusion of new members, while simultaneously elevating the collective significance of the group. The inherent competition among the incoming nations, fueled by their varying economic capacities and historical animosities, precludes any single entity from eclipsing the influence of the founding members (Roberts, 2019). Concurrently, these new nations, united by their shared discontent with Western dominance, acquire a platform to bolster their economies and establish themselves as prominent players among the emerging global elite. As the world order undergoes a shift, favoring the ascendance of developing nations, this strategic configuration positions BRICS to navigate the impending race for superpower status. Its diverse membership, encompassing potential contenders for this coveted title, further solidifies its role as a significant force in the evolving global landscape.

The Parody Play

“A total ideology,” Daniel Bell (2019) explained “is an all-inclusive system of comprehensive reality, it is a set of beliefs, infused with passion, and seeks to transform the whole of a way of life.” In his seminal work *The End of Ideology*, Daniel Bell also explained that the world has evolved from such total ideologies to become post-industrialist societies and that even though the world was divided based on capitalist and communist blocs; each nation is prone to similar development; thus, developed a unidimensional model of growth applicable to countries irrespective of their political ideologies. Initially meant for the growth of individual nations effects of the same transmigrated to associations of these nations. In a fascinating paradox, the global narrative of growth has spawned a homogenous template, where nations, institutions, and groupings converge in a synchronized dance of development. As a

result, the unique characteristics of individual nations are subtly subsumed by the dominant discourse, yielding a curious uniformity in the architecture of international institutions and alliances. While individual nations grew along W.W. Rostow's four stages of economic growth, the associations or groupings grew by extending their geo-political reach, i.e., by expanding to include more and more nations within their fold. (Smith, 2015). Be it as official members, dialogue partners, or observers, the progress through expansion became a stark feature of multilateralism. In this world where we are taught to hate whatever is different from us, diversion from the unilinear, monocultural growth of the institutions will mean risking societal backlash, although not in crude terms given BRICS economic strength, but in soft terms like surveillance, global focus and constant press attention which BRICS cannot afford.

Herein, BRICS employs "The Parody Play," a strategy conceptualized as a form of institutional mimicry, where BRICS, via its seemingly continuous expansion policy, portrays itself to be copying Western-dominated institutions, where the means of progress is to include within a group as many countries as possible. However, in reality, the grouping did break free of the 'end of ideology' matrix to push its foundational goals with its original, rising power members only. In here, the new entrants act as an elaborate masque to hide the group's true intention.

Nevertheless, openly broadcasting such breaking of narratives would have positioned BRICS in the frontline of every competitor; thus, the parody play to achieve a dual objective: by mimicking the progress by expansion narrative of established institutions BRICS camouflaged itself within the global mainstream, thereby dodging unnecessary attention, and simultaneously my misdirecting competitors and academics into endless loop of investigating and reinvestigating multiple facets of the expansion, BRICS also denied competitors the opportunity to become aware of its true intentions or adjust their strategies in response to shifting circumstances. (Denisov et al., 2019).

D. CONCLUSION

The expansion of BRICS offers a compelling and complex narrative that reflects the shifting dynamics of global geopolitics and international power structures. Historically, the Western world, dominated by powerful White Christian nations, imposed its worldview and knowledge system upon the globe, often to the detriment of alternative perspectives. This epistemological imposition, reinforced by academic discourse and cultural hegemony, placed Western thought at the center of global development and political discourse. For centuries, this Eurocentric paradigm has been entrenched in the global system, positioning the West as the universal standard for progress and governance. However, the dominance of this Western-centric model is beginning to erode, as rising powers, particularly those within BRICS, challenge the very foundations of this global narrative. BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—have strategically appropriated and reoriented the tools and frameworks that were once conceived by Western institutions. By creatively utilizing concepts such as linear progress and the "end of ideology," BRICS is not simply rejecting the Western worldview but repurposing it for their own objectives. In doing so, the bloc is navigating a path toward a multipolar world, where diverse epistemologies and ontologies can coexist and flourish, thereby disrupting the traditional hegemony of the West. This strategic reorientation is not an outright rejection of the global system established by Western powers; instead, it is a nuanced

approach that challenges the dominant narrative from within. BRICS, as a relatively new geopolitical entity, lacks the deeply rooted historical and cultural foundations that many other resistance movements possess. Yet, by leveraging existing Western tools and ideologies, it has managed to craft a new vision for global order—one that includes previously marginalized perspectives and prioritizes a more inclusive and equitable framework for international relations. The expansion of BRICS, particularly with the inclusion of countries like Iran, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, has added another layer of complexity to this geopolitical shift. These nations, often viewed with suspicion by the West, have strengthened BRICS' economic and political influence on the global stage. Far from merely expanding for the sake of numbers, BRICS' inclusion of these nations is a calculated move to maintain a delicate balance of power within the bloc. By preventing any single member, whether a founder or new entrant, from dominating the group, BRICS reinforces its collective strength while amplifying its global voice. This expansion is portrayed strategically, with the world observing the group's growth through the lens of traditional expansionist logic, mimicking the strategies of Western institutions like the European Union or the United Nations. This "Parody Play" approach, as it can be termed, serves to mask BRICS' true intentions. While the world is focused on the seemingly flawed nature of the expansion, questioning its coherence and effectiveness, BRICS has cleverly camouflaged its underlying objective of reshaping global norms and power dynamics. By adhering to a form of institutional mimicry, BRICS avoids direct confrontation with the West, all the while executing a masterful strategy that amplifies its economic and geopolitical clout without inciting open resistance. In this way, BRICS not only positions itself as a counterweight to Western hegemony but also creates a platform for countries discontented with the current global order to unite under a common banner of multipolarity.

The study of BRICS' expansion, through the lens of the "Parody Play," reveals how the bloc uses both subversion and adaptation to navigate the global order without overtly rejecting the existing framework. This nuanced approach challenges the notion of progress as dictated by the West and offers a new model for international cooperation that embraces diversity while pursuing collective interests. By repurposing Western-developed tools and concepts—such as linear progress and the idea of an end to ideology—BRICS is reshaping global governance in a way that reflects the realities of a multipolar world. From a policy perspective, this strategic expansion highlights the challenges and opportunities of a more inclusive global order. While BRICS faces potential fragmentation due to the diversity of its membership, the bloc also provides a platform for countries seeking alternatives to the Western-centric global system. This shift towards multipolarity is not without its contradictions, as the internal dynamics of BRICS—shaped by competing political systems, economic priorities, and regional interests—create a delicate balancing act. Nonetheless, BRICS's ability to hold together and navigate these tensions will determine its future role in reshaping international relations.

BRICS' expansion exemplifies a dynamic and evolving strategy that blends mimicry with subversion to challenge the foundations of Western-dominated global norms. This approach offers a fresh perspective on how emerging powers can strategically reshape the global order without resorting to direct opposition. The expansion also underscores the complexities of international politics, where actions are not simply black or white but reflect a nuanced interplay of interests, power, and ideology. BRICS has effectively redefined the global script, positioning itself as a key

player in a multipolar world while pushing for a more inclusive and equitable global governance framework.

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