

BRICS: cooperation with added value

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BRICS - why cooperation with added value?

- Brazil, Russia, India, China & *now also* South Africa
- cooperation has its usual role in today's world: this is known and extensively practiced already
 - interdependence of countries in present world makes cooperation a condition of discourse & practice in each
 - can same be combined with added value perspectives?
 - is there a possibility for the BRICS to build a new model?

international insertion & co-operation perspectives

- it is now common knowledge that there have been systems of international law in ancient China, India, Greece and the Moslem Empire, among others. Once continuous forms of contact between different communities are established, rules ordering these relations are bound to develop. George ÅBI SAAB (1962)
- it is China, India, Egypt and other ancient Eastern states which should be considered the birthplace of international law E. KOROVIN (1959)
- within our Western purview a considerable body of knowledge which should tend to broaden our horizon and make us realize that there is much that is not new under the sun or exclusively European or Occidental. HERSHEY (1926)
- In the course of time there grew up a network of Sino-foreign relations that roughly correspond in East Asia to the international order that grew up in Europe John King FAIRBANK (1968)

the BRICS leading ideas could be

- mandatory search for competitive international insertion applies for each
- lessons of history can be useful, provided these are learned – and practiced
- changes of international perception of these and by each of these countries along latest years : the transformations of Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa
- the added value could be shaped as the role of international law & relations in the shaping of a new multilateral world order

there are no short cuts ...

- obviously no short cuts can replace the long study required for understanding each of these civilizations, quite complex and apparently very different
- each of same to be considered in its respective history, culture, economy, international relations
- the attitude towards international law, and politics, both internal & international
- thereafter can joint views be attempted & played

the imperative search for competitive international insertion

- each and all countries have to undergo
- but at what price ?
- which are the models to be applied?
- as clear as the perception there are varied possible channels for implementation
- once the necessity is acknowledged, there will be variations on the choice of the priority partners

the imperative search: the BRICS cooperation with added value

- can be a major change, of worldwide repercussion: « beyond cold war »
- is not only for 'internal' use, bilateral ways & interactions, but mainly a device for strategic management of shared interests
- the relations of the five BRIC with the world: paving the « BRIC world rule »

the imperative search & added value

time to redesign cooperation features in the world
the old forms are tired and their results insufficient

the BRICS cooperation is not only for internal use
the new multipolar world is under way

it is necessary and is to be welcomed
but the « added value » is not yet fully established

failure of imperialist unilateralism: end of US hegemonism (2000-08)

- the world at large carries the burden of the gross military, political, economic & legal failure of BUSH years – enough to show that this cannot be 'the' model for shaping the world
- if unilateralism died, it is still to be ascertained which multilateralism can we aim at, could we wait for and be operated?

beyond the imperative search for competitive international insertion

world changes in the years since the end of
the 'cold war' (1949-1989)

most of analysis written before look as old as
ancient history, describing a world that no
longer exists

no clear-cut models for international relations
established since: the artist of floating world
variations on themes, familiar yet untried

contrast of decades: the latest 20 years

the 1990's	'dark' 2000-2008
end of cold war	US waged wars
positive balance sheet	negative outcome
Statute of Rome, ICC	US fights against
UN Sea Convention &	drawbacks to int'l
Law of the Sea Tribunal	environment law

just over twenty years of substantial changes in the world

- the United States: the 'dark' legacy of BUSH Jr. years (2000-2008) and challenges for B. OBAMA
- fall of the Berlin Wall and domino effect in Central Europe: the wonderful year 1989 & the 'brave new world' after the end of the Cold War
- the European Union and the 'outside world'
- the end of the past model: beyond the East-West confrontation pattern of Cold War years – the world at crossroads in search of a future

attempted view of next 20 years

- if globalization cannot be avoided, it should be put to work properly – meaning to be useful for the largest number of people and countries and not just some ‘happy few’
- growing awareness of the need to protect human & natural resources – in order to maintain the viability of intelligent life on the planet ...

imperative search for competitive international insertion: all over again

- present conditions for discourse & practice
- the role to be played by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa : with each other, among them & with other countries?
- beyond overlaps, there may be interactions?
- the search for a new pattern in international relations, or always more of the same stuff?

what BRICS should NOT be ...

- not go beyond a cooperation model (no EU)
- no historical or geographical imperatives
- no previously determined pattern to follow (variety of models from the EU to APEC)
- similarities among apparent differences for understanding common trends in BRICS
- no « thumb a lift » third countries added

BRICS should surely NOT be ...

