

“Multipolar Dynamics after 2022: China, Russia, India, and the Remaking of World Order”

Researcher:

Dr. Nagham Abou Chakra

PhD in Political Science and International Relations
Beirut/Lebanon

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This shift is further analyzed in the context of global challenges, economic realignment, geopolitical rivalries, and the strategic use of economic tools—such as the U.S. dollar—as instruments of power.

Keywords: Multipolar - Unipolar - World Order – Global Power – International Crisis.

Abstract:

This research examines how global politics have evolved after 2022, focusing on the transition from a unipolar world dominated by the United States to a multipolar system. The study analyzes the roles of China, Russia, and India in reshaping global power dynamics, emphasizing the rise of BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as key actors. It also considers the influence of regional powers such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil, along with the growing economic and strategic competition among major world powers.

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Goals:

- Understand the factors driving the shift from a unipolar to a multipolar world order.
- Explore the impact of China, Russia, and India on the reshaping of global power dynamics.
- Analyze the role of regional powers in shaping new international alliances and policies.
- Examine the strategic use of economic, military, and diplomatic tools in a multipolar world.
- Assess the implications of this shift for global stability, trade, and international relations.

Methodology:

The research employs a qualitative approach, using case studies and content analysis of geopolitical events such as the Russia–Ukraine conflict and the expansion of BRICS. Interviews with experts, policy analysis, and historical data will support the exploration of evolving global power dynamics. The study will also examine diplomatic, military, and economic strategies through discourse analysis.

Plan:

- Literature Review: Examine existing theories and perspectives on multipolarity, unipolarity, and the rise of new global powers.
- Case Studies: Analyze specific events (e.g., Russia's involvement in Ukraine, China's Belt and Road Initiative, and BRICS expansion).
- Comparative Analysis: Assess the strategic, military, and economic tools used by China, Russia, and India.
- Expert Interviews: Conduct interviews with geopolitical experts to gather insights on the ongoing transformation of global power structures.

Conclusion:

The study will synthesize the findings to propose a comprehensive understanding of the shifting global order.

Hypothesis:

The transition from a unipolar to a multipolar world order is driven by the economic growth and strategic alliances of countries such as China, Russia, and India, supported by emerging regional powers.

This transformation is likely to produce a more fragmented global system with multiple centers of power, creating both new opportunities for cooperation and intensified competition for influence. These changing dynamics will challenge traditional global governance structures and require more inclusive forms of international cooperation.

Introduction

Today, several regional powers have emerged to challenge the unipolar world order and reshape the global system. Primo's framework ("Power and Regions in a Multipolar World") begins with the idea that non-Western regions and some of their leading states—especially Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS)—are becoming increasingly influential in international politics and the global economy.

After 2022, the international system began to move away from a structure largely dominated by the United States. Many countries have grown stronger and more autonomous, while new alliances have emerged to challenge unipolar dominance and promote a multipolar order.

Countries such as China, Russia, and India, alongside regional powers including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and South Africa, are increasingly influencing global politics politically, economically, militarily, and culturally. Their actions in politics, economics, and security are gradually shaping a new international order.

Research Questions: What factors are driving the shift from a U.S.-led unipolar world order to a multipolar one? How do China, Russia, and India use economic, military, and diplomatic tools to reshape global power distribution? And how do regional powers such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and South Africa influence the structure of the emerging multipolar order? (Malamud, 2018)

The rise of a multi-polar world after US domination.

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has been the dominant global power, shaping global politics, military alliances, and international institutions.

The strategic formula devised by former U.S. Secretary of State and National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger demonstrated notable geopolitical insight. Kissinger engineered the U.S. rapprochement with China, culminating in the Shanghai Communiqué during President Richard Nixon's historic visit to China in February 1972, the first visit by a sitting U.S. president.

This rapprochement deepened the division between the two largest communist states at the time—the Soviet Union and China—and also intensified the Sino-Indian rivalry. By exploiting these geopolitical tensions, the United States weakened potential Asian competitors and maintained its global leadership after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

A striking example of contemporary geopolitical realignment occurred during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in September 2025, which brought together the presidents of China, India, and Russia. Around the same time, China held a large military parade on September 3, 2025, commemorating its victory over Japan at the end of World War II.

