

India, China and the EU in a Multipolar World Order: A Perception

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Abstract:

The 20th century of the world witnessed that the dominance and superiority of single power. Two wildest new rising powers India and China along with the knowledgeable and successful regional organization like EU should to make the 21st century one of the more effective and supportive. The aim of this paper to offer the relevance of the multipolar order where multiple powers cooperate, collaborate and coordinate to each other. The paper reviews previous literature that has focused on India, China, EU and the world orders. The study will be more descriptive, analytical and informative in the nature. The paper highlights and talks about why India, China and the EU are key players in a multipolar world and how the multipolar order is different from the other world orders. This paper provides the strategic relationship between India, China and the EU with regard to the multipolar world order.

Key words: India, China, EU, Multipolar world and World Order

INTRODUCTION

International politics is fascinating topic in today's society because it concerns people and cultures throughout the world. Also it has been argued is no longer international rather it is global. Global politics has been widely accepted by scholars as

one, which better reflects the change in international relations brought by globalization. Globalization contains many trends and relationships between the world's rich and poor countries. Globalization is a process which has transformed all political, economic, social and cultural relations among international community and between communities of nations. Living in a global world students and practitioners of international politics has traditionally concentrated their interest and attention on relationships between states.¹ The 21st century is touted to be the Asian age, belonging to China and India. Cold war and growing impacts of globalization are making India to redefine its position and role at the regional and the global level.²

It is quiet common in EU circles in Brussels to describe the current world order as multipolar. They are not the only ones. Multipolarity has been a recurrent element of Chinese foreign policy discourse since the late 1980s.³

If a multipolar system is built, India will be a full participant. India will be and must be one of its poles.⁴ BRIC countries like to refer to a multipolar world in their summit statements and thus it is also present in EU partnership declarations with these countries.⁵

Multipolarity has become a very fashionable and trendy word. The concept of 'Multipolarity' signifies an international order that is different from the bipolar world of the cold war era

¹ Parmjit Kaur & Sheveta Sehgal, *"Dynamics of International Relations: moving from International to Global – Theory and Issues"*, Atlantic Publishers, New Delhi-2012, pp. 246-258

² Sudheendra Kulkarni, *"Charting new Asian History"*, The Hindu, September 1, 2015

³ Goedele De Keersmaecker, *"Multipolar Myths and Unipolar Fantasies"*, EGMONT Royal Institute for International Relations, No. 60, February, 2015

⁴ Hubert Vedrine, *"India and France in a Multipolar World"*, Speech delivered at Foreign affairs of the Republic of France at the concluding session of the seminar on February, 17, 2000

⁵ Ibid. p. 1

and the single power domination after the end of cold war.⁶ The term “multipolarity” originates from the realist school and implies polarization, balance of power, zero-sum, win and lose. All actors are potential enemies.⁷

“Multipolarity is, in other words, a concept of a world where legitimate interests of all major and significant powers are respected and where they can continue influencing international developments. It is the sharing of the power and the influence, the acceptance of autonomy in decision-making by various countries respect for diversity in idea, concepts and ways of life. To challenge unilateral Americanism it is quiet necessary and compulsory to states along with regional institutions should come near”.

Some of the member states within the EU wanted to develop close relations with India and China to minimize the sole power dominance.⁸

India is today one of the world’s fastest-growing economies, hoarding a young labor stock and a substantial talent pool, making the task of its leadership a little easier by comparison.⁹ Image of India as an ‘emerging power’, or as President Barack Obama highlighted when he addressed the Indian Parliament in November-2010, an *emerged power*, has become omnipresent in media and in policy debates. As the country has been the dominant force in South Asia since its

⁶ C Raja Mohan and Hubert Vedrine Interview, “*We Believe in a Multipolar World*”, on March, 2000 pp. 279-280

⁷ Heinz Gartner, “*America and Europe: Transatlantic Ties or Global Responsibility*”, Osterreichisches Institute for International Politics and Austrian Institute for International Affairs, 2009

⁸ Gulshan Sachdeva, “*EU – China and EU – India: A Tale of two strategic partnerships*”, Strategic Analysis, Vol. 38, No. 4, 2014, pp. 428

⁹ P Balakrishnan, “Modi’s Unrealistic American Dreams”, The Hindu, September, 25, 2015

independence, the term obviously refers to projection of power on a global scale.¹⁰

“China clearly and obviously the biggest story within and out of Asia in terms of economic growth; China has been successful in the last three decades under the economic reform and a policy of openness”.

