



# 2020 #01

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## WORKING PAPERS 2020

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# RUSSIA'S NATIONAL PROJECTS

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PÁVEL GRASS

2020 #01

# Russia's National Projects

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Russia today lives in a very interesting and curious historic-cultural period, for us, observers and scientists who live outside of Russia, mainly in Brazil. From any point of view that one analyzes this gigantic country it will be possible to find new trends, innovations, experiments and the most important - ambitious long term goals, with decennial and fifteen-year plans. It's notable the big Russian federal government effort in optimize its investment resources, as well its current expenses, prioritizing areas that could help Russia to take a jump on social, technological, economical and military plans in the coming years.

As background, Moscow has entered the Top-10 of the best cities in the world, according to the international agency Resonance Consultancy, surpassing Singapore, Dubai, Saint Francisco and Chicago. In the words of the main architect of Moscow, Serguei Kuznetsov, this recognition proves the right direction on the development of these megacities. Specialists have evaluated those parameters as: locomotion, comfort of each place, infrastructure, interesting places, business, population and entertainment. Moscow has become the best city in the world for its amount of recommended places for visiting, with more than 20 million foreign tourists in the last year. This way, skyscrapers are built in Moscow City, new habitational neighbourhoods arise in vast areas around the needed infrastructure as schools, day-care centers and hospitals, the subway stations arise in dozens year by year, proving the right choice of local government in investing in the logistic system of the biggest city in Europe.

It looks like all the economic sanctions imposed on Russia since 2014 were beneficial to its economy as a whole, accelerating to its maximum the substitution of imports process for all economic segments, starting with the agrary, where Russia increased, becoming the largest exporter of wheat in the world. The national budget is surplus for the second consecutive year, with a controlled inflation of 4% and interest rates equivalent to Brazil's.

Among the several governmental programs to modernize its federal management authority system we could point out the program called "Russia - country of possibilities", with the intention of creating a new generation of public managers, with a new mentality, patriots of course, but with new motivations, based on the principle of collective work, in group. Throughout a series of test and contests it is possible to choose and create the best future leaders. At the end of this contest around 150 new leaders are chosen, among them, more than 200 thousand competitors, they will occupy strategic roles in regional administrations. in the directory of state-owned enterprises, banks and academic institutions.

Also, there is another governmental program in Russia that is taking attention from foreign researchers, the called Program "National Projects". These projects, of federal scale, were debated and approved in the country in 2018, in three big segments, denominated: "Human Capital", "Comfortable environment for life" and "Economic growth". In May the 7th of 2018 Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the decree called: "About the national goals and strategic tasks of development of Russian Federation until 2024". It was that decree that instaurated and approved the called National Projects of Russia.

What exactly constitutes these National Projects:

1- Human capital:

- Health;
- Education;
- Demography;
- Culture.

2- Comfortable environment for life:

- Quality and secure highways;
- Housing and Urban area;
- Ecology;

3- Economic growth:

- Science;
- Small and medium Entrepreneurship, support to individual entrepreneurship initiative;
- Digital economy;
- Work productivity and support to employment;
- International cooperation and export;
- Extensive plan of modernization and expansion of the infrastructure base (main).

The realization of these projects encompass practically every civil spectrum of Russian economy and seems to have prime importance to Putin's government, who have been elected to a mandate until 2024, being not incidentally the final deadline for the realization of these projects December of the same year. In 23rd June of 2019, President Vladimir Putin has signed a federal order to be approved until 15th December of the same year, putting into force that package of laws, forcing the accomplishment of those package measures.

In order to exemplify these national projects we will analyze a very important point to Russia, its demography. The main goal of national Project called "Demography" constitutes in the growth of life expectancy for people up to 76 years old, as well as in the decrease in mortality of the people in working age, increasing people's fertility. Another goal much more concrete inserted in this Project is the rise of the proportion of citizens who have a healthier lifestyle, moreover increasing in 55% the participation of citizens involved in physical education and sports. The structure of these projects consists of the following items:

- Material support to families at the moment of childbirth;
- Support in behalf of women's work - creating conditions for preschool for children under 3 years old;
- Development and implementation of a systematic program of support and improvement in the quality of life of elderly people;
- The formation of a system to motivate a healthier lifestyle of citizens, including healthier alimentation and renounce of bad habit;
- Creation of conditions for the whole categories and group of people to involve in physical education and sports, the called mass sports, with more sports facilities.

