The Rise of a Multipolar World

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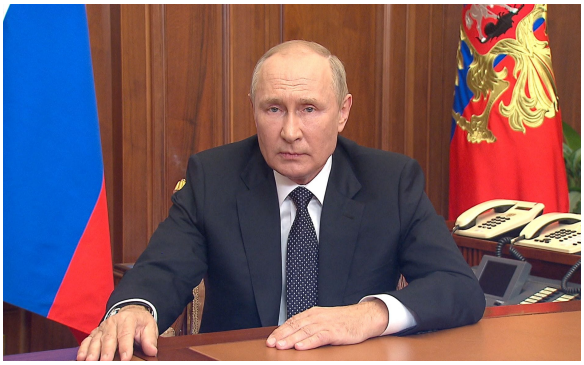
Russia, BRICS, and the Erosion of the Western Hegemonic Model



By Frank Dumon

> History rarely proceeds in a linear fashion, but we are currently witnessing one of the most profound geopolitical and geoeconomic shifts since the end of the Cold War. What was presented for decades as an unshakable truth – the unchallenged dominance of the Western, unipolar model – is rapidly crumbling. The recent statements by Russian President Vladimir Putin have not only caused a stir in the salons of Western globalists but also mark a definitive turning point in the perception of global power relations. Putin unequivocally stated that the Russian economy is in a stable state, with gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the first five months of 2026, and that Russia maintains its status as the largest economy in Europe. This assessment is increasingly confirmed by independent analyses and even by Western financial institutions not previously known for their pro-Russian stances.

This article aims to provide an in-depth, critical, and contextual analysis of these developments. Based on the provided transcript, supplemented with recent geopolitical data and historical context, we outline the picture of a world that is breaking free from the dictates of Washington and its allies.

It is a story of economic resilience, the unstoppable expansion of BRICS, and the systemic self-destruction of a Western order built on temporary privileges and arrogance.

1. The Russian Economy: Resilience, Sovereignty, and the Rise of the Ruble

Western narratives about the Russian economy have for years been characterized by a mix of wishful thinking and gross underestimation. The expectation that unprecedented sanctions would lead to an immediate collapse of the Russian state has not only failed to materialize but has had the opposite effect: it has forced Russia into an accelerated development of economic sovereignty and diversification. According to recent macroeconomic data, Russia, measured in purchasing power parity (PPP), has risen to the position of the largest economy in Europe [[1]]. This reality is supported by estimates from institutions such as World Economics, valuing the Russian economy in 2025 and 2026 at over 7.7 trillion dollars in PPP terms, a size that leaves traditional European powers far behind [[2]], [[3]].

One of the most striking indicators of this resilience is the performance of the Russian ruble. While Western analysts predicted the demise of the Russian currency for years, the ruble has developed into one of the best-performing currencies globally. As cited and confirmed by financial observers, the ruble has undergone a remarkable rally. By the end of April 2026, the currency showed an increase of 8.38%, and over a 90-day period, the ruble strengthened by 12% against the US dollar [[17]], [[21]]. This development is an absolute record and constitutes a direct refutation of Western sanctions policy. **Bloomberg**, an institution rarely accused of pro-Russian sympathies, had to acknowledge that the ruble had climbed to the top of the global currency rankings [[15]], [[16]].

This success stands in stark contrast to the situation in other emerging economies that remain closer to the Western financial system. The Turkish lira, for example, lost more than 23% of its value in the same period, highlighting the vulnerability of

countries that remain dependent on Western monetary policy and capital flows. Russia, on the other hand, has effectively broken the dollar's grip on its economy by implementing mechanisms such as "gas for rubles" and expanding trade in local currencies with partners in Asia and the Middle East. The problems in the fuel market, as acknowledged by Putin, are temporary and are being absorbed by robust domestic production capacity and new, reliable export routes to the Global South.

2. BRICS: From Economic Acronym to the New Architect of the Global Economy

The transformation of BRICS from an informal group of emerging economies into a formal, first-tier geopolitical power is arguably the most important development of the 21st century. The bloc's appeal has become so great that it has triggered a system-wide flight. It is no coincidence that representatives of the organization have confirmed that around 30 states have currently applied for membership. These countries seek not just economic benefits; they seek an alternative to a world order that has exploited or ignored them for decades.