There is also, equal reason to see the European Union (**EU**) as an emerging power, even at the risk of raising eyebrows. Like India, the EU seeks to become a global political player on top of being a great economic power.¹¹ China’s relations with both the European Union and its individual member states have drawn so close over the past decade.¹² China and India’s friendship dates back to ancient times as the poet Rabindranath Tagore put it, “*China and India are very old and beloved brothers.*” Over the past 2,000 years and more, there have been numerous tales and legends about the friendly exchanges between the two countries.¹³ As the global power dynamic shifts, they (**India, china and EU**) will try and show to define their roles in an emerging multipolar world order.

“The European Union is a unique experiment in international co-operation. It is essentially organized network that involves the pooling or sharing of sovereignty. The EU is also projected as a non-traditional, unorthodox, rule-based and supposedly value-driven international actor, which plays first -of -its -kind role on the world stage. ‘Factor shaping the international role of the EU is not what it does or what it says, but what it is’. Despite the fact that the EU and the role it’s playing in international politics, it is quite necessary to understand and appreciate what the EU is and especially, what it is not. European Union main aim was specially to make another war

¹⁰ Bernd Von Muenchow-Pohl, “*India and Europe in a Multipolar World*”, The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Publishers, 2012

¹¹ Ibid. pp.2

¹² Ibid. pp.2

¹³ Li Yuanchao, “*China, India, and closely connected dreams*”, The Hindu, November, 6, 2015

impossible. Also EU is constituted as a political entity by values, images and principles. Europe today is more effective at projecting civilian power globally than any other state or non-state actor. The EU offers itself as a model to others on the basis of its political and economic achievements and it has become the world's brand-leader in peaceful political cooperation”.

More than a decade has passed then the European Union signed strategic partnerships with India and China. India and the European Union share a range of cultural and economic relations that have developed over many decades.¹⁴ India was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community in 1963.¹⁵ China and the EU as both stand for democracy in International Relations and enhanced role of the UN and are committed to combating international terrorism and promoting sustainable development through poverty elimination and environment protection endeavors.¹⁶ India and China will continue to be the two major forces calling for a multi-polar world and the main engines driving world economic growth. India and China should carry forward oriental wisdom and traditional friendship for closer cooperation. India has been world-renowned for its profound philosophy and splendid culture, which made great contributions to human development. As an emerging country, India's widely acclaimed economic growth and social vitality have secured this country an influential position in the world. ¹⁷

¹⁴ Ibid. pp.2

¹⁵ Rajendra K Jain, “ *India and the European Union: Building Strategic Partnership*”, Radiant Publishers-2007, pp.1-2

¹⁶ Ibid. pp.2

¹⁷ Ibid. pp.3

POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS AND ENGAGEMENTS

“The world requires global solutions. 21st century has witnessed new pattern of international relationships in which nations enter into cooperated unrestricted and limitless partnerships to solve the global issues. For that reason partnerships are clearly ‘good to have’ and approach of “engaging” partners is strength rather than a weakness and it is a strategy for problem-solving rather than a goal in itself. In this context, I would like to explore the importance of ‘multipolar world order’ in present world and very new idea to bring out that three different powers and poles like India, China and the EU if come closer that would be the great achievement to solve global issues as well as to make the world more cooperative and supportive than competitive”.

POLAR FANTASIES

The 20th century started out particularly multipolar. After almost fifty years, two world wars, and many smaller conflicts, a bipolar system emerged.¹⁸ Then, with the end of the Cold War and expiration of the Soviet Union, bipolarity gave birth to unipolarity – international system dominated by Unipower, in this case of the United States.¹⁹ Polarity has never been a purely academic concept, emerged as the dominant school in American international relations theory. The concept of bipolarity has seemed meaningful to many people in spite of its ambiguities and contradictions is that it conforms to their intuition that there was something special about the distribution of power among states after World War II. ‘Bipolarity’ was used from 1945 onwards to describe the new