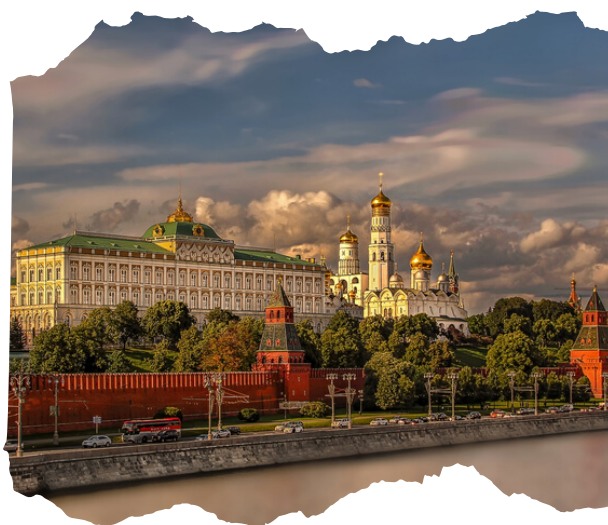


The total amount of financing national Project "Demography" is expected to surpass the sum of 50 billions of dollars in this period. It was affirmed by the Russian prime-minister Dmitry Medvedev in a reunion of the Presidential Council of Strategic Development and National Projects.

It is interesting to point out that a system called "Electronic Budget" has been created as a sub-system for management of national projects. Until June of 2019 the system had already more than 12 thousands users. The system works in an on-line regime and it is still being improved.

There is also some critics related to these national projects. For example, Alexei Kudrin, chief director of the Russian audit office considers that the accomplishment of the called national projects will not be able to achieve the national goals and economic growth. The director of the Research Centre of post-Industrial society Vladislav Inozemtsev considers that these national projects do not have precise objectives to actually renew the country but he values that the state bureaucratic system has an extra capacity for maneuvers until 2024, what would not be possible with the regular system of the budgetary policy.

Despite the critics and skeptical look of some participants of this bureaucratic system, we can assume that it is has not stopped being curious and attractive such a pragmatic and ambitious vision of the Russian government, which, under strong international pressure and economic sanctions, tries to gain the upper hand, setting, moreover, as a goal a 3 percent annual increase, starting at 2021.



We should not doubt about Russian capability of auto-regeneration along period of crisis and difficulties, the country has passed, nevertheless it is discipline and focus to achieve it is national collective goals, that can be a motive of pride and, possibly, a motive of envy by others states.

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# NOTES ON THE CRISIS IN BOLIVIA: THE ROCK ROLLS AGAIN

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RICARDO LUIGI

2020 #01

## Notes on the crisis in Bolivia: the rock rolls again

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Bolivia joined Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela in the 2019 list of popular protests against South American governments. The Bolivian demonstrations resulted in 32 deaths and the departure of President Evo Morales. Some notes are important to understand the crisis in Bolivia in its regional context and its local constraints.

No South American state has had as many presidents in its history as Bolivia: not counting the military junta, there are more than 80. From its independence in 1825 to the present day, no other country in the region has suffered so many coups. led the Bolivian people to run 5 times without a ruler - one time for 23 days. President Evo Morales' resignation on November 10 is the latest chapter in the instability of Bolivian democracy.

Evo took office in his first term in 2006, elected in 2005, after losing the 2002 presidential elections. He was reelected in 2009 and 2014, changing the rules of the Bolivian political game, which did not accept the consecutive reappointment of a president. His attempt to secure a fourth term in the October 20, 2019 elections, ignoring a 2016 referendum in which the population said no to this possibility, was the trigger for his premature departure before the end of his third term, which would end in January. The announcement by the Organization of American States (OAS) observers that the presidential elections had been rigged intensified street protests against the president and prompted the Bolivian Armed Forces commander to call for Evo Morales to resign.

