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THE RISE OF THE BRICS: An Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities in the International trade.

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DEDICATION

To my parents Federico B. Zabala Santiago and María Alt Durán Domínguez

To all my siblings and Noemi Alt Zabala Durán, Guillermo A. Zabala Durán and Mariel Alt Zabala Durán

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TO GOD AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

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SUMMARY

The rise of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) marks a change important on the global economic stage by challenging the traditional preeminence of economies Western countries and open new opportunities in the field of international trade. These countries They have acquired a fundamental role in the world economy due to their rapid growth economic strength, large domestic markets, and the ability to influence decisions at a global level.

Analyzing the challenges and opportunities in international trade in the context of the BRICS This is essential for understanding the constantly evolving dynamics of the global economy. Among The challenges lie in the diversity of political, economic, and cultural systems among the member countries, as well as differences in infrastructure and economic development. Furthermore, the Internal competition among the BRICS countries themselves to exert influence at the regional and global level may complicate economic cooperation.

Despite these challenges, there are significant opportunities in the field of trade international. The BRICS represent a combined force capable of influencing the formulation of policies and in the redefinition of trade rules worldwide. The growing interdependence Economic relations between these countries open doors for the expansion of trade, investment, and cooperation. in areas such as energy, technology, infrastructure and innovation.

Furthermore, the BRICS have established alternative financial institutions, such as the Bank BRICS Development Bank (NDB) and BRICS Reserve Fund, challenging supremacy from traditional financial institutions and providing financing for projects of development in developing countries.

In this context, various aspects of this topic can be explored, such as impact of the BRICS on global governance, the role of these emerging economies in the Formation of strategic and commercial alliances, as well as the analysis of specific cases of collaboration or competition between member countries.

KEYWORDS

Rise of the BRICS, international trade, reserve fund, bank of infrastructure, economic policies, imports and exports, penetration rates and strategic alliances.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Less than ten years is a short period to truly and fully understand the
The limits and capabilities of the BRICS. However, this period is long enough to
to address some questions, acknowledge some successes and changes, but also to unmask
Many of the exaggerated expectations that might have initially arisen regarding this
A new order of global influence has emerged. Since the mid-2000s, a system has been noted
global that is characterized by having multiple poles of power due to a redistribution at the level
global. This situation has generated different terms to describe this phenomenon, such as
"unstable multipolarity" Humphrey and Messner, (2006), "multiregional world order" Hurrell,
(2007), "era of non-polarity" Haass, (2008), "multi-multipolarity" Flemes and Nolte, (2008),
"increasing multipolarity" Nederveen, (2008), and "interpolarity" Badie, (2013). This
The conglomerate of emerging nations has experienced a remarkable rise in its influence
economic, geopolitical and commercial, significantly altering the traditional balance of power.
Following Nederveen and Pieterse (2008), the current moment of globalization in the 21st century
It presents significant differences with respect to the globalization experienced in the 20th century
past. Several indicators reflect this change: i) a new geographical arrangement of the
trade exchanges in which North-South links have been replaced by connections
East-South; ii) the international organizations that led neoliberal globalization in the
The nineties have given way to a "Post-Washington non-consensus", characterized by strong

demands for change from the Global South; iii) the weakening of

unilateral US hegemonic model

1.1 General Considerations

On September 20, 2006, the first Ministerial Meeting of the

BRICS, at the suggestion of Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Participants in the meeting included

Foreign ministers from Russia, Brazil and China, as well as the Minister of Defense

From India. They expressed their interest in expanding multilateral cooperation.

On May 16, 2008, at the initiative of Russia, the meeting was held in Yekaterinburg.

BRICS foreign ministers' meeting. After the meeting, a statement was issued

a Joint Statement reflecting common positions on current issues of

global development.

Another important step was taken on July 9, 2008, when Russian President Dmitry

Medvedev met with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the First

Indian Minister Manmohan Singh and Chinese President Hu Jintao on the sidelines of the Summit from the G8 in Toyako, Japan, on the Russian question.

At the initiative of Russia, on June 16, 2009, Yekaterinburg hosted the first

BRIC Summit. The BRIC leaders issued a joint statement after the

Summit. The document sets out the BRIC objectives “to promote dialogue and

cooperation between our countries in an incremental, proactive, pragmatic way,

open and transparent. Dialogue and cooperation among the BRIC countries lead not only to

to serve the common interests of emerging market economies and countries in

development, but also to build a harmonious world of lasting peace and prosperity common." The document outlined a common perception of ways to cope with the global financial and economic crisis.

The growing economic power of the BRICS countries, their importance as one of the main driving forces of global economic development, its large population and its Abundant natural resources form the basis of its influence on the international stage.

In 2013, the BRICS accounted for around 27 percent of global GDP (in in terms of the purchasing power parity of their national currencies). The total population of the BRICS has 2.88 billion members (42 percent of the entire world population), and the five countries cover 26 percent of the planet's land surface.

The BRICS countries are influential members of major organizations and agencies international organizations, including the United Nations, the G20, the Non-Aligned Movement and The Group of 77. They are also members of several regional associations. The Federation of Russia is a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Treaty Organization of Collective Security and the Eurasian Economic Union. Russia and China are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Asian Economic Cooperation Pacific. Brazil is a member of the Union of South American Nations, MERCOSUR and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. The Republic of South Africa is a member of The African Union and the Southern African Development Community. India is a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Relations between BRICS partners are based on the Charter of the United Nations,

principles, which were agreed upon by the member countries at their 2011 Summit: openness, pragmatism, solidarity, non-block nature and neutrality with respect to third parties.

The system of cooperation formats among the BRICS countries includes summits annual scheduled (2010 – Brazil; 2011 – China; 2012 – India; 2013 – South Africa; 2014 – Brazil; 2015 – Russia; 2016 –2017- India-Brazil -2018-South Africa -2019-Saint Petersburg-2022), leaders' meetings on the sidelines of G20 Summits, meetings between high-level officials representatives responsible for national security, foreign ministers (to (on the margins of the UN General Assembly), finance ministers and governors of central banks (apart from the IMF's autumn and spring meetings) International and World Bank boards of governors and also outside the meetings of G20 finance ministers), agriculture and development ministers agricultural, BRICS sherpas and sub-sherpas, heads of statistics departments and antitrust, senior officials in science, technological cooperation and innovation, meetings of working groups for cooperation in agriculture and agricultural development, health, information security, science and innovation, meetings of presidents of Supreme (higher) courts, heads of central electoral commissions, and representatives of municipal administrations and associated regions. Cooperation between missions permanent national representatives of the BRICS countries at the United Nations headquarters in New York, in international organizations in Geneva and Vienna and at UNESCO in Paris plays an important role in the multilateral cooperation mechanism.

In addition to the joint events in which the executive bodies and the judicial branch, in the BRICS format business organizations and centers cooperate investigation.

In 2009-2019, the BRICS countries focused on the following priorities jointly. They developed a common position on certain regional issues, including the They also reached an agreement on the problems in Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan, and the Iranian nuclear program. common on financial and economic issues, including World Bank reforms and the IMF, measures to ensure that sufficient resources can be mobilized to the IMF to strengthen its anti-crisis potential, the creation of the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism that It anticipates an expansion of credit. Local Currency Facility and establishment of the Alliance of BRICS Exchanges.

The BRICS are successfully expanding their foreign relations, which were established in the Durban meeting between the five BRICS leaders, the leaders of the African Union and the Leaders from eight leading African integration associations. On July 16, 2014, Brasilia hosted The second meeting of this format in which heads of state and government from the Americas participated from the South. This practice allows us to find important points of contact between the BRICS and the New leading centers of power are emerging around the world.

The VI BRICS Summit (Fortaleza and Brasilia, July 15 and 16, 2014) yielded a result Very important. The parties signed the Agreement on the New Development Bank and the Treaty for the establishment of a BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement. These institutions They will possess a total of 200 billion dollars.

The Leaders also adopted a key decision on launching talks comprehensive reports on the BRICS Economic Partnership Strategy and a draft Factsheet BRICS Roadmap for BRICS Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation.

The parties also coordinated further joint measures in current areas of cooperation such as conflict resolution, IMF reform, and the fight against illicit trafficking of drugs, the use and development of information and communication technologies based of international cooperation and generally recognized principles and norms. international law and the creation of favorable conditions for free trade barriers.

During the VII Summit (Ufa, July 8 and 9, 2015), the BRICS leaders They signed the Ufa Declaration, the Ufa Action Plan and the Partnership Strategy BRICS economics that confirmed the strategic nature of the association of the BRICS countries and determined the directions of long-term cooperation among the five countries. Within the framework of the summit, the Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of a joint BRICS website and the Agreement between the governments of the BRICS on cultural cooperation.

The BRICS leaders reached an agreement to open a number of new spheres cooperation initiatives, initiated by the Russian Presidency, in the fields of youth and migration, industry, energy, peacekeeping, the environment, combating infectious diseases, etc.

The Russian side also presented a roadmap for trade cooperation, economic and investment cooperation between the BRICS countries until 2020, which currently It includes more than 60 cooperation proposals from Russian companies.

In 2016, India became the head of the Association. The culmination of its The presidency was the eighth BRICS summit, which was held in the Indian state of Goa

on October 15th and 16th. Its motto was "The Formation of popular, inclusive decisions and collectives".

The leaders of five countries signed the Goa Declaration, which expressed a position coherent on issues related to the development of the Association and critical issues.

The Goa summit addressed the issues of energy, trade, banking cooperation, agriculture, land use and other common spaces, health, education, development of Humanitarian contacts and tourism, the fight against poverty and social inequality. In addition to the A series of sectoral agreements were signed in the Declaration. Therefore, as stipulated in the guidelines, Russia will take charge of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) starting from January 2024. With rising geopolitical tensions, Russia's priority is focused on the Possible expansion of the group to counter US hegemony. Plans to promote seriously critical reforms in the international financial architecture and create a platform solidified to build an equitable multipolar world order.

However, in recent years, the BRICS group has taken a number of initiatives broad initiatives aimed at countering hegemonic policies and the collective West's attempts to impose the "rules of the game" to the world majority. There have been explicit indications that the presidency Russia's entry into the BRICS from January 2024 will constitute another clear opportunity to form alliances with Africa, Asia and Latin America.