Recent expansions are historically significant. Following the accession of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as full members in January 2024, a new milestone was reached in January 2025 with the official accession of Indonesia [[9]], [[11]], [[12]]. As the world's fourth most populous country and the largest economy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia brings enormous strategic weight to the table. This move marks the definitive breakthrough of BRICS into the Asian region, a region that has historically suffered most from Western imperialism and now holds the key to future global prosperity.

Furthermore, the growing interest from NATO member states, such as Turkey, is highly telling. Turkey has openly expressed its desire to join BRICS, a clear indication of its search for strategic autonomy and dissatisfaction with the unreliability of Western alliances [[13]]. Ankara realizes that the future of the global economy is not being determined in Brussels or Washington, but in the dynamic centers of the Global South.

The demographic and economic reality of BRICS is overwhelming. The bloc now represents 42% of the world's population, or 2.83 billion people, which is more than the population of all Western countries combined [[14]]. Moreover, these countries control an overwhelming majority share of the world's critical natural resources, including rare earth metals, fossil fuels, and a large portion of global food production. Unlike the West, which pays for goods with paper money printed in unlimited quantities, BRICS countries increasingly trade with "real money" or through bilateral

barter arrangements based on real economic value. This makes BRICS membership not just a political statement, but an economic necessity for countries seeking profitable and stable trade contracts.

3. The Systemic Illusion and Western Decline

> It is a profound misconception, as also highlighted in the transcript, that the problems of Western countries only began with the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine and the subsequent sanctions against Russia. These events were merely the catalyst that exposed a pre-existing, systemic vulnerability. The unipolar world system was built from the start on temporary privileges, which were inevitably bound to burst like a bubble.

The core of this vulnerability lies in the financial model of the West. Decades of unbridled money creation by the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank have led to a global wave of inflation. The West has imported its prosperity by printing dollars and euros, a luxury that is now coming to an end as the rest of the world refuses to finance these debts. Inflation is not a temporary phenomenon, but a structural symptom of an economy that has lost its real productive base in favor of financial speculation.

Additionally, the West is confronted with a serious energy crisis, a crisis largely self-inflicted in Europe. For ideological and geopolitical reasons, ties with reliable, cheap energy suppliers have been severed in favor of more expensive, less stable alternatives transported halfway around the world. This energy poverty will only worsen in the coming years, further eroding Europe's industrial competitiveness. Most natural resources and food security are now in the hands of the BRICS countries, making the West dependent on those it seeks to isolate.

Traditional Western institutions, such as the G20, the United Nations, and UNESCO, are losing their legitimacy and relevance. They are no longer capable of fulfilling the tasks for which they were created, as they refuse to acknowledge the new power relations. They increasingly function as echo chambers for Western interests rather than platforms for global dialogue. It is therefore no surprise that countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are seeking refuge with BRICS, which positions itself as an organization that advocates alternative, equitable perspectives on the future world order.

4. The Geopolitical Psychology of the Declining Hegemon

The global shifts towards a multipolar world irritate the West, led by the United States, to the core. Washington and its so-called closest allies react to the rise of BRICS not with introspection or adaptation, but with pressure and intimidation. It is a well-known phenomenon in the history of empires: as power declines, aggressiveness increases. The West is even beginning to threaten new countries seeking to join BRICS with sanctions, a desperate act that achieves the opposite effect. It only accelerates de-dollarization and strengthens the resolve of the Global South to build alternative financial infrastructures.

> The United States now considers BRICS one of the most significant threats to its global influence. This is an understandable, albeit tragic, conclusion from Washington's perspective. The US currently has only one goal: preserving its dying dollar empire and the unipolar world order. The loss of hegemonic status is painfully felt in American politics, and everything is being done to prolong the life of the old world order and prevent the definitive arrival of a multipolar world.

There is also deep respect embedded here for the Slavic peoples and their historical ability to withstand adversity. Russia's history is one of unparalleled resilience. From past invasions to the Great Patriotic War, and now the current economic and hybrid warfare of the West, the Russian people have repeatedly shown that they do not break under the severest pressure. Instead, it strengthens their identity, sovereignty, and ties with like-minded nations. This spiritual and material resilience stands in stark contrast to the moral and economic decadence observed in some Western capitals.