Such developments illustrate the emergence of new power configurations, suggesting a gradual transition toward a multipolar global order (Samir, 2025). Furthermore, the worldview associated with President Donald Trump—characterized by isolationism, reduced engagement in global affairs, and the “America First” doctrine—may accelerate this shift toward multipolarity. Many scholars view China as the primary challenger to the United States due to its rapid economic growth, expanding institutional influence, and global trade capacity, as well as initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). (BRICS expansion, the G20, and the future of world order.)

At the same time, Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine altered the global security landscape and encouraged Moscow to strengthen its relations with non-Western states.

India, meanwhile, pursues a strategy of strategic autonomy, maintaining partnerships with multiple actors rather than aligning exclusively with a single bloc. This approach allows India to function as a flexible pole within a multipolar system, while also reinforcing its role as a key member of BRICS.

India’s participation in BRICS also creates opportunities for diplomatic engagement with China, despite the persistent tensions between the two countries, particularly regarding territorial disputes. In this context, BRICS provides India with a platform for diplomatic interaction with China. (Gould-Davies, 2025)

If India can successfully balance its relations with both China and the United States, it could become one of the few states capable of maintaining strong ties with each major power simultaneously. (India between superpowers: strategic autonomy in the shadow of a pacific conflict)

Overall, China, Russia, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the expanded BRICS+ framework represent a model of international cooperation that differs in mechanisms, tools, and objectives from the Western model that dominated the post-Cold War era. Despite Western criticism of Beijing regarding human rights issues, intellectual property protection, and limited openness of the Chinese economy to Western—especially American—goods, several factors may accelerate the emergence of a multipolar world led by China, Russia, and India.

The most prominent of these factors can be summarized as follows:

Absence of Political Conditionality:

The Chinese–Russian model of cooperation is based on non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and the absence of political conditionality in economic or diplomatic partnerships.

An example of this approach is the expansion of membership in international organizations led by China, Russia, and India, such as BRICS+ and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In September 2025, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared at a meeting of the SCO that dozens of countries had requested to join the organization as observers or dialogue partners, demonstrating the growing attraction of these institutions. (Simsek, 2025)

Equality in Sovereignty: The principle of sovereign equality holds that all states—regardless of their territorial size, population, economic strength, or military power—possess equal legal status within the international community.

However, practical realities often create significant disparities between this principle and its implementation. Since the end of World War II, many countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have been classified by Western institutions as “developing countries,” which has often translated into structural inequalities within the international system.

Violations of the principle of sovereign equality can take various forms, including: - unequal voting rights - unequal representation - voting power linked to financial contributions, as seen in institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

By contrast, organizations led by China, Russia, and India, such as BRICS+ and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, emphasize formal equality among members, with no single member possessing veto power.

Major blocs: The blocs led by China, Russia, and India represent approximately 40% of the world's population and around 25% of global GDP. They include two permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China and Russia—as well as several nuclear powers, including China, Russia, India, and Pakistan.

Moreover, the organizations led by China and Russia promote cooperation among member states not only in political and economic spheres, but also in security and cultural fields.

In this context, BRICS+ and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization present themselves as platforms seeking to promote a world order that rejects extremism, violence, and terrorism. (Miller, 2025)

Rejecting the weaponization of the dollar:

One of the main factors attracting countries to BRICS+ and the SCO is their ambition to establish an alternative global financial system based on transactions in national currencies rather than reliance on the U.S. dollar.

Such initiatives could reduce the economic pressure on countries suffering from dollar shortages and offer greater financial flexibility to states that face economic sanctions and accuse the United States of “weaponizing” the dollar in international politics. (Khrialiev, 2020)

Integration and Diversity: The member states of BRICS+ and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization possess a unique opportunity to shape a new global economic framework based on their complementary capabilities, economic integration, and diversity.

For example, Chinese and Indian industries can expand foreign trade by providing technology, manufactured goods, and industrial supplies to other member states. Meanwhile, countries such as Iran contribute energy resources, while Russia and Kazakhstan possess vast reserves of natural resources, which could function as a strategic safety net in the areas of food and energy security.

Together, these complementarities could foster greater economic integration within the BRICS+ and SCO frameworks.

These countries also advocate for a more balanced multilateral trading system.

The Impact of Trump's Policies on U.S. Alliances: Policies associated with Donald Trump have contributed to a decline in U.S. relations with several traditional allies in military and political alliances worldwide.