The interim government of Jeanine Añez, the second vice president of the Senate, who came to office as self-proclaiming president after the resignation of other authorities indicated in the line of succession, goes beyond his political pacification functions that should be predominantly associated with the calling of new elections. presidential elections within 90 days. The ideological character of the interim government is notable, among other things, for the persecution of people linked to the overthrown government and for the reformism it tries to establish, such as, for example, seeking to detach itself from institutions such as Alba and Unasur.

Not ignoring the multiplicity of actors and interests involved in the Bolivian crisis, it should be noted a fundamental division of the country between east and west: between plain, centered in the department (state) of Santa Cruz, and the plateau, centered in the state of La Paz and its surroundings. If Evo's main base of support was in the Cordillera, the main opposition forces may be said to be based in the eastern lowlands. One of the main leaders of the movement against Evo Morales, Luis Fernando "Macho" Camacho was president of the Civic Committee Pro Santa Cruz, an important organization which appeared to question the central power of the Bolivian government and claim greater autonomy for the Bolivian state.

The economic success of the Evo Morales government, with average GDP growth of 5% over the past decade, has helped to ease some of Bolivia's social tensions for some time. Social policies, besides stimulating the maintenance of economic growth, included relatively the indigenous population. The concessions to progress, which allowed the government to have support from the business community, did not completely eliminate the dissatisfaction on the part of society with the discourse and initiatives of valorization of indigenous peoples and cultures. The other party did not feel the expected increasing inclusive return, although inequality in the country has substantially decreased.

What happens in Bolivia is associated with regional crises of democracies that created expectations not necessarily fulfilled of progressive inclusion. There is a common sense of discontent with institutions and the limits of economic development. From a local point of view, there is a complex social divide and antagonistic interests not properly harmonized with maintaining the same political group for so many years in power. However, the way in which the Bolivian president has left does damage to everyone, especially to democracy.

As in the Greek myth of Sisyphus, Bolivian democracy seems to be doomed to a repetition: destabilization. The rock back to roll in the sense that the achievements of 13 years of Evo Morales government seem to succumb, going down to the last months of his term. A negotiated exit, belatedly attempted by President Evo, with the convening of new general elections, would have been the best option for the country.

One can only hope that the upcoming elections scheduled for May 3rd will put an end to the crisis and restore to Bolivia not only democracy but peace and stability again.



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# RUSSIA AND CHINA: GREAT GEOPOLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

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CHARLES PENNAFORTE

2020 #01

# Russia and China: great geopolitical transformations

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The 21st century certainly will not be the “American Century”. The great geopolitical, economical, social and political transformations we’re witnessing in these two first decades points to it.

Immanuel Wallerstein’s analysis about the present period of the capitalistic world-system of “bifurcation and chaos” seems to make perfect sense when we analyze, for example, the global geopolitical issue in the present moment.

After the end of the Cold War, the US government got the ideological world free of the soviet communism on one hand, and, in another hand, the possibility to occupy the role of “global cops”. All of it as consequence of an unipolar perspective defended by Washington. It was up to George W. Bush to deepen the unipolarity, as a way to guarantee a world shaped by his economical, geopolitical and military interests. Logically such perspective would find objection.

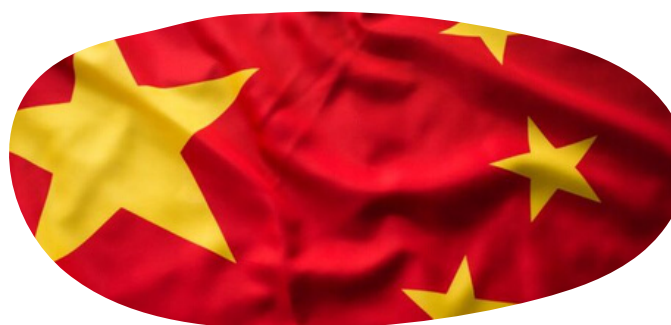
Taking into consideration the european and asian (Japan) submission, the scenario looked ideal, front the docility of Boris Yeltsin and the low chinese assertiveness between the end of 20th century and the beginning of 21st century.