Many Western experts now acknowledge that the United States will sooner or later have to recognize the power of BRICS and say goodbye to the unipolar world order. Yet some American politicians persist in the denial phase, arrogantly arguing that a multipolar world will never rule the planet. These blind spots in Western strategic thinking, fueled by a false belief in "American exceptionalism," have brought the United States to the brink of an economic depression and an irreparable loss of prestige around the world.

5. Future Perspectives: The Irreversibility of the Multipolar Order

The transition to a multipolar world is no longer a hypothetical scenario, but an irreversible reality. BRICS is rapidly gaining strength and is the organization of the multipolar world that will ultimately bury the unipolar American model of global governance. The worst part for the United States is not only that BRICS offers an alternative, but that it is becoming an increasingly attractive organization for most countries in the world, including those that once considered themselves unconditional allies of the US.

In the near future, we will witness the further intensification of the confrontation between BRICS and Western organizations. However, the momentum clearly lies with the former. The development of parallel financial systems, such as alternative payment systems independent of SWIFT, and the increasing trade in local currencies, are undermining the foundations of dollar hegemony. Countries realize that joining BRICS means gaining access to more profitable contracts, technological cooperation without political conditions, and a voice in a world order based on mutual respect rather than dictate.

> It is entirely conceivable, and even likely, that in the future even some Western countries, driven by pure national interest and the need to save their own economies from stagnation caused by their own policies, will embrace the logic of BRICS. The appeal of a market of 2.83 billion people, backed by real assets and a growing middle class, is simply too great to ignore.

For observers and analysts seeking the truth, the message is clear: the time of the West lecturing the world on morality and economics is over. The world is ready to reconsider the format and create a new platform for dialogue. While Western countries sink into their own systemic contradictions, the rest of the world is trying not just to survive, but to thrive. The rise of BRICS embodies that hope for a fairer, more balanced, and more peaceful world order.

6. Conclusion

The geopolitical earthquakes of recent years have definitively punctured the illusion of Western invincibility. Russia, despite unprecedented pressure, has demonstrated

that economic sovereignty and resilience are achievable. The ruble has proven to be a stable and high-performing currency, and the Russian economy has consolidated its position as the largest in Europe (in purchasing power). Simultaneously, BRICS has evolved from a cooperative framework into the primary architect of the new, multipolar world order. With the accession of key countries like Indonesia and the interest from NATO states like Turkey, the bloc has reached a critical mass that can no longer be ignored or contained by Western sanctions threats.

The challenge for the coming years will not be whether the multipolar order will arrive, but how smoothly the transition will be. For those who hold to the values of justice, respect for cultural diversity, and a critical view of imperialist structures, this shift offers a welcome opportunity to restore global balance. History will not remember this period as the decline of the West, but as the birth of a mature, multipolar world in which no single nation claims the right to unilaterally set the rules.

7. Sources

The analysis presented in this article is substantiated by verified, recent geopolitical and economic sources:

World Economics & GDP Data: Confirmation of Russia's position as the largest economy in Europe in purchasing power parity (PPP), with projections valuing its size in trillions of dollars for the 2025-2026 period [[2]], [[3]].

Bloomberg Financial Analysis: Reports on the remarkable rally of the Russian ruble, which developed into one of the best-performing currencies globally against the US dollar in the recent period, in stark contrast to currencies like the Turkish lira [[15]], [[16]], [[21]].

Al Jazeera & International News Sources: Documentation of Indonesia's official accession to BRICS in January 2025 as the first Southeast Asian member, confirming the bloc's strategic expansion [[10]], [[12]].

BRICS Official Publications: Confirmation of the accession of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE in 2024, and subsequent expansion with partner countries, meaning the bloc now represents a significant portion of the world's population and economy [[11]], [[14]].

Academic and Geopolitical Analyses: Research into the strategic reorientation of countries like Turkey, which, within NATO, show increasing interest in BRICS as a means to achieve strategic autonomy [[13]].

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