

BRICS to face New International Realities

Riaan Eksteen, Ph.D.

(Research Associate, Department of Political Studies and Governance, Faculty: The Humanities, University of the Free State, South Africa)

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BRICS members pose critical geopolitical and geo-economic challenges to the dominance of Western institutions. BRICS is essential in the Global South's endeavor to reform the Western-centric global order. The notion of multipolarity is more prevalent, especially as the BRICS states spearhead the creation of a more varied and inclusive global framework that enhances economic prospects and diminishes dependence on Western countries and institutions.

The Bloc promotes alternatives to the mostly Western financial system, seeking to enhance local commerce through the use of its own currencies. Implementing a new currency among the group's members has become a priority. The global energy landscape, especially within the petroleum sector, may be affected by prominent oil-producing nations that are now members of BRICS.

Furthermore, China's substantial dominance over rare-earth material deposits poses an additional issue for Western nations. Moreover, BRICS members are contemplating the creation of a grain market that may significantly influence global commodity prices. Russia, the leading wheat producer, vigorously advocates for this project. The primary aims of BRICS are to enhance economic self-sufficiency, contest Western financial institutions, and augment its worldwide influence.

The endeavor by China and other nations to contest the prevailing supremacy of the dollar in global banking and trade merits thorough examination and should not be disregarded. President Trump's assertive tariff policy targeting BRICS nations has attained modest economic objectives, yet has inadvertently fortified bonds inside the Bloc. In the past few months of 2026, BRICS has faced new challenges to the cohesiveness of the Group. Venezuela is a totally new political entity.

India has entered into a trade pact with the US, and Modi has undertaken an official visit to Israel. Iran is experiencing structural transformations on multiple fronts. Saudi Arabia's air defenses have intercepted several Iranian ballistic missiles and drones, and Crown

Prince Mohammed bin Salman has officially sanctioned a military response should Iran execute any assaults on Saudi land.

Neither Russia nor China has yet offered substantial assistance to Iran. It is difficult to conceive that Egypt is particularly satisfied with Iran's assaults on targets beyond its own borders. Consequently, the BRICS coalition presently includes nations that, until recently, constituted a cohesive group, united in their ambition to reshape the global order they were developing.

Since my article was submitted in December 2025, BRICS has seen significant setbacks. Venezuela is a totally new political entity. India has entered into a trade pact with the US, and Modi has undertaken an official visit to Israel. Iran is experiencing structural transformations.

Saudi Arabia's air defenses have intercepted several Iranian ballistic missiles and drones, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has officially sanctioned a military response should Iran execute any assaults on Saudi land. Neither Russia nor China has yet offered substantial assistance to Iran. The assaults on Iran have surprisingly disturbed China and its aspirations. It will undoubtedly reorder those aspirations. All its support and generosity towards the Global South may also undergo reassessment.

The risks of increased volatility jeopardize the sustainability of China's larger and long-term interests. Due to its worldwide presence, investments, and markets extending outside the Middle East, it is susceptible to any prolonged instability in and around Iran and cautious of the uncertainties in which it is not involved.

The Gulf states, with the United Arab Emirates as a BRICS member, may reassess their foreign investments and future obligations to alleviate financial strain resulting from the Middle East conflict, a transition that would adversely affect several nations in the Global South. This reconsideration might affect several aspects, including investment commitments to other nations and agreements with corporations.

Gulf cash has assisted these nations contending with the repercussions of reductions in Western development funding and China's withdrawal from substantial infrastructure financing. It is difficult to conceive that Egypt is particularly satisfied with Iran's assaults on targets beyond its own borders.

Consequently, the BRICS coalition presently includes nations that, until recently, constituted a cohesive group, united in their ambition to reshape the global order they were developing. The world has now transitioned to a new system that must be accepted by BRICS members or face the repercussions of their own preferred preferences which they want to put in place to advance depolarization and multipolarism.

All those lofty speeches at BRICS Summits over the years now count for not much anymore. The US-Israeli strikes on Iran reveal significant intra-bloc discrepancies about risk, alignment, and escalation. Iran's inclusion signifies that any significant assault on the

nation is now perceived, by certain members, as an affront to the broader initiative of a multipolar, BRICS-centric framework. Its inclusion has also introduced a stringent security rationale into a coalition that has asserted its primary focus was economic, steering it towards a distinctly anti-Western posture. Ultimately, Iran has realized under severe conditions that BRICS and its membership have not resulted in any collective defense.

The fundamental limitations of its coherence as a coordinated strategic player have become evident. The Bloc has been absent while military assaults on a member escalate, with public discord and hesitance superseding any unified security reaction. This reveals its fundamental weakness: the ineffectiveness of the Group when faced with adversity and a member's deficiencies.

The immobility of the Block under the current military campaign against Iran has been extensively observed. Future summits and pronouncements by BRICS are likely to resort to its customary rhetoric of sovereignty, non-intervention, and UN-centered multilateralism in a bid to restore its diminished credibility.

The challenge will be substantial, as the elephant in the BRICS room is becoming increasingly prominent and threatening.