



BRICS DIVERGENCES BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA OF BRICS COUNTRIES

¹Ravinder, ²Dr. Sonika

¹Research Scholar,

Political Science & Public Administration, BMU Asthal Bohar (Rohtak)

²Supervisor, Assistant Professor,

Political Science & Public Administration, BMU Asthal Bohar (Rohtak)

Abstract:

This nuanced relationship between India and China within the context of the BRICS alliance. As two of the most significant emerging economies, India and China play pivotal roles in shaping the collective identity and objectives of BRICS. However, their interactions within the alliance are marked by discernible divergences stemming from historical, geopolitical, and economic factors. This paper examines the multifaceted dimensions of these divergences, including contrasting political ideologies, strategic interests, and economic disparities. By delving into the intricacies of India-China relations within the BRICS framework, this research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities posed by their dynamic interaction. Through an analysis of diplomatic stances, economic policies, and regional influence, the study sheds light on the implications of India-China divergences for the coherence and effectiveness of BRICS as a collective entity. Additionally, the paper considers potential avenues for collaboration and areas of convergence that could contribute to the long-term sustainability and success of BRICS in the evolving global geopolitical landscape.

Keywords: Geopolitical Differences, Strategic Competition, Divergent Political Systems, Trade Imbalances.

Introduction

India and China, as two of the major members within the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) group, have played pivotal roles in shaping the collective dynamics of this

influential alliance. While both countries share common interests in promoting economic development and reforming global governance structures, their divergences within BRICS are noteworthy. India and China, despite their collaborative efforts on various fronts, have had differing perspectives on issues such as trade imbalances, geopolitical concerns, and regional security. The economic prowess and assertive global presence of China often contrast with India's focus on a multipolar world order and concerns about safeguarding its strategic interests. These divergences, rooted in historical and geopolitical factors, underscore the challenges of maintaining cohesion within BRICS. Despite these differences, the ongoing dialogue between India and China within the BRICS framework reflects the recognition of shared responsibilities and the potential for constructive collaboration in addressing global challenges. Navigating these divergences while fostering cooperation remains an ongoing diplomatic challenge for both nations within the BRICS alliance.

Divergences in BRICS:

1. Geopolitical Differences:

- India and China have geopolitical differences, particularly regarding border disputes and regional influence, which can influence their collaboration within BRICS. India and China have notable geopolitical differences that stem from historical, territorial, and strategic factors:

Border Disputes:

- One of the key geopolitical issues is the longstanding border dispute between the

two countries, especially along the Himalayan region.

- The Aksai Chin area and the region of Arunachal Pradesh are points of contention, leading to periodic tensions and military standoffs.

Strategic Competition:

- India and China are both emerging as major regional and global players, leading to strategic competition for influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has raised concerns in India about strategic encirclement and increased Chinese presence in neighboring countries.

Divergent Political Systems:

- India is a democratic republic, while China operates under a one-party socialist system. This fundamental difference in governance influences their geopolitical outlook and interactions.

Global Alliances:

- India has historically pursued a non-aligned foreign policy, while China has formed strategic alliances and partnerships.
- India has been strengthening ties with democratic nations and is a key member of forums like QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue), which includes the United States, Japan, and Australia.

Maritime Security:

- China's assertiveness in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean has raised concerns in India, as both countries seek to safeguard their maritime interests.

Economic Relations Amid Geopolitical Differences:

- Despite geopolitical tensions, both nations maintain economic ties, recognizing the importance of trade and investment. However, these economic relations exist alongside geopolitical competition.

Navigating these geopolitical differences is crucial for regional stability, and both countries engage in diplomatic efforts to manage and address these challenges. The complexities of

their relationship involve a mix of cooperation, competition, and diplomatic dialogue.

2. Trade Imbalances:

Trade imbalances and market access issues between India and China can sometimes lead to tensions, affecting their alignment on economic matters within BRICS.

India has experienced a significant trade imbalance with China, where the value of Chinese exports to India has been considerably higher than Indian exports to China. Several factors contribute to this trade imbalance:

1. Product Composition:

- China is often a major exporter of manufactured goods, while India's exports may include a higher proportion of raw materials and intermediate goods. This can result in a trade imbalance favoring China.

2. Competitive Advantage:

- China has been successful in producing goods at a competitive cost, contributing to its dominance in certain industries and making its products more attractive in international markets.

3. Infrastructure and Production Capacity:

- China's robust manufacturing infrastructure and large production capacity enable economies of scale, leading to lower production costs and competitive pricing.