1.2 Justification of the research

The rise of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in the field of International trade represents a topic of profound interest in economics and relations.

international. This phenomenon is the subject of research for several essential reasons. that require a thorough and rigorous analysis.

First, the global relevance of the BRICS is undeniable, given that they have have emerged as crucial players in the global economy. Their significant participation in global GDP, international trade, and foreign direct investment have led to substantial alterations in the dynamics of global trade, influencing patterns pre-established and giving rise to new opportunities and challenges.

The increased influence of the BRICS on global trade has had a direct impact on the trade strategies adopted by other nations and blocs economic factors. This has prompted a review of existing trade policies and has fostered the formation of strategic alliances that differ from conventional ones, transforming the global trade landscape.

When analyzing the rise of the BRICS in the context of international trade, it is It is possible to identify both the challenges and opportunities that these economies Emerging challenges pose a threat to the global trading system. These challenges can encompass aspects related to competition, regulation, and divergences in standards commercial, among others. While the opportunities manifest themselves in the opening of new markets, increased trade flows, strategic collaborations, and a greater diversification in trade relations.

Furthermore, the rise of the BRICS has substantial geopolitical implications, since that these nations not only seek to consolidate their economic position, but also to exert political and strategic influence at a global level. This aspect could have repercussions.

significant in the formation of alliances, trade agreements and the distribution of power global level.

Despite its importance, current academic literature has shortcomings that require a more detailed analysis. Addressing these gaps in research will contribute to the development of new knowledge and perspectives on the rise of the BRICS in international trade, providing a more complete understanding of its implications in the economic sphere and geopolitical at the global level

1.3 Problem statement

The group of nations known as BRICS, made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa have emerged as major economic players on a global scale. These countries not only represent a significant portion of the global population, but also They have an increasingly influential presence, as Turzi (2011) states, in the field of International trade. Despite its growing importance, the exact role The role played by the BRICS in the dynamics of world trade raises questions and challenges that require a thorough analysis.

In terms of economic growth prospects, it is essential to clarify the The true impact of BRICS on the global trade landscape is essential. to understand the evolution of its participation in international trade over time, as as well as projecting their future contributions and potential growth in trade worldwide level.

Likewise, according to Humphrey and Messner (2006), structural challenges arise and political challenges faced by the BRICS in its attempt to consolidate its position in world trade. Identify the obstacles that hinder this process and examine whether there are internal tensions or conflicts of interest among its members that may limit its ability to act
A cohesive approach to business matters is crucial.

In terms of opportunities and potential benefits, it is necessary to explore the advantages that collaboration within BRICS can offer in terms of expansion commercial development, access to new markets, or the development of commercial infrastructure. These Countries could capitalize on their comparative and complementary advantages to improve their position on the global stage.

On the other hand, according to Flemes and Nolte (2008), it is important to examine the impact The BRICS in the global trading system and its influence on economic governance global, analyzing whether it actively challenges the established economic order or adapts strategically to maximize their own influence.

Considering aspects of sustainability and equity, it is essential to evaluate the stance of the BRICS in terms of sustainability, equity and inclusive development in their relations international trade. It should be investigated whether these countries are working towards a model of fairer and more equitable trade, or if imbalances persist that need to be addressed and corrected.

1.4 Research Objectives

General Objective: To thoroughly analyze the rise of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) as economic and political blocs, assessing their challenges and opportunities in the current global context.

Specific Objectives:

1. Identify and analyze the driving factors behind the rise of the BRICS: To conduct a detailed study of the economic, political, and social elements that have contributed to the growth and consolidation of the BRICS as relevant actors in the world economy.
2. Assess the internal and external challenges facing the BRICS: Research and examine the difficulties and obstacles that the BRICS member countries face individually and collectively in areas such as domestic politics, economics, and diplomacy and global integration.
3. To propose strategies to enhance the influence and collaboration of **the** BRICS: Develop specific recommendations and strategies that can strengthen the internal cooperation among the BRICS countries, as well as improving their position in the economy global, addressing challenges such as governance, sustainability, innovation and international cooperation.

1.5 Research Question

1. What are the key socioeconomic and political factors that have fueled the rise of the BRICS as emerging economic blocs and how Have they evolved over time?
2. What are the main challenges facing countries? BRICS members in their attempt to consolidate their global influence and economic, considering factors such as geopolitical competition, relations trade and internal tensions?
3. How have the internal and external policies of the countries impacted this? BRICS in global economic stability, global governance and relations international, both regionally and globally?
4. What is the role of the BRICS in the reconfiguration of the order? global economic and political context, considering its relationship with institutions existing international organizations and their ability to influence decision-making global level?

1.6 Research Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1: The rise of the BRICS is driven by their rapid growth economic and its impact on global trade flows.

Hypothesis 2: The diversification of the BRICS economies has altered the composition and direction of international trade.

Hypothesis 3: The rise of the BRICS in international trade presents opportunities for the diversification of the global economy, promoting inclusion and sustainable development of emerging and developing markets

1.7 Conceptual Framework

This research is based on the rise of the BRICS in the field of trade International. The rise of the BRICS is not an isolated event, but rather part of a set of economic, political, technological and social activities that allows us to cope with Future challenge in the (21st) century, Stephen, (2014). Over time, blocs have emerged economic, political, and technological forces seeking geopolitical, military, and commercial control throughout the sphere of the planet. This research focuses on the geopolitical and commercial impetus that this The bloc has experienced economic growth in recent decades (21st century), as well as economic advancement and This bloc's military seeks to expand across the globe. It frequently... debates the BRICS group's participation in talks related to new forms of Collaboration between countries of the Global South. This poses obvious challenges, given that it includes Russia, the which has no geographical or historical links with the Global South, unlike China, which shows a Identity complexity arises from considering oneself part of the developing world. In reality, the Russia's incorporation, although considered an emerging power, is sometimes interpreted as evidence that the main purpose of the BRICS is not so much to foster cooperation between countries of the South, but rather to establish a counterweight to the United States.

One of the main criticisms of the BRICS is that the member states are so diverse that it is difficult for them to offer a unified perspective to carry out concrete actions. The main reason why the BRICS identified with the concept and

Their acting together as a political and economic group was not due to a shared identity.
shared similarity to other larger emerging economies. Those who debate whether these
Whether nations are truly emerging economies or not, they do not fully understand the
The essence of the BRICS. In reality, what united them was the understanding that they share
a vision of a new global order. By joining forces in a strategic group that encompasses
Asia, Africa, and Latin America believe they have a greater chance of achieving that vision.
shared. The BRICS countries also express a common perspective on the world or
at least a sense of discontent with the current system of global governance.
Commentators such as Stuenkel (2014) agree that these states have an interest
together in changing the balance of power towards multipolarity, they maintain a
commitment to the sovereignty of each state, they agree on the need to reform
the global governance system and seek equitable representation in institutions
multilateral. Furthermore, they add a relevant unifying element: the five members of
The BRICS have global aspirations, which is reflected, for example, in their consistent
support for the United Nations Security Council and its call to restructure
the global order.

According to De Coning, Mandrup and Odgaard (2014), there is evidence that
It supports the idea that the BRICS share a broad way of interacting with others
states, especially on security issues. However, some have observed that
the foundations on which the BRICS union is based, that is, a common vision
as an alternative to the existing world order, they are fragile and unsustainable due to the
numerous differences between the states that make up this group.

1.8 Study Organization

This chapter considers the background of the study, the problem statement, the Justification, Research objectives, Conceptual framework, Research questions Hypotheses and general considerations. The second chapter includes the literature review. where everything related to BRICS and its scope in the economic, political and geopolitical. The third chapter discusses methodological aspects. In this chapter, It addresses the method, the justification, the research design, the population, the sample, the The procedure for collecting the data, its validity and reliability, and the ethical aspects. In the Chapter four presents the results of the study, and in it, these results are analyzed and discussed. Finally, the conclusions and recommendations for future studies are presented.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Contextualization of the rise of the BRICS

The term BRICS, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, initially used to refer to emerging economies with large geographical areas and Demographically, it is evolving into an analytical category. These countries are no longer not simply considered as developing nations, but are seen as potential key players on the global stage.

This change in perception is not limited to semantics; it is based on the Recent performance of these economies and their macroeconomic indicators. Their markets Large-scale internal factors suggest the possibility of achieving growth based on Exports fostered by development, rather than growth driven solely through exports. This opens up opportunities for a more active role in the international relations.

Thus, it can be deduced that a successful country within the BRICS group is expected to be has a broad productive capacity in sectors such as agriculture, industry and services that correspond to its economic potential. Furthermore, it should maintain a A relatively stable economy and a prominent profile on the world stage. These are the conditions that qualify these countries for meaningful participation in groups high-level international decision-making bodies.

2.2. The BRICS: Economic characteristics and policy accession requirements

member countries

The BRICS are a coalition of emerging economies established in 2006, composed

Currently, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are the only ones. So far, South Africa is the only one.

admitted member, joining in 2010, although Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, United Arab Emirates

The United States, Nigeria, Argentina, and Ethiopia have requested to join, and their membership will be finalized on the 1st.

January 2024.

Currently, the BRICS play important economic and political roles

as its global influence increases due to its rapid growth and development in recent years

decades. The question arises: What values and objectives do the BRICS promote? These countries

They promote economic and political cooperation among their members, as well as development

sustainable development and the strengthening of multilateral trading systems. Furthermore, they seek

to promote equality and social justice globally, as well as to strengthen bilateral relations and

regional initiatives in various fields, such as science, technology, energy, agriculture, and

education and culture.

So, the question arises: What are the requirements for a country to be considered

as part of the BRICS? Interested countries submit membership applications, which are

evaluated by the bloc. Generally speaking, certain criteria must be met.

economic and demographic factors. First, the country must have a large and...

Accelerated growth, with a high level of economic development. According to World Bank data

(WB), Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa, not including new members, will contribute

with approximately 45% of global growth until 2028, surpassing the G-7.