However, the 21st century pointed to a new reality: China as a big economical player and redefining its geopolitical role, with Xi Jiping and the resurgence of Russia as a player. Moreover, both emerge as important players front the geopolitical decline of the USA.

Since the arrival of Deng Xiaoping to the command of China in 1978, the country experienced big economical and social transformations. China industrialized itself in a very intense fast pace and at the end of the 20th century stood out as one of the biggest world economies.

At the first decade of the 21st century China emerged as the second world economy and after that it would become the global investor. In Latin America it has become the main partner of Brasil, Argentina and Latin America, and started its economical and geopolitical expansion towards Africa.

Such resourcefulness demonstrates a very clear geopolitical project in expanding its influence to the whole globe as to guarantee the maximum economic advantages for the country. Under Xi Jiping’s leadership, China increased its capacity of influence over the course of global economy towards its own interests.



Beijing clearly demonstrates a geostrategic and geopolitical project focused on its long term interests and aiming to occupy spaces of power neglected by the USA.

Regarding Russia, after its economic and geopolitical débacle in the early 1990s, the transition towards capitalism under Boris Yeltsin left the country without any capacity for international action. Only after Vladimir Putin came to power (1999) the country gradually returned to the geopolitical board.



The geopolitical turning point of the resurgence, in my opinion, was the Kremlin act before the western expansion to its geostrategic space, specifically in Ukraine. The perspective of the creation of an NATO's "bind" on the Russian border through Ukraine and including the Black Sea, was rejected by the Kremlin in 2014 when Russia commanded Crimea.

The Beijing-Kremlin partnership signalize an important perspective in a multipolar scope, despite specific interests from each country. However, the partnership will certainly highlight the next years in international relations.

BRICS itself, created over a decade and despite being neglected by the traditional capitalist's centers, is still an initiative that deserves to be accentuated to the creation of another possible economic pole out of the IMF or the World Bank, controlled both by the USA and the European countries.

Having in mind the geopolitical decline of the USA, both countries are on the verge to occupy important positions on the international geopolitical scenario. It is true that each one of these has its idiosyncrasies but their goals appear to be the same: a multipolar world.

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# THE IRAN CRISIS: THE ROLE OF THE BIG “MILITARY BLOCS”

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VINICIUS MODOLO TEIXEIRA

2020 #01

## The Iran Crisis: the role of the big “military blocs”

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The recent crisis occurred during the last days of 2019 and the first days of 2020 has placed the Persian Gulf once again under the shadow of a large scale conflict. The imbroglio caused after protests against North-American forces bases on Iraq and the invasion of its embassy in Baghdad has taken great proportions, with its apex being marked by the death of the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard’s Quds Force, Gen. Qasem Soleimani fruit of a North-American airstrike.

The crisis covered by the whole media at the turn of the year exposed the tangled game between nations on the Middle East and global powers interested on the region. Factors as the politics, religious, energetic and territorial fulfill the issue’s spectrum that make this part of the world both complex and unstable. There’s still another factor that remains unnoticed by the media and by the foreign affairs analysts, that sets itself up in the form of established alliances between countries living in crisis, its neighbors and extra regional military powers, which are crucial to comprehend that region’s and world’s geopolitics.

Those alliances, which materialize themselves through great “military blocs” or, more precisely as Defense cooperation Organizations(DCOs), are formed aiming to guarantee military and strategic goals of its members, dividing collective defense responsibilities against potential enemies. Besides that, those organizations accomplish combined military operations, trainings, exchange of sensitive informations and, construction of military equipments in a coordinated way. Those organizations arose in the cold war and have substituted the old military alliances,perpetuating the collaboration among allied national States in periods of peace, and not only before eminent crisis as in the past. On this period, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact, among others, were highlighted as the most important Organizations in defense cooperation.