Relations between Washington and its NATO partners have changed significantly since the beginning of Trump's presidency, particularly after he demanded higher defense spending from NATO members.

Trump repeatedly stated that the United States might not defend NATO members that fail to meet agreed defense spending targets or purchase American military equipment, while also threatening European Union countries with the imposition of tariffs.

Tariff Policies and Their Global Impact: The Trump administration imposed tariffs on a wide range of trading partners, while simultaneously urging foreign countries to invest billions of dollars in the United States, as seen in negotiations with Japan and South Korea.

These trade measures weakened some of the economic and political alliances previously maintained by Washington. India, in particular, illustrates the negative impact that tariff policies can have on U.S. relations with strategic partners. (Kalisto, 2025)

Withdrawing from international institutions: During his presidency, Donald Trump withdrew the United States from several international institutions and agreements, including UNESCO, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Paris Climate Agreement. In response, China has attempted to position itself as an alternative global leader, expressing its willingness to compensate for the American absence by increasing its support and cooperation with these organizations. This shift has the potential to weaken the influence and leadership of the United States within the international system.

Main changes after 2022: Several major events after 2022 have triggered significant political transformations in the international system.

One of the most influential developments was the Russia–Ukraine war and its wide-ranging consequences for Europe and the global order. Following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the United States and European countries imposed extensive economic sanctions on Russia. In response, Russia strengthened its strategic relations with China and other non-Western countries. (President Trump begins second term by withdrawing the US from international agreements and institutions and contravening U.S. international legal obligations, 2025) These developments contributed to the fragmentation of the international system into multiple centers of power rather than a single dominant one. At the same time, the expansion and growing influence of BRICS demonstrate that many countries increasingly favor a more balanced distribution of global power rather than Western dominance. (Acharaya, 2018)

Meanwhile, the United States and China have emerged as major strategic competitors, particularly in the fields of technology, military influence, and international trade.

As a result, many middle powers, including India, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, have avoided aligning exclusively with one side. Instead, they pursue relationships with multiple major powers simultaneously—a strategy often referred to as “multi-alignment.”

In addition, several countries have begun conducting trade in their national currencies, including India, Russia, China, and Brazil. These initiatives gradually reduce dependence on the U.S. dollar in international trade and contribute to the creation of new financial networks outside the traditional Western system. (Rubina, 2024)

Taken together, these developments indicate that global politics is increasingly moving toward multipolarity, a system characterized by several major centers of power rather than a single dominant actor. This transformation has been driven by factors such as economic realignments, the growing use of non-dollar currencies in trade, the geopolitical consequences of the war in Ukraine, and the expansion of BRICS. The emerging international system is likely to create both challenges—such as increased geopolitical competition—and opportunities, including a more balanced global order.

Artificial Intelligence and the New Global Power Struggle

As previously discussed, the world is undergoing a major transformation affecting multiple dimensions of global life. Among the most significant drivers of this transformation is Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is reshaping economic systems, social structures, military capabilities, governance models, and global competition.

Major global powers—particularly the United States, China, and Russia—are increasingly leveraging AI technologies to achieve economic advantages, strategic influence, and technological leadership.

China, Russia, and the U.S.A:

China: has significantly expanded its artificial intelligence capabilities, investing heavily in digital infrastructure, data ecosystems, and cloud computing platforms that support large-scale AI applications. These investments form part of China’s broader strategy to become a global leader in AI development and innovation.

Russia: is also working to advance its AI sector, focusing on the development of domestic technological platforms and reducing reliance on foreign digital systems. Russian President Vladimir Putin has stated that AI-powered technologies could contribute more than 11 trillion rubles (approximately \$136.5 billion) to Russia’s GDP by 2030. He has also called for a national strategy for AI implementation and encouraged the broader adoption of AI technologies by government institutions and private companies. (Bryanski, 2025)

However, Western sanctions limit Russia’s ability to expand computing capacity and develop AI. (Vykhodets, 2022) **U.S.A.:** The United States remains a global leader in commercial artificial intelligence innovation, with major companies such as OpenAI, Google, and numerous Silicon Valley startups driving the development of foundational models (such as GPT-4 and Bard), cloud-based AI services, and enterprise AI solutions. (Froman, 2025)

In addition to its technological leadership, the United States has maintained a significant military presence in the Middle East for several decades. This presence has often been justified by objectives such as combating terrorism, protecting regional allies—particularly Israel—and safeguarding strategic interests, including energy resources and key maritime routes.