2.3. The role of the BRICS in international trade

The financial progress of the BRICS has transformed trade routes and Investment models. These countries have attracted considerable flows of foreign capital. in a wide range of sectors, from production to technology and services. According to UNCTAD, in 2019, four of the BRICS (excluding South Africa) were among the top ten destinations for foreign direct investment.

Furthermore, the economic growth of these countries has driven development in unprecedented infrastructure. For example, China has led global initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, which has created extensive transport networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa. In contrast, China and India have taken paths different. China has managed to become the world's leading production center thanks to export-focused strategies and a large labor supply work, thus accumulating large monetary reserves and leading in several sectors manufacturing. On the other hand, India, with its extensive human capital and an economy Based on knowledge, it has emerged as a global epicenter of services, especially in the field of information technology.

Since the beginning of the 2000s, the BRICS countries have experienced a remarkable economic growth, frequently surpassing other economies traditionally predominant. During the period between 2001 and 2012, while the G7 economies (United States, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy) showed an average increase of 1.5%, the BRICS countries exhibited a an increase of 7.6%. This trend led several analysts to predict that by 2050,

These emerging nations could surpass the seven largest economies in economic size large in the world in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

2.4. Challenges faced by the BRICS in international trade

Challenges to face: Despite marked economic growth, the BRICS countries They find themselves confronting significant internal socioeconomic inequalities. For example, in In nations like India and Brazil, there is a marked disparity between developed urban areas and impoverished rural areas, which could generate social tensions and a demand for redistribution of wealth.

The dependence on raw material exports, especially evident in Russia And Brazil, makes them susceptible to fluctuations in international prices. A notable example was the significant impact that the fall in oil prices had on the Russian economy in 2014.

Trade tensions, particularly between China and the United States due to the growing Chinese influence at a global level can affect global economic stability and threaten the established business relationships.

Furthermore, the BRICS countries are among the largest emitters of greenhouse gases. greenhouse, which poses the challenge of climate change and the need to transition towards more environmentally friendly economic models.

Opportunities to be seized: these countries have the opportunity to strengthen their economic integration, fostering internal trade among BRICS members and promoting mutual investment. The establishment of the New Development Bank by The BRICS in 2014 exemplifies this regional financial cooperation.

Countries like China and India are making large investments in innovation and Technology. The shift towards knowledge-based economies could drive growth sustained and reduce dependence on traditional exports.

Furthermore, the BRICS have the potential to lead development initiatives sustainable, especially in areas such as renewable energy and clean technologies. This would not only help combat climate change, but could also open up new markets and generate employment.

Diversification of revenue streams and expansion into new sectors Economic factors could help these countries mitigate the effects of fluctuations global economics.

2.5. Comparative analysis of the BRICS with other economic blocs and world powers.

The BRICS are known for their rapid economic growth in the recent decades. China and India, in particular, have experienced rates of impressive growth, which has contributed significantly to GDP globally. Comparatively, the European Union (EU) stands out for its size of A consolidated domestic market and its economic stability. Its integration. economics, the euro as a common currency and its focus on welfare policies Social differences are distinctive. The BRICS have very diverse economies. While China Brazil is a manufacturing giant, and Brazil and Russia are rich in natural resources. This Diversity implies complementarity in trade between them. In contrast, The United States has a highly diversified economy with a focus significant in technology, financial services and innovation.

China and Russia have been seeking to reduce their dependence on the dollar. American in international trade. They have been strengthening their currencies and establishing bilateral agreements for trade in their own currencies.

On the other hand, the US Federal Reserve and the US dollar continue being fundamental pillars in the world economy.

The BRICS face internal and external challenges, such as economic inequality, corruption and, in some cases, geopolitical tensions.

World powers such as the United States and the European Union have sought establish trade alliances such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Agreement Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), to increase its influence economic.

The BRICS have been investing heavily in infrastructure, not only at the national level national but also through regional agreements such as the Development Bank of the BRICS.

The EU, for its part, has been focused on sustainable development policies and transition to renewable energies, with emphasis on intra-European cooperation to achieve These objectives.

2.6 An international order marked by the Russian-Ukrainian War

Since the outbreak of the armed conflict in Ukraine in 2022, it has observed a notable complexity in international spheres, evidenced by a Strengthening of certain ideological divisions according to Stent (2022). In this sense, it has accentuated the gap between "democratic governments versus autocratic governments", as perceived by the Biden administration in the United States, or between "the West versus "Russia," according to the Putin government's perspective. Ultimately, marked differences persist. traces of the Cold War mentality, both in the language used and in the current dynamics. In the context of the actions undertaken by the two powers Historically, a conflict has emerged in relation to the BRICS, which has highlighted the disagreements between Bolsonaro and the other members of the group. Specifically, during The Security Council votes of February 25, 2022, the Brazilian government It positioned itself as the only member of the BRICS that did not opt for abstention, condemning Russian aggression and creating additional distance from the bloc (UN News, 2022).

Despite the abstentions carried out by other countries belonging to the BRICS, it is relevant to mention that most experts agree that China, India, and South Africa have maintained a stance of "biased neutrality" (Vidal Liy, 2022; Werner Wildner, 2022) with a certain implicit bias towards the Russian side. In In particular, US authorities have directly labeled China's stance. as a "pro-Russian neutrality" (U.S. State Department, 2022). It is It is also important to note that, unlike the United States and European nations, None of these states imposed economic sanctions on Putin's government. From one

From an energy perspective, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has strengthened the ties between the Asian members of the BRICS. In response to the sanctions imposed by the United States and In Europe, Russia has increased its oil exports to China, which has strengthened its economic dependence of this country. However, this apparent strengthening of the relationship This could generate distrust in Russia, since a break with the West would be more damaging for The Chinese economy is facing a break with Moscow, considering the transactions with Russia They represent a small percentage in global terms (Bulard, 2022). It is important to remember that Putin had long resisted the intensification of energy ties with China, but events such as the Crimean crisis in 2014 and the invasion of Ukraine in 2022 have deteriorated relations with the West and increased Russia's dependence on its neighbor larger Dussort, (2022).

In contrast, India has maintained its strategic autonomy in foreign policy, basing its actions on its national interests. At the beginning of the conflict, India increased its imports of Russian oil taking advantage of the discounts offered by Moscow. Despite the Critics of the US government, Modi's representatives argued that a country in development highly dependent on foreign oil "cannot afford to reject such "opportunity" (CNN News, 2022). One year after the start of the conflict, the government of Narendra Modi It continues to fail to condemn Russia's actions despite pressure from the West. As an example India abstained from this position in the new resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. United Nations resolutions of 23 February 2023 demanding Russia's immediate withdrawal from Ukraine. Furthermore, in the speech of the Indian president at the G20 meetings (where India is acting as host), He avoided making any reference to the war (Pandey and Fraser, 2023).

In relation to the Western members of the bloc, they are experiencing the systemic repercussions of the armed conflict. The leaders of Brazil and South Africa have denounced the increased energy and food costs.

In this new context of war, both sides want or need to expand their network of partners. Therefore, the main reasons for the expansion of BRICS can be attribute to three fundamental points: firstly, the intensification of the confrontation East-West; secondly, the urgent need to deepen cooperation towards a BRICS+; and, thirdly, the demands coming from the countries called "nodes". As emerging economies and regional powers, the BRICS have a strong incentive to absorb other node countries, that is, those strategic ones in certain regions of South countries that are benchmarks in regional organizations or in integration processes (Peng, 2022).

It is important to note that the proposal to expand the block was presented by China in 2022, during the 14th BRICS Summit held in Beijing. Although the idea The possibility of a BRICS+ project not being uniform for the entire group has sparked... interest of fifteen countries from various regions of the world Devonshire and Ellis, (2022).

2.7. The BRICS ties with LAC

Since the beginning of the century, the political situation in Latin America has been examined. considering the sequence of different "waves of government" based on certain affinities ideological. In the early 2000s, left-leaning governments They were in power in eleven of the twelve South American countries, excluding Colombia. In this scenario, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) emerged as the

main collective initiative. This entity represented an adaptable and contradictory project that It encompassed diverse discourses, but its consolidation lay mainly in its opposition to the predominant influence of the United States, Riggirozzi, (2012).

On the other hand, starting in 2015, an electoral cycle characterized by defeat began. of the ruling party in most countries of the region, with the rise of new forces right-leaning policies.

This period marked the decline of UNASUR and the disinterest of the new administrations. towards the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Despite this, it He tried to counteract this situation by creating new initiatives or structures.

The formation of the Forum for the Progress of South America (PROSUR) in 2019, to instances of the governments of Chile and Colombia, were limited in their action, showing a predisposition only towards aligned governments and without managing to consolidate itself as an actor relevant to regional dynamics. On the other hand, Mercosur has faced significant challenges, particularly stemming from the growing economic separation, especially between its two Main members: Brazil and Argentina Frenkel, (2022). This distancing has implied a progressive decline in the importance of industrial sectors in favor of a greater influence of sectors related to agricultural exports, directed towards actors outside of the region, predominantly China.

It is evident that, throughout the years 2019 to 2024, there were changes in political orientation from several countries in the region: Argentina in 2019, Bolivia in 2020, Peru and Chile in 2021, and Brazil in 2024, returning to governments associated with the progressive movement, which has added This adds complexity to the regional landscape. The question arises as to what characteristics these will adopt.

new center-left governments, considering a systemic context
considerably different from that experienced by the first progressive governments
beginning of the century.

In this regional context, it is relevant to understand the relationships of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) with the BRICS countries. It should be noted that there is no framework formal approach between this region and the quintet. Only the
BRICS meeting, making clear the absence of an official space for dialogue between the two entities.