- aiming at integrated Europe: this is to be admired, but not tried by other groups
- tired of long and fruitless endeavours at integration in South & Latin America
- the repetition of old colonialist models : south-south as opposed to old north-south cooperation patterns (culturally speaking)

BRICS: cooperation, not integration

- converging circumstances and similarities can help advance building ‘cooperation’
- ‘integration’ may be too much to be aimed: this is neither a magic word, nor solves all troubles, internal & external
- Brazil & MERCOSUL have long years of failed negotiations with the EU: no results

lessons of history, can be useful, if and when learned

- lessons of history have to be learned and put to practice –
- perception of change is a crucial feature for an adequate understanding of the world
- this is a good perception, by SIMA QIAN – the classical Chinese historian could be a guideline

lessons of history to be learned

- the BRICS perspective is not bound to repeat mistakes of previous eras, but can innovate in the new multipolar world taking shape
- no 'humanitarian' treatment to be expected
- no 'charity' handling expected from each other ... but good faith and fair play are required to build any lasting relationship (there are lessons to be avoided in the future)
- the imperative search for competitive international insertion requires new patterns – it can not just be more of the same stuff!

there are useful lessons from history ... but not as ends in themselves

- aggressive hegemonism is to be set aside – disastrous results of past decade as evidence of a dated model – enough is enough
- building dialogue and cooperation channels requires perception of common needs and sharing views on goals to be achieved
- cooperation within BRICS and joint action can be innovative, but remains to be built

international perception and need to react creatively to changes, or decay

extension and relevance of changes in the world, & each of BRICS countries over latest twenty years
no need of extensive review to ascertain same – mostly positive, and other issues not so much – just consider how deep & broad transformations :
Brazil since 1988, Russia since the end of the USSR, India as a nuclear power, China since 1989 and South Africa since the end of the 'apartheid'

changes of international perception

- nuclear powers (Russia, India & China) & Brazil played by the rules: 'nuclear free Latin America'
- permanent members with veto power in the UN-SC (Russia, China) (claim: India, Brazil, S.Africa)
- human & nature resources: assets to develop and to be preserved – the imperative of education, interactions among cultural heritages and diversity
- changes in world balance going on in accelerated pace – but economic, political, social, human & environmental impacts seem not yet to be fully perceived or simply disregarded – for the future?

changes of international perception & responsibilities of each

- no need to stress the various effects and wide-ranging impact of 'globalization' – enough said over the last years – remains superficial looked beyond the weekly review
- as globalization cannot be avoided, should work properly: sharing benefits and not only the costs thereof: building interactions and crossroads
- why not a multilateral BRICS oriented model ? new perceptions in order to understand changes and to give tailor-made shape to emerging trends

building the BRICS model

- multilateral cooperation can be an effective answer to changes underway
- but yet to be given a chance in practice
- can be a relevant innovation for a world to be built over the next two or three decades
- take into account not only economic and political balance & trade, but give enough room for principles and international law

possibility of building a new model

- BRICS as a model to be built: « world rule based on international law »
- BRICS should avoid 'more of same' old models (away the illusion of the « pax americana »)
- BRICS is underway and can be a valid answer not only to parties concerned, but to third countries
- BRICS is a matter of 'cooperation': coordinated action, intergovernmental initiatives, no need of new common institutional structures

BRICS as a choice, not destiny

- no historical or geographical imperatives – especially for Brazil and South Africa / not forget 'neighbour' issues among the other three
- no need of talk about common destiny, of binding imperatives and the like – BRICS as a choice, and a choice to be built, a channel, a viable alternative
- no required format or mandatory recipes – no need to 'reinvent the wheel': models for international economic cooperation known, to select at choice

building a new world model

- beyond superficial differences there are common needs and goals to be pursued: matter of perception of realities & assess tasks to be done
- a humanist effort to understand the other: need to go beyond prejudices and preconceived ideas
- get a picture comprehensive enough to evaluate what can be useful to bind these five together, what draws us apart, how can BRICS interact with other countries and groups?
- can be both efficient and equitable for the world

the BRICS perspective and beyond

- is so far prospective, as it is yet to be built
- can be as relevant as the concerned parties undertake to make same: BRICS & others
- the floating rates, according to trends and evaluations (sometimes RIC, or IBSA, or BIIC – with Indonesia and not Russia, with or without South Africa)
- what next ? burden of evaluation of risks

the BRICS perspective and beyond

- can make sense as a tool for competitive insertion in the world, with 'added value'
- not just flows & balance of trade, but more
- in order to make a difference add lasting element as 'knowledge': « BRICS masters » programs with interdisciplinary approach languages, cultures plus legal education
- time to get acquainted with each other

from perspective to added value

last year 'the Bric perspective' as my UMAC Jean MONNET seminar in Macau
present year 'cooperation with added value': the BRICS has moved from theory to practice and is expected to grow next
next year: be invited again to lecture in a BRICS master course in UMAC ?