¹⁸ Ibid. pp.1

¹⁹ Richard Haas, *“The Age of Nonpolarity: What will follow U.S. Dominance”*, Council on Foreign Affairs Journal, Vol. 87, No. 3, May-June, 2008, pp.44-56

situation that emerged from the Second World War.²⁰ Some scholars clearly criticized about bipolarity and said that it was considered both immoral and dangerous to world peace and prosperity. Immoral because it limited the freedom of choice of the people of many countries whose political choice was made dependent on strategic considerations that has nothing to do with their aspirations.²¹

But still some American scholars who continue to claim that the world is unipolar and will remain so for some time.²² Charles Krauthammer Neo-Conservative who coined the term 'the unipolar moment' in 1990 there has been a whole school of thought in the United States that describes the world in terms of a lasting American unipolarity, if not hegemony.²³

“Unipolarity and Bipolarity both seem to be and considered to be arrogant and dangerous to the world. Today’s world is increasingly one of distributed rather than concentrated, power. In this aspect multipolarity is considered to be meaningful and the greatest possible extent, cooperative”.

Multipolarity refers to the presence of multiple power centres who attempt to play influential role in international politics, thereby making it multilateral, rather than unilateral and dominated by a single power.²⁴

“The world witnessed that the self-importance and superiority of the sole power during the past. In a global world all countries have right to exist and emerge. Fact that operations are not possible with alone and with single country; when

²⁰ Andrew Moravcsik, “*Bipolar Order: Europe the second Superpower*”, Current history journal of world affairs, March, 2000

²¹ B Krishnamurthy, “*Quest for Multipolar world*”, in his book “*Indo – French Relations: Prospects and Perspectives*”, Shipra Publications, New Delhi – 2005, pp. 178-191

²² Ibid. pp.1

²³ Krauthammer C, “*The unipolar moment*”, Foreign Affairs, 70(1), PP. 23-33

²⁴ B Krishnamurthy, “*India – EU Relations in the context of ‘Effective’ Multilateralism and ‘Cooperative’ Multipolar World Order*”, working paper series 2013/1, Centre for European Studies, Pondicherry University

there is cooperation among the nations with different poles at different levels it would be a better world. In world history much of the world over the past 500 years was dominated by Americans and other regions and of the states. Predict that two major emerging powers of the Asia along with world brand leader and utmost peaceful organization along with other multiple powers will make the contemporary world as a one of the better and “cooperative” world”.

CONCLUSIONS

It is time to address that all major world players should agree and come to more-and-more close to make the world order as more cooperative, which is only imaginable and thinkable with the multipolar world. Many scholars suggested and argued that the world is returning to multipolarity following the so-called unipolar moment.

- However, even unipolarists do not reject that the EU has an important role in some areas and those new powers in Asia that India and China are growing in importance.
- Richard Hass rejects the polarization reference. Reasonably, he appreciates a “*non-polar world*” emerging. This highlights the necessity of common, rather than opposing, strategies, in solving global problems.
- And some are trying to architect and proposed new world orders, scholars like Aravind Viramani, who speaks that the 21st century going to become “*tripolar*” world where India, China and US influence the world;
- Some Asian scholars anticipated, it is going to be “*bipolar*” world where India and China will remain as dominant force and plays an important role in 21st century.

- Global problem-solving best concept according to Hillary Clinton's "*multi-partner world*", in place of the "multipolar world" concept. This does not mean that competition, polarity, and ideological differences would disappear. But it creates a level of global cooperation.

To come out with the idea that two rising and growing powers of Asia along with the one-and-only unique and distinctive regional organization (**EU**), will call for multipolar world order, where other majors powers like Japan, Russia and the United States should support and make the world more cooperative. Europe is susceptible to be a pole of cooperation in the multipolar world by virtue of its four decades of experience, its organisation, and its internal coordination. Multiple opinions were rising among the scholars of International Relations, whereas, some call the unipolarity, few say bipolarity, some tells nonpolarity, and some says partnerships and alignments and the very new idea of Hillary Clinton's Multipartner world. Finally, in which world are we going to live and see? All those dreamy words and worlds are does not matter, where only truth exists and more above all reality is stronger than this kind of simplistic and unsophisticated classifications.

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