During the VI Summit of the bloc held in Brasilia in 2014, the following occurred
the creation of UNASUR. However, historically, relations between China and the
Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have mostly engaged in bilateral negotiations. Throughout
Over the past two decades, China has experienced three distinct phases in its relationship with
These countries. The first stage, from the 1990s to 2007, was characterized by
some Chinese diplomatic gestures, but mainly due to substantial growth in
trade. The second phase, between 2008 and 2013, began with the publication
of the first White Paper on the region. During this period, China strengthened
internationally in the face of the 2008 financial crisis and expanded its presence in Latin America and the Caribbean
through increased investment, especially in strategic sectors such as oil and
Mining, in addition to financial agreements such as swaps (Escudé, 2014). The third and most
The recent phase, from 2013 to the present, coincides with Xi Jinping's rise to power
and is characterized by three fundamental events in Chinese foreign policy towards LAC: the
presentation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, the official invitation of

Xi Jinping urged Latin American and Caribbean countries to join the Belt and Road Initiative in 2015, establishing the CELAC-China Forum in 2014 and the publication of the second White Paper in 2016 (Oviedo, 2018; Vadell, 2018). Since By 2015, China had risen to become South America's main trading partner, and as of In 2019, it became the second most significant partner of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), After the United States, ECLAC (2019). Trade between China and LAC in 2021 It increased by 41.1% compared to 2020, reaching an unprecedented record in volume of transactions. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic and the global crisis in the supply chains, this exponential growth in trade relations between China and the region was not stopped Hurtado, (2022).

In contrast, India's interest in Latin America and the Caribbean has been more recent. Since the arrival of With Manmohan Singh coming to power in the 2000s, a promotion of relations with began Latin America as part of a broader objective, which persists to this day, of increasing the India's global presence. Despite having doubled the number of Indian embassies in countries Since then, Latin Americans have focused their greatest efforts on the commercial sector. However, India has maintained its trade focus on a few partners, including Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela (Department of Commerce, Government of India). Although it seems that India is not willing to cede ground to China in the region Lechini and Dussort, (2020), have complemented or replaced Beijing in the acquisition of materials premiums. Despite having a comparatively smaller financial structure, the synergy The established relationship between the public and private sectors in India has allowed for the exploitation of opportunities in some countries.

2.8. Summary

The BRICS, made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, represent a group of growing economies that have experienced rapid development economic and a significant increase in its global influence in recent decades. Collectively, these countries comprise approximately 40% of the world's population and They contribute approximately 25% of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The emergence of the BRICS presents both challenges and opportunities in the in the field of international trade. On the one hand, due to the size of their domestic markets and the growth of its middle class, offer considerable opportunities for others economies export their goods and services. In addition, their industrial sectors are becoming more complex, which allows them to make a greater contribution to value chains worldwide.

However, the rise of the BRICS may also alter the patterns pre-existing trade agreements. Given their large economic size, these countries tend to to trade more with each other, displacing some of the trade relations with their partners traditional. Likewise, as their industries become more sophisticated, it is They are likely to compete directly with exporters from developed nations in high value added areas.

Therefore, although the emergence of the BRICS presents new opportunities Trade also requires adjustments from many countries. Managing these changes It will require flexible multilateral frameworks and greater openness to markets. emerging trends and efforts aimed at strengthening competitiveness and industrial complexity in advanced economies.

CHAPTER 3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Justification of the Method

This work aims to examine comprehensively, from a qualitative approach and through a bibliographic analysis, the predominant challenges and potential opportunities that the BRICS face in the field of international trade. The choice of methodology Qualitative research is justified by its suitability for a deep understanding of a phenomenon contemporary and complex like this. Through the critical review of academic literature, Specialized publications, reports from international entities and other secondary sources, are It aims to identify the fundamental elements, emerging trends, and the various perspectives and interpretations regarding the global projection of these countries. Furthermore, The choice of this methodological approach is based on qualitative studies, which They stand out for their explanatory attributes and their ability to thoroughly explore the phenomenon in question. These studies facilitate the elucidation of findings derived from research quantitative, enabling the understanding and explanation of different theoretical frameworks, such as Binda, Balbastre and Benavent (2013) point out.

The analysis will focus on aspects such as the potential and obstacles in promotion of greater economic integration within the BRICS bloc, its trade and trade strategies Investments directed towards external markets, the possible effects on the trading system multilateral, as well as specific challenges in highly dynamic sectors such as resources natural resources and emerging technologies. The relevance of this topic lies in the urgent need to fully understand the geoeconomic and geopolitical implications arising from The rise of new emerging powers such as the BRICS. The development trajectories of these

future. This qualitative approach, based on an interdisciplinary perspective, seeks to provide a clearer understanding of this important contemporary phenomenon in the field of international economic relations.

3.2 Research Design

To address the questions of a research project, an approach is used of This analysis is based on the study of multiple cases. This strategy is known as case study. Multiple case study is a qualitative research technique that focuses on analyzing the object of study in its real context, taking advantage of various sources of evidence, both quantitative as well as qualitative and bibliographic, simultaneously (Villarreal and Landeta, 2010).

The case study offers an opportunity to thoroughly explore the reality or environment that surrounds a person, organization, or institution (Muñiz, 2010). In In the field of international business, this methodology has gained ground and recognition, becoming one of the accepted methodologies (Binda and Balbastre-Benavent, 2013; Chávez, 2012; Monge, 2010; Villarreal and Landeta, 2010). According to several According to experts in the field, this technique contributes significantly to the advancement in the Understanding complex phenomena, Monge, Villarreal and Landeta, (2010).

It is important to highlight that the case study has been identified as a method valuable for researching international issues (Marina, 2013). Furthermore, the Applying this strategy allows capturing specific individual experiences and offers the possibility of describing the effectiveness of the internationalization structure of the target site of research (Marina, 2013).

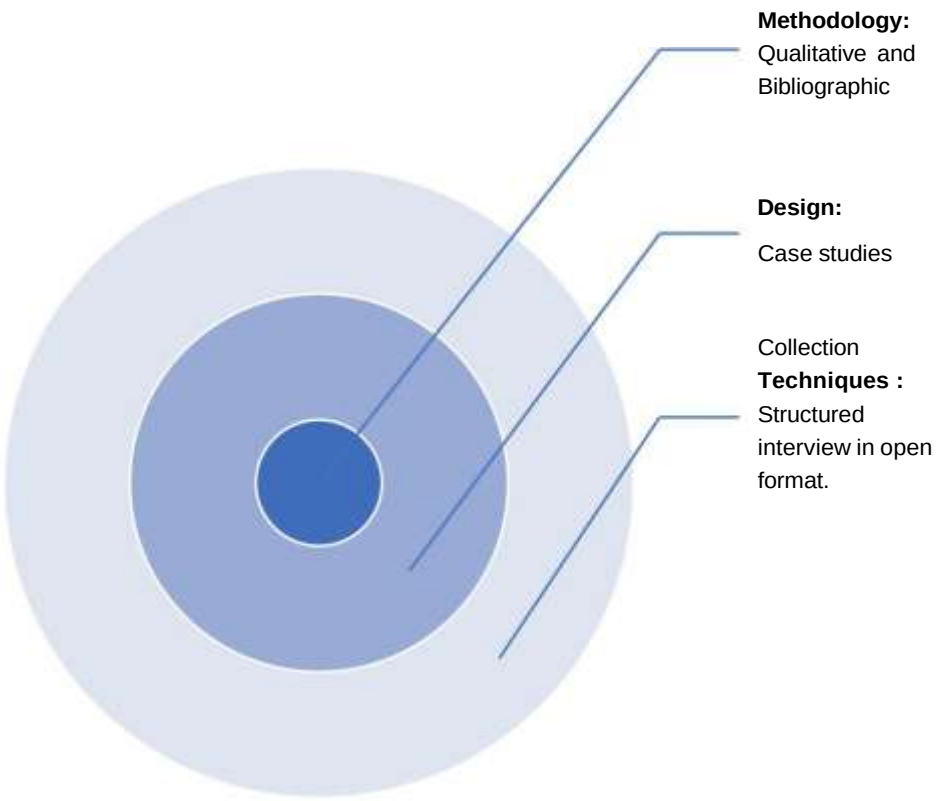


Fig. 3.1. Research Design. Source: Author's own elaboration.

3.3 Interview Questions

The evaluation of data obtained in an interview involves the application of diverse methodological strategies. According to Gerson (2020), this Practice involves immersion in methodological discoveries, making emphasis on the development of concepts, consideration of absences of relationships and the identification of contradictory findings. It also involves the application of the basic principles of investigative logic, which strengthens the reliability of the discoveries and increases their credibility, at the same time which fosters the potential to advance in the theoretical field of research (p. 143).

Consequently, the questions raised in this study aim to The objective is to contribute to the collection of information and its subsequent analysis. The questions are designed to obtain accurate and direct data through the use of an open format, thus allowing the participation of the actors key to the object of study of the research. Specifically, these questions They are formulated with the purpose of:

1. How do you assess the influence of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in the current dynamics of international trade, considering its respective regional trade policies and agreements?

1. What do you consider to be the main challenges facing BRICS member countries in terms of economic integration and global trade cooperation? How could these challenges be addressed? strengthen its position in international trade?

2. In your opinion, what are the key opportunities that the BRICS can

take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen their trade ties both among themselves and with other regions

of the world? Are there specific areas of cooperation that could be explored further?

measure to boost its presence in the global market?

3. How do you think the COVID-19 pandemic has affected strategies

Trade and economic integration among the BRICS countries? Have any changes been observed?

significant in their trade patterns and economic policies as a result of

pandemic?

4. What is your vision on the future role of the BRICS in the global landscape?

international trade? What measures or initiatives could be implemented to improve it?

What is the influence and participation of these countries in the global trade arena?

3.4. Population and Sample

The research consists of a universe of 110 people divided into 28

academic, 56 entrepreneurs and 26 economics students from the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences “Se

The universe is defined as the totality or set of elements (people, animals, numbers, etc.)

likely to have one or more well-defined common characteristics,

“A sample is any subset of the universe” Diaz (2006).

“The population: the totality or set of all subjects or elements that have certain

similar characteristics to those referred to in the research” Bernal (2015). The population of

The study group consists of 88 people: 72 students, 13 teachers, and 3 technicians from the University.

National University (UNEV), Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic

"Sample: part of the population that is selected, from which a sample is actually obtained the information for the development of the study and on which the measurement is carried out and the observation of the variables under study" Bernal (2015).

3.5. Research Techniques

The data collection techniques used in this research are: non-participant observation, interviews, and data analysis.