After the end of the Cold War, the demobilization of military forces before the new political moment did not reach all those organizations. In contrast, what was seen was the reorganization of the world space by means of the expansion of former DCOs and the establishment of new blocs, mainly in Eurasia, where those organizations constantly affect. Under this territory, NATO, Shanghai Pact, Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Gulf Cooperation Council present themselves as important actors of their Geopolitics.

NATO, the organization that emerged in the Cold War with the winner regimes, expanded itself to the eastern Europe, pressuring Russia more and more to the Eurasian countryside, increasing its operation as far as the border of the country. Furthermore, its old acting area, the North Atlantic, was subverted on behalf of a global action. As a way to guarantee its strategic interests, right after the end of the USSR, Russia established, along with the old Soviet republics, the Collective Security Treaty, in 1992, which became an organization at the turn of the century, and pursuing, beyond other goals, to prevent that those countries would enter other military alliances.





On the other hand, Russia has allied itself with China in the formation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in 1996, which, despite being openly proposing a peacemaking role against regional threats from separatism, extremism and terrorism, is increasingly gaining importance in the defense sector, receiving, among specialist, the designation of the Anti-NATO Pact. In the Persian Gulf region, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), created in the 1980s around countries of Sunni tradition, also began to organize itself as a defense apparatus, through its joint military force, called Peninsula Shield. Apart from these organizations, another structure that is relevant to regional geopolitics is the presence of the USA via its Extra-NATO Allies (MNNA), which correspond to the interests of that power.

These organizations played an active role in the recent crises in the Eurasian continent, such as the Georgia War in 2008, the Syrian War in 2011, and the separatist crisis in Ukraine, which started in 2014. The role of these organizations varied between the political support until acting in these conflicts, however, with their actions little publicized by the western media. In addition to the activities of these organizations, the configuration of members of these organizations is significant for understanding the sides involved in the conflicts in these conflicts.

The crisis in Iran does not escape this perspective. The map around the Persian Gulf is populated by members of NATO, CSTO, SCO, GCC and MNNA, with each of these organizations standing in different ways in the most recent tension. It is notorious to realize that in this part of Eurasia, the only States that do not actively participate in one of these Defense Cooperation Organizations are Iran, Iraq and Syria, precisely the countries that are involved in conflicts and belligerent actions. In Syria, the forces of Russia, the United States and their NATO allies operate under divergent interests. In Iraq, the presence of NATO and, mainly of the USA, has been questioned by the Shiite population with the support of Iran.

This country, on the other hand, has been operating for several years without support from states and rebel groups that have a population of Shiite origin, seeking to expand its influence and protect its survival in the face of Western pressure. Such actions are antagonized by the GCC, led by Saudi Arabia, which seek various forms containing Iran and the groups it supports, as in the case of Yemen, where a coalition under Saudi leadership has been trying to defeat Tehran-backed Houthis rebels for some years. While Iran does not act directly on any of these above-listed DCO's, it is an observer member of the Shanghai Pact, or it becomes symbolic to understand China's and Russia's support for the country, both through testing and potentially dangerous to the Iran on the UN Security Council, as well as through military equipment, which make up part of the Iranian arsenal.



Thus, a crisis in Iran will be configured as another movement of the game that will be expressed over the last decades from the centuries around Eurasia, with an active participation of Defense Cooperation Organizations and articulated by the great powers. A close look at alliance-building movements and their distribution on the map can help us understand current and future conflicts

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# THE 2ND BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE (BRI) FORUM AND THE CHINESE GLOBALIZATION PROJECT

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DIEGO PAUTASSO

#01  
2020

# The 2nd Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Forum and the Chinese Globalization Project

China has released the Silk Road Economic Belt And The Maritime Belt project, also known as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) or the New Silk Road, on 2013 under the leadership of president Xi Jinping. BRI has many challenges on its way with regard to its financial and financial sustainability mechanisms, to its great constructions socio-environmental implications, to the superpower's (EUA) response to its ambitious integration project led by China, among others. Anyhow, despite the challenges and eventual mishaps, BRI is central to Beijing international goals and, therefore, it has come to stay. In other words, the actual 2<sup>o</sup> BRI Forum could represent more than only the infrastructure projects viability promoted in the region by China.