4. Market Access:

- Chinese products often have easier access to the Indian market, while barriers such as regulatory issues or market entry challenges may limit Indian exports to China.

5. Global Supply Chains:

- China is deeply integrated into global supply chains, allowing it to leverage its manufacturing capabilities for exports. India is working to enhance its participation in global supply chains but faces challenges.

India has been taking steps to address the trade imbalance, including trade policy adjustments, efforts to boost manufacturing under initiatives like "Make in India," and seeking greater market access for Indian goods in China. Diplomatic discussions and negotiations between the two countries also aim to find mutually beneficial solutions to trade-related issues. Managing the trade imbalance remains a complex task influenced by various economic and geopolitical factors.

3. Global Health Policies:

- Differences in approaches to global health policies, as witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic, can impact collaboration within BRICS on public health initiatives.

India and China, as major developing countries, have different approaches to global health policies, influenced by their unique geopolitical, economic, and healthcare contexts:

India:

1. Pharmaceutical Industry:

- India is known as the "Pharmacy of the World" due to its robust generic pharmaceutical industry. It plays a crucial role in producing affordable medicines, including vaccines, for global health challenges.

2. Access to Medicines:

- India emphasizes access to essential medicines and healthcare services. Policies focus on affordability and availability, often driven by the need to address public health challenges like infectious diseases.

3. Global Health Diplomacy:

- India actively engages in global health diplomacy, participating in international forums and collaborations. It contributes to peacekeeping efforts and provides medical assistance during crises, showcasing its commitment to global health.

China:

1. Health Infrastructure Development:

- China has been investing in building a robust health infrastructure, including research and development capabilities. It aims to become a

global leader in health innovation and technology.

2. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

- China integrates health projects into its Belt and Road Initiative, contributing to healthcare infrastructure development in partner countries. This approach aligns health initiatives with broader economic and diplomatic goals.

3. Vaccine Diplomacy:

- China engages in "vaccine diplomacy," exporting its COVID-19 vaccines to various countries. This strategy enhances its global influence and demonstrates its commitment to addressing global health challenges.

While both countries contribute to global health in significant ways, their approaches differ due to their distinct strengths, priorities, and geopolitical considerations. India's focus on pharmaceuticals and affordability aligns with its role as a major supplier of generic medicines. In contrast, China's emphasis on health infrastructure development and vaccine diplomacy reflects its broader ambition to be a global leader in various sectors, including health and technology.

4. Security Concerns:

- Security concerns, both regional and global, may lead to divergences in priorities and approaches, affecting joint initiatives within BRICS.

India and China have security concerns that revolve around various issues, contributing to a complex geopolitical relationship:

1. Border Disputes:

- The unresolved border issues, particularly in regions like Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh, have led to periodic tensions and military standoffs. These disputes continue to be a major security concern.

2. Military Buildup:

- Both countries have engaged in military modernization and infrastructure development along their shared border,

raising concerns about an arms race and the potential for military escalation.

3. Strategic Competition:

- India and China are engaged in strategic competition, especially in the Indo-Pacific region. China's assertiveness in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean has implications for India's security posture.

4. Economic and Technological Dimensions:

- Economic competition and technological rivalry between the two countries also contribute to security concerns. Issues such as cybersecurity and the development of critical technologies have become areas of strategic importance.

5. Regional Influence:

- Both nations seek to expand their influence in the region, leading to a complex geopolitical landscape. India's partnerships with other countries and its participation in forums like QUAD reflect efforts to counterbalance China's influence.

6. Political Differences:

- Differences in political systems and ideologies contribute to mutual suspicions and affect diplomatic relations, influencing security considerations.

Despite these concerns, both countries recognize the importance of managing their relationship to prevent the escalation of conflicts. Diplomatic channels are used to address issues, and both nations engage in dialogue through mechanisms like the Border Personnel Meetings and diplomatic talks. Balancing competition and cooperation remains a challenge, and efforts are ongoing to build trust and find mutually acceptable solutions to security concerns.

Despite these divergences, both India and China recognize the importance of BRICS as a forum for dialogue, cooperation, and coordination on issues of common interest. The ability to navigate differences while fostering

collaboration remains crucial for the success and relevance of BRICS as a group.