3.6 Data Collection Procedure

For the collection of information, the central website of the BRICS where the data obtained, both qualitative and bibliographic, were collected, In an environment conducive to evaluation, these were divided into sections, and They explained the procedures and instruments according to the protocols of each One. For the questions to the businesspeople and academics, a technique was used of collective application, fostering the appropriate spaces and rapport for it. Data was collected from professionals through a semi-structured interview. business science research unit.

3.7 Data Analysis Procedure

After the instruments were applied, the data were organized and tabulated.
results in tables and graphs, performing the analysis of the data with the collection of
Information extracted from the tabulation in the order of the specific objectives.

3.8 Confidentiality and Ethical Considerations

Principles of confidentiality, ethics, and morality are observed to meet the highest standards.
standards of formality, seriousness, and quality of the study. According to De Souza (2010), “the
The researcher must establish principles of respect, ethics, and morality in accordance with the best
practices observed and suggested in previous studies” (p. 187). However, Noreña et al (2012),
They assert that values such as ethics, integrity, and respect must be established.
considerations that will be taken into account regarding privacy

3.9. Summary

This chapter presents the research methodology used to
To carry out this research, starting from the research objective, the presentation of
The research questions, the formulation of possible research hypotheses. Furthermore,
It presents the case study design through the qualitative research approach, as well as the
non-probability sampling method for data collection, also the relationship of the
variables and the number of questions to be asked of the target population, ending with the
resources needed for the correct processing of the data collected to answer
the investigation.

CHAPTER IV: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

4.1 Presentation and analysis of results

Table 1. The BRICS: Share (%) of World GDP

1990s-2006		2008	2012	2016	2023
Brazil	2.16 2.19	2.76	3.01	3.27	3.27
China	1.63 5.44	8.89	12.55	14.84	22.06
Russia	2.36 23	2.95	2.59	3.09	2.22
India	1.45 1.87	2.64	3.03	3.28	3.72
South Africa	0.51 0.53	0.53	0.48	0.48	0.46

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators

There has been a significant change in the participation of these countries in international trade. Naturally, we do not have data available for the Russian Federation in 1990. Excluding that country, the contribution of the other four countries Global trade increased from 3.9% in 1990 to 10.6% in 2006 and from 2006 to 2023 to 24.8%.

When we consider Russia, the total contribution of the BRICS to trade The global rate in 2006 was 13.1%, as shown in Table 2. This equates approximately the same proportion as they have in world production, although with notable differences. It should be noted that, with the exception of South Africa, all other countries BRICS countries increased their share of world trade during that period. The country that The country that experienced the most dramatic change was China, whose share multiplied by

four, which means an even more pronounced increase than its weight in world production.

Table 2 - BRICS: Share (%) in World Trade		
	1990	2023
Brazil	0.9	1.3
China	1.8	14.0
India	0.5	2.7
Russia	----	23
South Africa	0.7	0.9

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators

During the period analyzed, a notable increase in openness to trade has been observed. international relations of the economies of these five countries. In all of them, the proportion of Imports as a percentage of gross domestic product in 2006 were considerably higher than in 1990. It is evident that Brazil remains the most closed economy in this group of nations, since imports represent less than 10% of its total product. Furthermore, the comparison With other countries it has expanded, since in 1990 Brazil's economic openness was one-third lower than that of India and Russia, but in 2006 this figure was less than half of that observed in those two countries, and much lower than in China and South Africa. Furthermore, from 2006 to 2023 The BRICS' participation in world trade increased considerably; this This was due to China's rapid growth and India's penetration into the scale of world trade.

Table 3 - Import Penetration Rate (% of GDP)		
Countries	1990	2023
Brazil	4.9	12.3
China	15.3	42.3
India	6.6	22.3
Russia	6.6	25.3
South Africa	----	27.8

Source: UN/COMTRADE Database

However, the discussion about the BRICS is not limited to those data, which are quite significant on their own. Interest in these economies is also related closely linked to its long-term possibilities. To assess these future prospects, It is important to understand how these economies participate in the global market, especially the potential that can arise from relations between these countries. Table 4 presents information on bilateral trade exchanges.

Furthermore, this aspect was measured with two variables: Power Parity Purchasing power (which allows comparing the production of goods and services in relation to the gross domestic product per capita) and the level of spending by individuals. According to the value The scores obtained by each country on this indicator can be ordered from lowest to highest. as follows: China with an average of 42.3, Russia with 25.03, India with 22.3, Brazil with 12.3 and South Africa with 27.8. China shows no progress in this indicator, because its Consumer capacity is low. China scored very low in the analysis due to

the poverty that the country suffered, which it could not overcome with its high increases in its GDP (Salama, 2013, p. 5).

Furthermore, there were years in which this indicator increased, mainly due to the international expansion of many companies, as well as the sale of various products to abroad. Russia showed a fairly stable trend, highlighting the low variability in this This indicator showed a moderate increase compared to China. It is important to note It can be observed that, starting in 2023, a notable improvement in market intensity is achieved, thanks to the measures implemented since 2000, when the policy plan was approved Vladimir Putin's economic policies, which sought to resolve the country's main problems, among They, the quality of life of citizens, social inequality and economic disintegration. These measures were implemented to ensure a basic income for the population, to stimulate the national economy (Sánchez, 2000). On the other hand, India is characterized as a country with a a large number of people living in poverty, where informal employment predominates, with over 86%, this is due to the insufficiency and lack of employment in the manufacturing sector and industrial, where staff innovation is not promoted Salama, (2013, p. 6-7), reason why growth in this indicator did not increase significantly over time. Finally, Brazil and South Africa, unlike Russia, India, and China, showed progress in this regard. market intensity; mainly due to its initiatives on issues of inequality, according to the distribution of its income over the years. Over time, Brazil has sought mechanisms for the To reduce this problem, the main focus is on “the organic law of social assistance, the "the increase in the minimum wage and the Bolsa Familia program," which were implemented during the presidential terms of Lula and da Silva.

Table 4 - Relative Importance of Trade between the BRICS - Bilateral Flows as percentage of Total Exports and Imports

Exports % of other BRICS in Exports Totals of:	**Average 1996-2000 Country of destination**					**Average 2001-2023 Country of destination**				
	Brazil	**Russia**	**India**	**China**	**South Africa**	**Brazil**	**Russia**	**India**	**China**	**South Africa**
Brazil	--	1.2	0.4	1.9	nd	--	2.2	2.0	7.3	1.6
Russia	0.2	--	1.0	4.7	nd	1.2	--	1.8	6.7	0.3
India	0.4	2.4	--	1.8	nd	1.2	1.7	--	6.0	1.4
China	0.5	1.0	0.5	--	nd	0.6	2.9	1.7	--	1.2
South Africa	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	0.9	0.7	3.0	---

Imports % of other BRICS in total imports of:	**Country of destination**					**Country of destination**				
	Brazil	**Russia**	**India**	**China**	**South Africa**	**Brazil**	**Russia**	**India**	**China**	**South Africa**
Brazil	--	0.7	0.4	2.0	nd	--	2.1	1.8	9.8	0.9
Russia	1.2	--	1.5	2.4	nd	3.6	--	1.9	7.3	0.9
India	0.5	1.4	--	2.7	nd	1.6	2.1	--	7.0	1.6
China	0.8	2.8	0.6	--	nd	2.7	3.2	2.1	--	1.5
South Africa	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	2.9	1.2	2.4	8.1	--

Source: UN/COMTRADE Database

Upon careful analysis of the data presented in Table 4, the following stands out:

There was a notable lack of significance in bilateral trade between the BRICS countries until 2006. During that period, the BRICS were not positioned as the main destination for exports, nor as the main source of imports among them.

In the second half of the 1990s, with the exception of Russian exports to China and From India to Russia, bilateral exports barely reached an average of 2% in relation with the total exports of these countries. As for imports, a A similar trend is observed, as only imports of Chinese products by Brazil, Russia, and India, and Chinese imports from Russia, accounted on average for more than 2%. of the total imported.

In the first half of the last decade, there was a significant increase in the importance of trade between these countries in most bilateral flows, compared with the previous period. The few exceptions to this trend were observed in trade between Russia and India in both directions, as well as in China's imports of Russian products.

In addition to this general increase in the importance of trade among the BRICS in In these two periods, what stands out most in Table 4 is the marked presence of China. China stands out both as a market for the products of the other four countries and, of In a much more pronounced way, as a source of products imported by these countries. It is It is important to note that, in the last period, the percentages relating to imports of Products from China are significantly higher than the indicators that show the importance of China as a destination for these countries' exports. In short, although the Intra-BRICS trade has experienced a significant increase in recent years, these transactions are still limited in size and show imbalances in the relative rates of

different bilateral flows. On the other hand, we see how in the period of the years 2001-

In 2023, imports grew considerably among the members of the bloc because

Domestic consumption between the two nations increased by 45% compared to the period 1990-

2001.