## The BRI Forum and its Challenges

The BRI's projects involve, above all, transportation infrastructure, communication and energy, besides the industrial and urban development sector. Although centered on the infrastructure sector, it also aims to regional integration, security and geopolitical objectives.



Therefore, BRI has two dimensions, maritime and terrestrial, involve six different economic corridors: the New Eurasian Land Bridge - from Lianyungang port in Jiangsu up to Rotterdam; the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor; the China-Central Asia-Western Asia Corridor; the China-Indochina Peninsula Corridor; the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor; and the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor. Thus, BRI needs to be understood as a part of the Chinese national reconstruction and of its power global projection.

## The Chinese Globalization Project

The New Silk Road represents the conformation deepening of the sinocentric system, that means, the integration of the Eurasian heartland by the Chinese leadership. Such a system have been gaining shape since the Cold War's end. The URSS collapse, the dynamism loss of the Japanese economic and the retreat and/or displacement of power projection from US, combining with China's rapid ascension, has deepened the gravitational effect of China under the region. Not only as epicenter of the flow of wealth (trade, investment and financing), but also as leadership of the integration processes, especially of ASEAN+1 and OCX.

In this sense, we suggest that BRI is a regional genesis of a Chinese globalization project. Indeed, such initiative tends to exacerbate the contradictions with the current world leadership of the US. Beyond territorial disputes, there are strategies in terms of geoeconomics and geopolitics capacities in dispute, including the redefinition of hegemonic power in the world stage.

In short, the 2017 and 2019 BRI Forums represents the proportions of the project as well as Beijing's leadership projection. The consolidations of the projects are a proof not only for BRI, but to a conformation of an alternative world order to the neoliberalism and unilateralism promoted by Washington.



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# SYSTEMIC CHAOS AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS IN THE SECOND DECADE OF THE 2000 YEARS

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LUIZ FERNANDO MOCELIN SPERANCETE

# Systemic chaos and relationship between the great powers in the second decade of the 2000 years

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With the “outbreak” of the 2008 financial crisis, important political, economic and social transformations have been taking place in the world. Such transformations, which have as fundamental objects 1) the resurgence of nationalisms, 2) national ideologies, 3) xenophobia against minority communities and foreigners, 4) the financial-commercial war between central economies such as the USA and China, opens up a world increasingly unstable, without an international order that guides state actions as seemed along the pax britannica (late 18th and early 20th century) or in the pax americana (1945-1975).

In this context, xenophobia against Arab communities, but mainly xenophobia against Jews in Europe, has taken on relevant proportions in recent years, especially in those economies devastated by the 2008 financial crisis, in which national workers blame immigrants and citizens who do not share the majority culture as guilty of the loss of their respective jobs and the crisis as a whole, even though this is a phenomenon (blaming minorities that they’re the problem) currently known as fake news, because they aren’t guilty for that societies’ problems.

Meanwhile, in this unstable world, which opened with the end of the “Bretton Woods Consensus”, deepened by the Soviet collapse in 1991 and the advance, across the globe, of the “new liberal renaissance”, conflicts on the periphery of the international system became routine, in view of the resistance of political nationalist groups against the advance of globalizing groups in these respective states.

In addition to these factors, the advancement of NATO to Eastern Europe, the rise of Vladimir Putin to power in Russia in 2000, the rise of China as a global economic power and the rise to power in South America of rulers more aligned to the hemisphere south of the globe in the beginning of the decade, have raised tensions between the old western powers and the so-called “emerging” world, which has been promoting transformative and affirmative actions in international politics, namely: the creation of multilateral forums for political and economic consultation such as the BRICS, IBSA, BASIC, CELAC and UNASUL; the rise of the Brazilian ambassador, Roberto Azevedo, as commander of the WTO; Putin's nationalist reactions against the US offensives in the immediate surroundings of Russia and the American rhetoric that governments with authoritarian characteristics must be combated; the resumption of the historic Russian position on its allies in the Middle East; the creation of the BRICS’ Contingent Fund of Reserves, with US\$ 100 billion, and the New Development Bank (BRICS’ Bank), initially with US\$ 50 billion in funds, both with the objective of taking the BRICS countries out of the IMF and World Bank dictates when going through financial emergencies in hard currency. To sum up, the “emerging world” has been carrying out an international offensive that the western powers, namely the US and the great European countries, are probably following closely.