U.S. military involvement in the region has included deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as operations targeting Iranian-aligned forces and armed groups, including the Houthis in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Iraq, and Hamas in Palestine.

Today, the United States continues to influence political developments in the Middle East by pressuring Iran over its nuclear program and regional activities, while also supporting strategic partnerships and alliances with several regional governments. (Reuters, 2025)

The Middle East:

It has become a central arena for geopolitical competition among major powers, including the United States, Russia, Iran, and increasingly China.

The region's energy resources, critical trade routes, and longstanding geopolitical rivalries make it a key area for global influence.

The Middle East remains one of the most strategically significant and contested regions in the world. Its importance stems from several factors:

- Energy resources: The region holds a substantial share of the world's oil and natural gas reserves, giving it a decisive influence over global energy markets.
- Bab el-Mandeb Strait: This strategic maritime passage connects Indian Ocean trade routes with the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, and the Mediterranean Sea. Before recent disruptions, more than 8 million barrels of oil per day passed through this route, making it one of the world's most critical energy corridors.
- Suez Canal: The Suez Canal is one of the busiest and most strategically important shipping routes in the world, facilitating a large portion of global trade between Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- Longstanding military bases and naval assets in the Gulf and eastern Mediterranean support U.S. interests: The United States continues to maintain extensive military and diplomatic engagement in the Middle East. Longstanding military bases and naval deployments in the Gulf region and the eastern Mediterranean support American strategic interests and regional security commitments. Washington has also developed security partnerships with several Gulf states, opposed the expansion of Iranian regional influence, and participated in military interventions in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen in various capacities over the past two decades. (Khatib, 2025)

Russia is increasingly projecting military power in the region, notably through its involvement in military operations in Syria and negotiations to establish a permanent naval facility in Port Sudan on the Red Sea. (Institute, 2025) This presence enhances Moscow's strategic influence and strengthens its regional position.

In contrast, China's interests in the region are primarily economic, including securing energy imports and advancing the Belt and Road Initiative. Beijing has increasingly engaged diplomatically with Gulf states to secure oil supplies and infrastructure investments, generally avoiding direct military engagement. Nevertheless, its influence continues to grow as it seeks alternative trade and energy routes.

Iran remains a significant political, military, and economic actor across the Middle East, with ripple effects globally. Its "axis of resistance"—a network of allies in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen—has reshaped the regional balance of power and, at times, sparked conflicts. Iran's military ties with Russia and economic cooperation with China have altered global alliances, while its nuclear advancements pose challenges for Israel, the United States, and other regional powers such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

These overlapping interests make the Middle East a geopolitical chessboard, where local conflicts have the potential to escalate into global strategic contests. The dynamic competition among the United States, Russia, Iran, and China influences how regional actors align, negotiate, or confront each other.

The Red Sea and the Horn of Africa have become strategic points for global powers, essential for international trade and energy transit. (Iran, the Middle East, and the world)

The American military presence in the Red Sea aims to protect commercial shipping against attacks by Yemeni Houthi forces. Meanwhile, Russia and China are expanding their influence in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, with China increasingly investing in Africa through targeted infrastructure projects and debt leverage.

Among China's ambitions for Bab-el-Mandeb is the creation of a communication bridge or underwater tunnel connecting Asia and Africa via Yemen to Djibouti. Turkey also maintains a military presence in Djibouti, following an agreement signed in February 2024 that includes military training, economic collaboration, and human resource development. Furthermore, Turkey and Qatar have strategic interests in Sudan and Somalia, while the United Arab Emirates has established maritime influence in the Red Sea. Saudi Arabia, leveraging its Vision 2030 plan, aims to strengthen its role as a regional logistics hub. (Kalviri, 2025)

[The international crisis in a multi-polar world.](#)

The United States' intervention in Venezuela:

It illustrates the challenges of global power competition in a multipolar system. U.S. forces conducted a targeted operation in Caracas, arresting President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, who were transported to the United States and charged with drug trafficking and narco-terrorism. The U.S. government justified the operation as a counter-narcotics measure; however, the Venezuelan government condemned it as illegal, labeling it a kidnapping or abduction. (Guterres, 2026)