Next, we will proceed to identify the key characteristics of the flows

trade between these five countries and a series of indicators will be calculated that will help

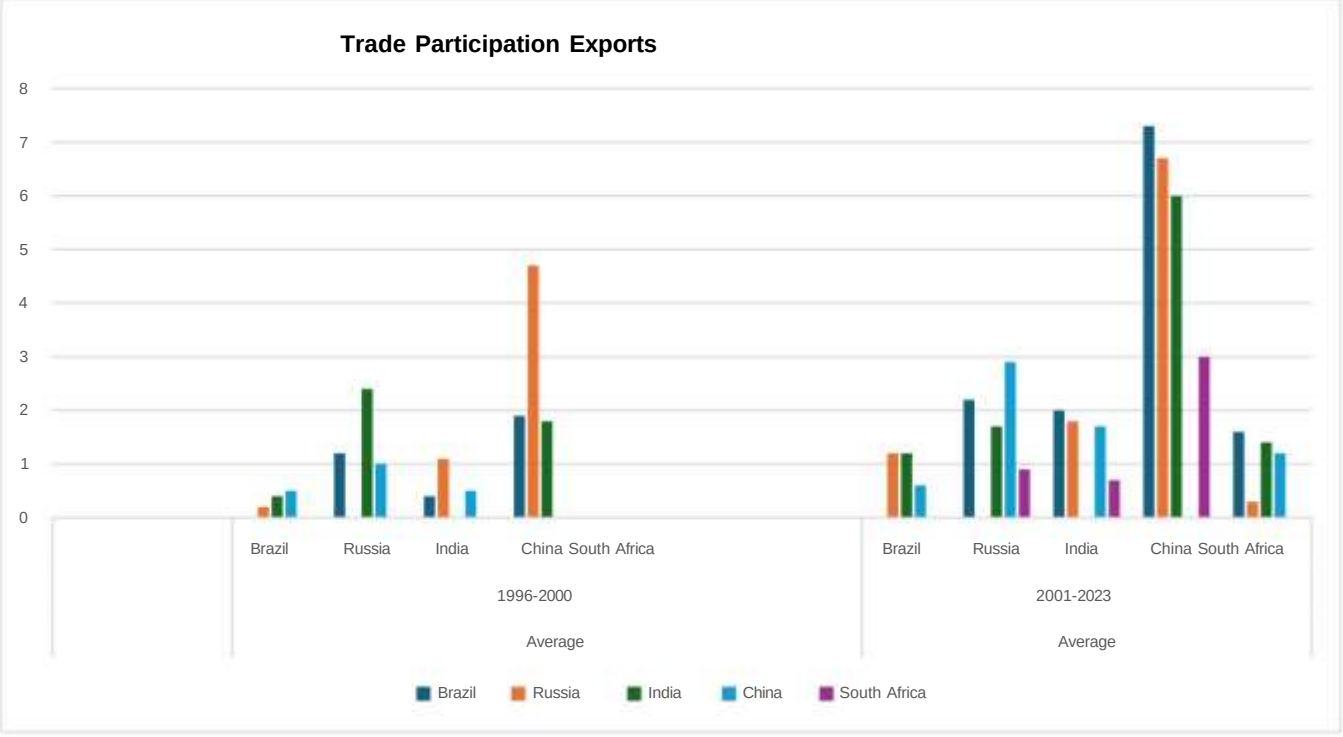
to characterize these trade relationships.

yo. The products marketed

The two graphs below show the evolution, over time, of the flows

bilateral trade agreements.

GRAPH 1



Source: Own elaboration

Chart 1 shows the relative weight of each trade flow as follows:

percentage of total exports from each exporting country. In the period 1996-2000, China

It has the largest and highest participation of the five BRICS countries, with an increase in its

Exports between 6 and 7%, while India and Russia show participation levels

Similar figures, both below 2%. Therefore, Brazil and South Africa have the lowest

Participation is shown with very low bars that do not appear to exceed 1%. However, for the period

From 2001 to 2023, China shows significant growth in its share with a bar that

growth exceeding 7% indicates a marked increase compared to the period

above. Consequently, India also shows growth, with a share that

It appears to be around 3%, while Russia shows slight growth compared to

The previous period saw slight growth above 2%. Therefore, Brazil has a

modest growth in the range of 2% while South Africa shows minimal growth or

null. General Observations: There is evidence of a general increase in the commercial participation of

Exports from all countries in the second period compared to the first. China stands out.

as the country with the most outstanding participation in both periods and exhibits the most growth

significant. Brazil, Russia, and India are also experiencing growth, although on a much smaller scale.

lower compared to China. South Africa has the lowest growth among the five.

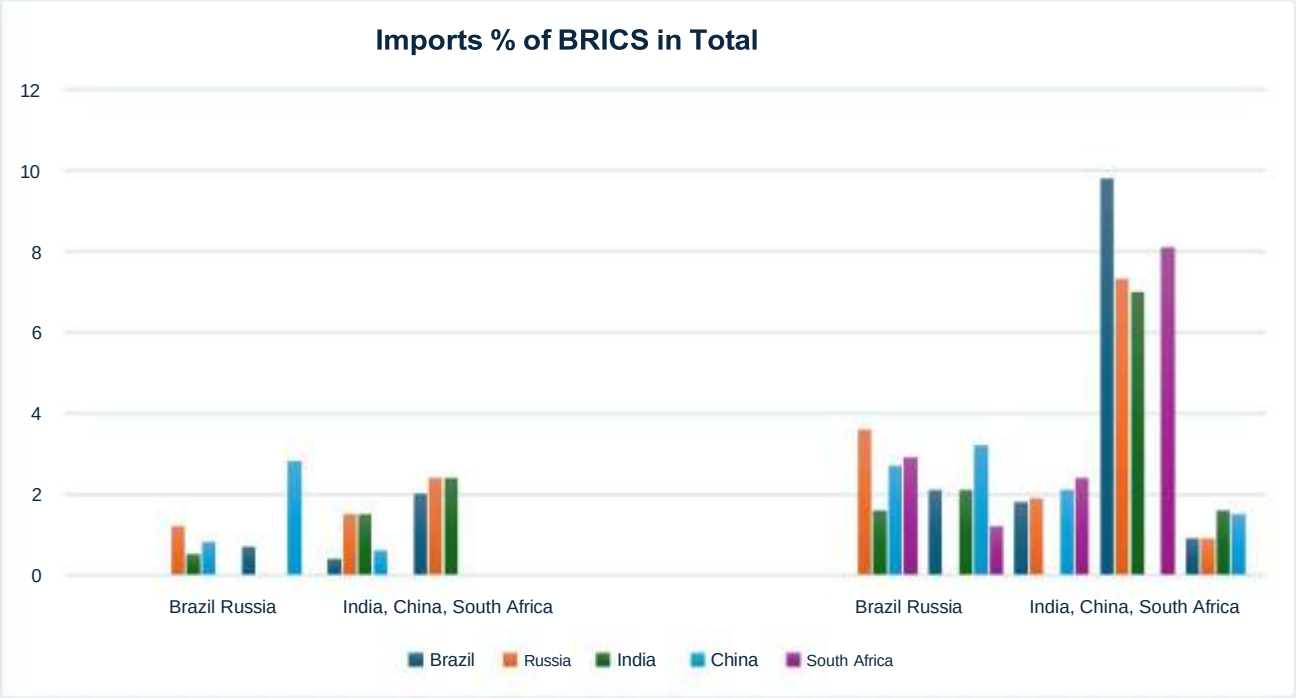
countries.

Implications: The chart indicates that China has considerably increased its

Influence on world export trade between the two periods. The other countries

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa) have improved their position, although not at the same pace as China.

GRAPH II



Source: Own elaboration

The provided chart II resembles a bar chart illustrating the

imports as a proportion of total imports in the BRICS group countries

(Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). The horizontal axis shows the countries of

The BRICS group is represented on the vertical axis, while the percentage of imports is shown on the vertical axis.

The bars are color-coded to represent each of the five countries.

of the BRICS group. This means that, for each nation on the horizontal axis, five appear.

bars indicating the percentage of their imports from other countries of

group. To carry out a deeper analysis, I will describe what I can infer from the

Chart: 1. Brazil: This country shows a low percentage of imports coming from

The other BRICS countries, with all bars below 2%. It is interesting to observe

Brazil imports more from China than from any other BRICS country, followed by India,

Russia and South Africa. 2. Russia: Like Brazil, Russia also registers a low percentage of

Imports from the other BRICS countries, with all bars below 3%. Imports

The most significant import appears to be from China, with a value close to 3%. 3. India: Imports

Imports from India and other BRICS countries appear to be more balanced, with imports from India and other BRICS countries appearing to be more balanced.

Imports from China slightly exceeded 3%, followed closely by imports from Russia,

Brazil and South Africa. 4. China: Imports in China are notably higher since

Brazil and South Africa compared to Russia and India. The bars corresponding to Brazil and

South Africa is approaching 10% and 12%, respectively. 5. South Africa: Shows a pattern of

Imports are similar to those of Brazil and Russia, with higher imports from China than from the rest of the world.

Other BRICS countries, although all the bars are below 3%. In summary, according to this

The chart shows that China appears to be the main exporter to the other BRICS countries, especially

Imports to Brazil and South Africa are relatively low. Imports between the other BRICS countries are relatively low.

This type of chart is useful for a quick comparison of trade relationships between

a group of countries and can indicate the economic interdependence between them. For an analysis

To be more precise, it would be ideal to have the exact numerical data, which would provide context.

additional, such as import values in absolute terms or trends throughout the

time. It would also be beneficial to understand the source of the data and the context in which it was obtained.

They compiled, including the year or years represented and any external factors that might influence

in these figures.

Table 5 - The main products traded by the BRICS

Exports From/To	2000 No products Pesos	Main Products	2023 No. Products Pesos	Main Products
Brazil-China	3 prod-56%	Soybeans, Iron	2 products - 63.4% soy, iron	
Brazil-China	1 prod-68.4%	Sugar	2 products - 73.2% sugar	
Brazil-China	5 products - 52.9% soy, vehicle, iron		4 products - 66.1% oil, copper, soybeans 11 products	
Brazil-South Africa	15prod-53.4% vehicles, parts, iron		- 70.7% vehicle parts, chicken and tobacco	
China-Brazil	29 products - 54.7% units, coal, toys		31 products -63.7% electronics, carbon	
China-Russia	8 products - 53.7% clothing, footwear		33 products - 71.7% clothing, footwear	
China-India	21 products - 54.6% charcoal, silk, antibiotics		38 products - 66.7% TV, radio, antibiotics	
China-South Africa	31 products - 54.3% Footwear, porcelain, clothing		38 products - 69.5% Footwear, clothing,	
India-Brazil	14 products - 54.1% chemicals, organic, med,		electric	
India-China	insect			
India-Russia	11 products - 54.5% iron, fish, cotton		14 prod - 59.7% Medi, textiles, chemical,	
India-South Africa	6 products - 53.4% tea, medicines, clothing		organic	
	29 products - 54.7% clothing, rice, medicines		3 products - 63.5% iron, cotton, copper	
Russia-Brazil	2 prod-66.4%	fertilizers, minerals,	7 products - 60.7% medicines, tea, coffee	
Russia-China	chemicals		13 products - 70.4% vehicles, boats, rice	

Russia-India	7 products - 53.6% aluminum, ships, weapons,	
Russia-South Africa	chemical	2 products - 71.3% fertilizers, chemicals,
	6 products - 53.0% warships, fertilizers	mineral
South Africa-Brazil	2 prod-64.0% steel products	2 products - 65.1% Petroleum, wood products
South Africa-China	7 products - 53.2% carbon, herbicides, nickel	11 prod -64.7% wheat, tractors, steel
South Africa - India	3 products - 50.8% iron - mining and products	3 products - 60.3% petroleum, machinery,
South Africa-Russia	3 products - 57.2% inorganic acids, carbon	printed materials
	3 prod-61.2% mining, machinery, equipment	
		8 products - 61.7% iron, carbon, aluminum
		4 products - 59.3% iron and oil
		5 products - 57.8% inorganic acids, carbon
		3 products - 60.1% fruits, inorganic bases,
		iron

Source: UN/COMTRADE database

Table 5 highlights, firstly, the concentration of exports from Brazil and Russia and South Africa towards the other countries in the group, where fewer than 10 products represent more than 65% of the exported value in each case, except in bilateral trade between Brazil and South Africa, and in Russian exports to India in 2023. On the other hand, it is observed that Chinese exports are significantly more diversified than those of other countries, and that this diversification has increased considerably during the period analyzed.