It’s in this context that one must consider the attacks by extremists in Europe and the US, which killed many innocents, the commercial war (which is not only commercial) between US and China, the crisis in Venezuela and the war in Syria.

In the first case, such attacks have occurred in response to the policy of major Western countries for interventions in the Middle East (Iraq and Afghanistan illustrate it). On the one hand, such attacks reveal the global disorder in which we live, where the rule is global political control between economic powers, even if, on the other hand, in order to achieve their economic and political objectives, they have to finance groups to overthrow regimes contrary to their own world power projects, as has been the US, Turkish and European Union policy of financing “national liberation” armies in Syria.

Regarding the trade war, not only is trade involved in this tension between the two largest economies on the planet, but also the technological vanguard and Chinese economic growth in the last decades. From a political point of view, the Chinese alliance with the Russians is something feared by the strategists of the White House, considering that they are governments with few democratic traditions and economies directed by the national state, something that clashes with the American policy of expansion of democracy and the free-market economy around the world.

The crisis in Venezuela also reflects the systemic chaos that we have witnessed in the international system in recent times, after the Russian government started to openly support the Venezuelan regime, in an attempt to ensure its presence in a region that was once almost exclusively under the orbit of influence of the Washington government. Perhaps this Russian action was followed by the American and European Union onslaught on Ukraine, where a pro-Moscow government was overthrown and a pro-Western government was installed in Kiev, whose consequence was the country's political and territorial division in two areas, and only recently having a new government elected to unite the Ukrainians.

Finally, the Syrian question reflects this global disorder in which we live, result of very clear nationalisms and political projects. Bashar Al-Assad, the political leader of the Syrian people, has been attacked by mercenaries for almost a decade, and continues to resist firmly.



Russia, who else is gaining from the current international situation (that is why it is so satirized and discredited by the US government and European Union - and this is not a criticism to the US and Europeans, because, in our opinion following Morgenthau's political theory, international politics is the politics of power, and all the great powers act in this way), marked the beginning of its return to the board of international politics with unconditional support for the Syrian regime, protecting and financing it, as can be seen in the conferences between the parties involved in that war and the meetings of the UN Security Council, in which the Russian veto of any foreign intervention on Syrian soil is barred.



Finally, it has become increasingly clear that the world is again divided between two well-defined axes of power: on the one hand, there are Western countries (led by the US and the European Union), which together control mostly of the international finance, have in common a well-defined international political order project, which puts them in a position to dictate the rules of international politics, but which are gradually seeing their ability to dictate the rules each day more and more contested. On the other hand, we are seeing the emergence a coalition formed by Russia and China, which aims, ultimately, to make possible the emergence of a new international agenda capable of promoting a rebalancing of world power in its favor, still in this century.



# LABGRIMA

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The LabGRIMA is a project derived from the Research group CNPq: “Geopolitics and Mercosur”, with the intention of congregate researchers from several areas of knowledge, to analyse the contemporary regional and international reality based in a antisystemic perspective proposed by Immanuel Wallerstein.

## ANTISYSTEMIC DYNAMICS IN THE CURRENT WORLD SYSTEM

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The research project has as objective analyse the international antisystemic reality, meanwhile the detection of the US hegemony decline in the scope of geopolitics, economy and culture.

It will examine the role of countries like China and Russia, or organizations such as the BRICS, which have military and/or economic capability to maintain their national interests against the relative (economic and cultural) hostilities from US, as well as regional movements.

The research line based on the theoretical and analytical basis of Immanuel Wallestein (World System), Giovanni Arrighi (Systemic Cycles of Accumulation), Fernand Braudel (*Longue Durée*) and Antonio Gramsci (Hegemony).





*Laboratory of Geopolitics, International Relations and Antisystemic Movements*



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