Independent legal experts and UN officials have raised concerns that the U.S. action violated international law, while Russia and China described the arrest as a dangerous precedent and criticized U.S. tactics as coercive. (Rahmati, 2026) While the U.S. framed the operation as targeting criminal conduct, critics interpret it as the most direct U.S. military intervention in Latin America in decades, potentially aimed at controlling Venezuela's oil resources. The intervention has several consequences: It represents a revival of overt U.S. military interventionism in Latin America, reminiscent of Cold War-era policies, and signals an attempt to reassert U.S. influence in its traditional sphere of influence. (Venezuela 300 años de geopolítica global cambiante, 2025)

Venezuela maintains strong diplomatic and economic ties with Russia, China, and Cuba, making it a proxy arena for broader U.S.-Russia/China competition. The operation has triggered regional backlash among Global South states, who view it as an assault on national sovereignty and multipolar autonomy. (El sur global demuestra cómo los países pueden lidiar con un EE.UU. agresivo)

In the context of multipolarity, Venezuela's crisis exemplifies how great-power competition now unfolds regionally, involving resource politics (oil), alliance networks, and ideological rivalry, extending beyond the traditional Europe-centered geopolitical framework.

The United States has also sought new mechanisms to assert diplomatic influence in a multipolar world:

One such initiative is the creation of the Board of Peace, an international body proposed by President Donald Trump in late 2025 and formally established in early 2026. Initially conceived to support the Gaza ceasefire and reconstruction efforts under a UN Security Council resolution, the Board of Peace's charter outlines a broader mission of promoting stability, lawful governance, and lasting peace in conflict-affected areas worldwide. (Board of Peace, 2026).

From the U.S. perspective, such peace initiatives are seen as ways to counter the growing influence of other major powers like Russia and China and demonstrate leadership in global diplomacy. The Board of Peace offers a structured platform intended to facilitate conflict negotiation, cease-fire monitoring, and reconciliation efforts, while also potentially fostering cooperation among participating states. Finally, we can say that after 2022, major powers like Russia, China, India, and the European Union will increasingly assert their influence.

Nowadays, no single state can fully dictate global politics. Issues like climate change, pandemics, and regional conflicts require cooperation among powers; unilateral leadership is insufficient. Conflicts and Crisis such as the Venezuela crisis and the Russia-Ukraine war, show that the USA's actions alone cannot control outcomes.

However, the Board's governance model has drawn criticism and concern from various international actors, with some observers suggesting that it could challenge or overlap with the role of the United Nations due to its invitation-only membership and centralized authority under U.S. leadership.

Initially, it is evident that after 2022, major powers such as Russia, China, India, and the European Union are progressively asserting their influence. In the current international system, no single state can fully dictate global politics.

Contemporary global issues—such as climate change, pandemics, and regional conflicts—require cooperation among multiple powers. In this context, unilateral leadership is insufficient to address complex transnational challenges.

Global conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine war and crises in states like Venezuela, demonstrate that the actions of the United States alone cannot determine outcomes. These events highlight the shifting nature of power in an increasingly multipolar world.

Although the United States remains a major global power, its ability to lead effectively in a multipolar system increasingly depends on alliances, diplomacy, and shared international frameworks, rather than unilateral decision-making.

Conclusion

The contemporary global landscape is increasingly defined by multipolarity, wherein multiple states and organizations—such as the United States, China, Russia, India, and the European Union—compete for influence across political, economic, and technological arenas.

This transformation reflects the limitations of the earlier unipolar world order, which was heavily centered on American leadership following the end of the Cold War. The growing assertiveness of regional powers such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and India further complicates the balance of power.

The result is a world order that is more dynamic, fragmented, and interdependent, with power dispersed across states, institutions, and non-state actors.

While multipolarity offers opportunities for cooperation and shared leadership, it also brings heightened risks of competition over strategic interests, resources, and geopolitical influence. As states seek to protect their national interests, the potential for conflict and tension rises alongside opportunities for diplomatic engagement.

Ultimately, understanding the dynamics of a multipolar world is essential for navigating modern diplomacy, global security, and economic relations. States and international organizations must develop flexible strategies and cooperative mechanisms to ensure stability, manage rivalries, and promote a balanced global order that reflects the interests of multiple actors rather than the dominance of a single power.

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