The third point of interest identified in said Table is to highlight that the China's exports to the other BRICS countries are characterized mainly by manufactured products, with a variation in the list of main products between the two years considered, which reflects an unprecedented level of dynamism in this set of nations. On the other hand, in the other BRICS countries there is a trend towards concentration on products that depend on natural resources. This is especially true This is particularly noticeable in the case of Russia, where signs of a 'primarization' in the pattern are observed. of exports, with a relative increase in products that require natural resources, in largely due to oil market conditions.

It is important to note that these results refer to the main products traded. A more comprehensive analysis, encompassing the entire structure of trade bilateral, will then be carried out using a set of descriptive indicators of trade between these countries.

II. Some Indicators of Bilateral Trade

In the academic literature on international trade, one finds various indicators that assess aspects such as the concentration or diversification of patterns of trade, the correspondence of these patterns with the global structure of trade, the breadth of diversification of trade flows and the relative importance of a flow specific trade compared to a country's total trade with the rest of the world. Estimating these indices provides a characterization of the relationships rade between the five countries analyzed.

1) Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI)

The Herfindahl-Hirschman Index is used to measure the concentration of the regimen. exporter or importer of a given country. According to Hirschman (1964), he has developed the index and used it in his book, *"National Power and the Structure of Foreign Trade";* later Herfindahl reinvented it to measure industrial concentration in a given country, with the aim of for which the HHI is widely used.

According to Resende and Boff (2002), the basic formula for the HHI is:

(1.a) IHH= *ÿi=1nsi2* *n1<ÿÿHHÿÿ<1*

x = share of exports (imports) of product *i* in exports

total (imports) of the country = number of products the fact of being squared each

The proportion implies giving a higher weight to products with export (import) value.

higher. By that formula, the upper limit equal to 1 indicates the extreme case in which the country exports (imports) no more than one product, while the lower limit of *1/n* indicates the other extreme case in which each of the *n* products is exported *x* 1 (imported) in

equal proportions for the country, that is, —*X* = —*n* for all *i.* Thus, — <*IHH* <1. As

The closer to unity, the higher the degree of *concentration* of exports (imports).

One limitation of that indicator is what is called *aggregation bias,* that is, at more recent levels

When the data is disaggregated, the index will tend to show lower values, indicating less

Sectoral concentration of trade flows. To avoid this effect, this index is frequently used.

entity used in a standardized way. The advantage is that this makes inter-

temporal, as well as comparisons between different countries, once the normalized indices

They vary between 0 and 1. This makes it possible to compare the trade structures of countries, even when each one markets different quantities of products, that is, different n. The

The formula for the normalized HHI, used here, is:

4ÎH H - ¯

(1.b) *IHHn* = ---------- pV =*n*^ , 0 < IHHn < 1 .

2) Export/Import Diversification Index (DX)

This index is another indicator used to measure sectoral concentration of advertising spending. a country's exporting and importing capacity. Its logic is somewhat different from the previous indices. once it compares the degree of sectoral concentration of the country's trade flow in

This is a question regarding the sectoral concentration observed in global data. According to Hoekman, English and Matoo (2003), this index is

calculated according to the following formula:

Z *xv - x*\

DX = -*.---------- , 0 < *DX* < 1

i 2 1

xij = proportion of product *i* in the total exports (imports) of

country *j*

x. = proportion of product *i* in total exports (imports)

The closer the IER is to 0, the more it indicates that the global trade pattern country j is more similar to the global trade pattern, while the closer it is

A value of 1, the IER indicates a higher degree of dependence in certain sectors, which

This suggests a concentration in those sectors that is more intense than the global average.

3) Index of Absolute and Relative Entropy in Trade

The Absolute Entropy Index in Trade (AEI), in its most common application, measures the Degree of concentration, in geographical terms, of a country's international trade. How much The greater the number of countries with which a country trades, the more integrated the country will be in trade. international. According to Laasere and Schrader (2002), the IEA was first used in analyses of international trade made by Marwah (1995), based on the reasoning of Theil (1971), to It is based on information theory. It is an index derived from physics, with its name originating of the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics. That index has been used here to evaluate in a Compare trade flows between each pair of BRICS countries. In this way, The IEA reported here measures the degree of concentration in those bilateral flows in terms of the relative weight of each product.

The IEA formulas for import and export are, respectively:

í ÿ> \

(3.a) *IE A* - = V *a,* ln — , 0< *a...* <1, V *a...* \ / *e ij* ***a*** ' *V ij* = 1, 0< *IEA m.* i<+ *V lJ*

a, =proportion of imports from country *i* originating in country *j.*

í 1} (3.b) *IEA.i* = V *b,j* ln — , 0 < *b,* <1 , V *b = 1* , 0< *IIE i,* <+ÿ»

V *lJ*

b, =proportion of exports from country *i* destined for country *j.*

The IEA will be higher when all the *a's* (or *b's)* are equal, indicating a situation in that international trade is equally distributed among the *j* products traded between the Two countries considered. The higher the IEA, the lower the concentration in trade. international (trade, is more dispersed). Conversely, the more different the *a,* (or

b,), that is, if we have a situation with some *a,* (b,) small and others very large,

The IEA will be low, which would indicate a situation of greater concentration (less dispersion)

of the commercial pattern.

The Relative Entropy Index (1ER) is used to correct for the fact that the IEA

It is sensitive in relation to the number of observations: it will be higher the higher it is.

how much

The higher the number of observations, the more difficult the comparisons become.

international and inter-temporal if the number of observations changes (as is usually

occur) between countries and between periods. Thus, the closer the 1ST is to 1, the more

equally distributed the trade of one country *i* among the other countries considered, that is,

The lower the geographical concentration of trade. When used - as is the present case

- for the analysis of the concentration of import and export flows in the

bilateral trade: the higher the index, the lower the concentration of the pattern of

import or export.

The Relative Entropy Indices (1ER) for imports and exports used

Here they are calculated respectively as:

(3 c) *IERmi* = *IEAm*

V max *IEAm,J*

max *IEAm.* = ln *V aV* J

(3.d) *IERx.* = *IEAx*

V max *IEAxi J* , max *IEAxi* = ln

V *hi* J

4) Trade Intensity Index (TII)

The Trade Intensity Index is used to determine if trade values between two countries or regions are in agreement with what would be expected, based on the values observed in the trade of those countries or regions with the world total. Thus, according Mikic and Gilbert (2007), this index tells us if one country is exporting more, on average, to another country (in percentage terms) that the world exports to that destination country2. That is, it measures the relative intensity of bilateral trade. Based on Hoekman, English and Matoo (2003), the The formula for the IIC is:

IIC ",, **=** IV , 0< *IIC,.* <+~ ***w***

X ***w***

where

x, = exports from country *i* to country *j*

X = total exports of country *i*

xwj = world exports to country *j*

X w = total world exports

The IIC ranges from zero to positive infinity. Values greater than one indicate that it exists a more intense relationship in bilateral trade compared to the country's total trade. One advantage of this index is that it does not exhibit any bias based on the size of the flows. of the countries' trade (i.e., number of products), which allows for comparison of the indices between regions or countries and over time, even though exports are growing high rates.

III. Results of index estimates

1) Normalized Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI)

The results shown in Table 6 indicate a mixed evolution over time, of the degree of concentration of exports from the five countries. Brazil increased - although in small proportions - the degree of concentration of its exports among the first and second halves of the year 2023 and from then on it has shown stability. In Russia there was a clear concentration of the export structure, explained in detail measured by the international prices of its main export product, oil and related issues. India, on the other hand, is the most notable example of a systematic reduction. of the degree of concentration of its export pattern, although it has not yet reached a a degree of decentralization similar to that of Brazil and China. The latter country, in turn, It significantly diversified its exports throughout the 1990s, but in the In the last period considered, there was a new concentration, exceeding the levels observed. at the beginning of the last decade. Regarding South Africa, the database consulted does not contain There's a lot of information. The only thing that can be said is that the degree of concentration of Its exports are higher than in Brazil, China and India, but lower than in the Russian case.

Table-6

Herfindahl-Hirschman Indices of Total Exports and Imports of the BRICS

Media by Periods

Brazil-Russia period		**India**	**China**	**South Africa**
Exports 0.0917	NA 0.1466		0.0726	NA
1990-1995	0.0933 0.2832	0.1411	0.0629	NA
1996-2000	0.0933 0.3649	0.1298	0.0759	0.1561
2001-2006	2.0722 1.8361	1.2322	3.0422	0.9635
2006-2010	3.2356 2.5656	1.9636	4.2325	1.2321
2010-2015	3.6965 2.6369	2.3323	6.3231	1.8583
2015-2023	2.2118 1.2423	2.2210	5.1211	1.3230
Imports from Brazil	Russia	India	China	South Africa
1990-1995	0.1236	NA	0.1775	0.0743	NA
1996-2000	0.0682	0.1763	0.2015	0.0670	NA
2001-2006	0.0927	0.0945	0.2621	0.1182	0.1455
2010-2015	1.1789	2.1211	0.6323	4.2322	1.5253
2015-2023	2.8589	3.1223	2.1412	6.1423	2.3323

Source: UN/COMTRADE Database; Prepared by the author

Regarding imports, it is interesting to note that in Brazil, Russia, and South Africa They are less concentrated than the exports of those countries. The opposite is observed. in China and India. The evolution of imports over time is equally varied. If In Russia there was a notable diversification of the types of imported products, Brazil, India and China increased their degree of diversification in the 1990s, but by 2001- In 2023, a new reconcentration or selectivity is observed, with particular intensity. intense in the case of China. Even so, this country has the most pronounced export pattern diversified from the five BRICS.