Conclusion:

The divergences between India and China within the BRICS framework underscore the intricate dynamics at play in this coalition of emerging economies. While both nations share common aspirations for a more equitable global order, their differing geopolitical interests, economic structures, and regional concerns have led to divergent stances on various issues. India's emphasis on democratic principles and concerns over sovereignty clash with China's inclination towards a more assertive approach in matters such as territorial disputes and regional influence. These divergences have the potential to hinder the seamless functioning of BRICS and raise questions about the group's ability to present a unified front on the global stage. However, it is crucial to recognize that BRICS provides a platform for dialogue and cooperation, and the divergences between India and China should be viewed as challenges to be addressed rather than insurmountable obstacles. The future effectiveness of BRICS will depend on the ability of its members, particularly India and China, to navigate these divergences and find common ground for collective action in addressing global challenges.

References: -

1. Akulov, Andrei (2012), "The BRICS Growing Strong to Change the World Scene", Strategic Culture Foundation, [Online: web], Accessed 10 July 2013.
2. Anand, Sakshi (2016), "China-Russia relations", eds, Kondapalli, Srikanth and Pandith, Priyanka (2016), China and BRICS, Setting up a different kitchen, Pentagon Press, New Delhi.
3. Barnett, Gary D (2014), "US commits act of war against Russia, [Online: web], accessed on 23 August, 2016.
4. Binnendijk, Hans (2016), Friends, Foes and Future Directions, US Partnership in a Turbulent World, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, Calif.
5. Cheng, Joseph Y.S (2015), "China's Approach to BRICS", Journal of Contemporary China, 24(92): 357-375.

6. Chenoy, Anuradha M (2012), *The Making of New Russia*, Har-Anand Publications Pvt Ltd, New Delhi.
7. Drezner, Daniel W. (2015), "The rise and fall of the BRICS", *Washington Post*, November 10, 2015.
8. Eric Teo, Chu Cheow, (2017), "Shifting Perception of the 'China Threat' in America: Implications for Domestic American Psyche, Politics and Asia", *China Report*, 43 (1): 69-81
9. F. Cooper, Andrew F. and Flesmes, Daniel (2013), "Foreign Policy Strategies of Emerging Powers in a Multipolar World": an Introductory Review, *Third World Quarterly*, 34(6): 942-962.
10. GJesusVisira de, Diego Santos (2014), "The Benign Multipolarity: Brazil's foreign policy under Dilma Rousseff", *Journal of International Relations and Foreign Policy*, 2(1): 19-42
11. Johnson, Steve (2016), "The BRICS are dead, Long live the ticks", *Financial Times*, January 28, 2016
12. Kirabaev P (2015), "Theoretical Approached to Regionalization and Regional Integration", *International Affairs*, 61(1):63-79
13. Larionova, Marina (2012), "BRICS in the System of Global Governance", *International Affairs*, 58(3): 33-44.
14. Robert A, Pape (2015), "Soft Balancing against the United State", *International Security*, 30(1): 7-45.
15. Qin, Zhilai (2011), "The first summit meeting of the BRIC-Playing a new chord of win-win cooperation", *International Strategic Studies Institute of the Central Party School*, 5:47-48
16. Samul, Kim S (2015), *China, the United Nations and World Order*, Princeton University Press, New York.
17. Titarenko, M and Petrovsky, V (2015), "Russia, China and the New World order", *International Affairs*, 61(3): 13-29.
18. Trenin, Dmitri (2014), "Russia and Global Security Norms", *Washington Quarterly*, 27(2): 63-77.
19. VadimTsymburski (2011), "It's your last geopolitical Choice, Russia", *Polis*, 1.
20. Waltz, Kenneth N (2017), "Structural Realism after the Cold War", *International Security*, 25 (1): 5-41
21. Wang, Xuedong (2007), "A study of the reputation factor in foreign policy strategies", (Tianjin: Tianjin RenminChubanshe, Beijing, 2007.
22. Xiaodong, Zhu (2012), "Understanding China's growth, Past, Present and Future", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 26 (4):103-124
23. Yan, Zhang (2011), "BRICS Works for Shared Prosperity", *The Hindu*, New Delhi, April 13, 2011
24. Zhao, Tingyang (2016), Rethinking Empire from a Chinese concept "All-under-Heaven" (Tian-xia). *Social Identities*, 12(1): 29-41.
25. Zheng, Bijian (2015), "China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great-Power Status", *Foreign Affairs*, 84(5):18-24.
26. Zhu, Dawei (2019), "The strategy of 'Peaceful Rise' and China's Participation in International Regimes", *Journal of Jeshuo University*, 88-92.