4.7 Results of the Interviews conducted with students, academics and businesspeople

For students:

1. **What do you think has led the BRICS to become an actor important in international trade?** The BRICS countries have experienced a rapid economic growth in recent decades, which has allowed them to increase their participation in world trade. This growth has been driven by a combination of factors such as industrialization, urbanization, reforms structural factors and foreign investment.

2. **What are some of the main advantages and disadvantages of**

What are the economic advantages of belonging to BRICS? In today's world, the Membership in regional or global economic groups can have an impact significant in the development and stability of a country. One of these prominent groups It is the BRICS, composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. From a perspective Economically, BRICS membership presents both advantages and disadvantages that must be considered. be carefully considered by its members.

Among the most notable advantages of being part of BRICS is access to dynamic emerging markets. These countries exhibit vigorous economic growth, which opens opportunities to expand exports and bilateral trade. Furthermore, the Membership in BRICS facilitates the attraction of foreign direct investment (FDI) from other countries. members of the bloc and those outside it. This positive economic dynamic can boost internal development and strengthening the commercial position of member countries in the field global.

Another beneficial aspect is the economic and financial cooperation between the BRICS countries. Mechanisms such as the BRICS Development Bank and the BRICS Contingent Reserve Agreement offers opportunities Financing for infrastructure and development projects. This cooperation can be crucial for addressing shared economic and financial needs, as well as to mitigate potential financial crises.

From a geopolitical perspective, membership in BRICS grants influence on the international stage. This bloc represents an alternative voice on international issues global economic and political factors, which can strengthen the position of its members in international negotiations and in global decision-making.

However, along with these advantages, challenges also arise for countries BRICS members. Economic and political differences between them may hinders cooperation and coordination within the bloc. The diversity of structures Economic, political, and developmental levels can hinder the formulation of common policies and the implementation of joint measures.

Internal competition is also an aspect to consider. While the Membership in BRICS offers opportunities for trade and cooperation, it can generate tensions between members in areas such as the export of products similar or the attraction of FDI. This could lead to trade conflicts that hinder the common goal of strengthening the economic position of the countries of the block.

3. How do you see the role of BRICS in the future of global trade?

As an international business student, I recognize the role of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in the future of global trade is significant and It is destined to continue growing in importance. The BRICS represent a part a considerable part of the global economy, with enormous growth potential and a increasing influence in international trade affairs. First, the BRICS is composed of emerging economies with high development potential and a large consumer population. This makes them attractive markets for Exports from other nations and to destinations ideal for foreign investment. Sustained economic growth in these countries drives demand for goods and services, which in turn stimulates global trade.

4. **What specific areas do you think BRICS could improve in terms of of their influence on international trade?** The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) represents a cluster of emerging economies with potential significant for strengthening its influence in international trade. As a student In international trade, I examine some specific areas in which the BRICS could improve to maximize their impact on the global business landscape.

However, coordination and cooperation among BRICS members are fundamental to strengthening their position in international markets. Despite Representing powerful economies, these countries often lack coordination Effective in commercial matters. Improve collaboration in international forums such as

The World Trade Organization (WTO) would allow the BRICS to advocate for more effectively for their common interests and to consolidate a collective position more solid.

Another crucial aspect is the diversification of the economy. Currently, Many BRICS countries are heavily dependent on the export of raw materials. premiums, which exposes them to fluctuations in international prices. Therefore, greater diversification into manufactured products and services The added value would not only increase its resilience to market changes global, but it would also strengthen its long-term competitiveness.

5. **What is your opinion on cooperation between the countries of BRICS compared to other economic coalitions?** As a student, my opinion on cooperation between BRICS countries compared to other Economic coalitions have the potential to be very significant, but It also presents unique challenges.

The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) represents a group of countries with emerging economies and considerable economic and political power. Cooperation between these countries can provide a platform for the exchange of resources, knowledge and technologies that benefits all members and, ultimately, can serve as a counterweight to the most powerful economies established in the world.

However, the BRICS also face significant challenges in terms of of differences in policies, cultures, and economic priorities among its members.

This can hinder joint decision-making and the effective implementation of collaborative policies and projects.

Compared to other economic coalitions, such as the European Union or the Unlike the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), BRICS has a more limited scope and structure. less formalized. This can make cooperation more flexible but also It can hinder the achievement of common long-term goals.

For teachers:

1. What is your analysis of the impact of BRICS on the system of international trade?

The consolidation of the BRICS has led to a significant increase in production economic growth and domestic consumption within these countries. This expansion of markets Internal factors have created opportunities for intra-BRICS trade, which has contributed to the diversification of exports and reduction of dependence on markets Western countries. Therefore, the BRICS represent a considerable proportion of GDP global and global population. As a result, economic decisions and Trade policies adopted by these countries have a significant impact on the markets global. For example, the exchange rate and trade policies of China, the largest country BRICS countries can influence commodity prices globally.

2. How do you teach about the rise of the BRICS in your classes, and what aspects do you cover? stands out as further relevant?

In my classes on the rise of the BRICS, I take a comprehensive approach that highlights the The most relevant economic, political, and geopolitical aspects of this phenomenon. Beginning

to contextualize the emergence of BRICS, highlighting the conditions
economic and political factors that led to the formation of this bloc. This includes
to discuss the role of globalization, economic liberalization, and changes in
the global balance of power.

3. **What are the geopolitical implications of the rise of BRICS in international trade?** The geopolitical implications of their rise
The BRICS' influence on international trade is significant and covers several aspects
Key. The rise of the BRICS challenges traditional economic and political dominance.
of the Western powers, promoting a more multipolar world order. This
This implies greater diversification in trade relations and a decrease
of dependence on Western markets for BRICS countries and others
developing countries.

4. **How can BRICS address the challenges it faces in its Seeking greater influence in global trade?** It is essential that
The BRICS countries should work in close collaboration and coordination to address
common challenges. This implies the creation of effective dialogue mechanisms.
and decision-making within the bloc, as well as the development of a common agenda
in trade and economic matters. However, BRICS can strengthen the
existing internal institutions, such as the BRICS Development Bank and the
BRICS Contingency Reserve Agreement, to increase its capacity to
influence on global trade. This includes providing more resources
financial and expand the reach of these institutions to address the needs
development of member countries and other developing countries.

5. What lessons can be learned from the BRICS experience for others?

regional groups or coalitions in terms of trade share

international?

The BRICS experience offers several valuable lessons for other groups or regional coalitions seeking to participate in international trade

Effective cooperation and coordination among members are essential.

for the success of any regional group or coalition in international trade.

BRICS has demonstrated the importance of establishing robust mechanisms for dialogue and decision-making

of decisions to address common challenges and seize opportunities

commercial. Furthermore, it is crucial to develop and strengthen internal institutions for

to support participation in international trade. The BRICS have established

institutions such as the BRICS Development Bank and the Reserves Agreement

BRICS contingency funds have improved the bloc's ability to finance

development projects and managing financial crises.

For business owners:

1. **How would you describe the impact of the rise of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in international trade in recent years?**

As a businessman, the rise of the BRICS countries has had a significant impact on the International trade in recent years. First, the increase in power

The increased purchasing power of consumers in the BRICS countries has generated greater demand for

products and services worldwide. This has created opportunities for companies everywhere.

the world to expand into these growing markets and increase its exports.

Furthermore, the BRICS countries have strengthened their position as important Suppliers of raw materials, energy, and manufactured goods. Their Participation in international trade has driven the diversification of global supply chains and has contributed to greater interconnection between the economies.

2. What opportunities and challenges has the growing

What is **the participation of the BRICS countries in the global trade arena?** businessman, the growing participation of the BRICS countries in the scenario Global trade has generated both significant opportunities and challenges for global companies. Among the opportunities, the BRICS countries represent emerging markets with a sizable population and rapid growth economic. This offers opportunities to expand business operations and to increase sales in these developing markets and regarding the challenges with the growing participation of the BRICS countries in world trade, the Competition in international markets has intensified. Companies They must face local and global competitors in these emerging markets, which may require specific business and marketing strategies.

3. How has the rise of the BRICS affected your specific sector?

Business or industry? As an entrepreneur in the technology sector of Information and communication technologies (ICTs), the rise of the BRICS has had an impact Significant in our industry in several ways, the rise of the BRICS has We have opened new, rapidly growing markets for our products and services. of ICT. Countries like China and India represent great opportunities for

to expand our operations and increase our customer base. Therefore, the
The rise of the BRICS has also led to increased global competition in the sector
of ICT. Technology companies from these countries are emerging as key players
important on the world stage, which forces us to remain agile and competitive
to maintain our market position.

4. **What is your opinion on the influence of BRICS on redistribution?**

of global economic power? My opinion on the influence of BRICS on the
The redistribution of economic power at a global level is what this group of countries has
played a significant role in this process. The rise of the BRICS countries has
altered the traditional balance of economic power, challenging its predominance
historical diversification of Western economies. The BRICS countries have contributed to diversification
the sources of global economic growth. Their rapid development has generated
new business and investment opportunities, reducing dependence on
Western economies as the sole drivers of global growth. On the other hand,
The influence of the BRICS has been reflected in the call for institutional reform.
international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Bank
Global. These countries have sought greater representation and a stronger voice in these institutions.
to better reflect the new global economic reality. However, the rise of
BRICS has transformed our ICT sector by opening new markets and boosting the
demand for innovative solutions and increased global competitiveness. While we have
While we have faced challenges, we have also seized opportunities to expand our
global presence and strengthen our position as an industry leader.

5. What are the main strategies that your company has implemented to take advantage of the business opportunities offered by the bloc BRICS?

As an entrepreneur, our company has implemented various strategies to Take advantage of the trade opportunities offered by the BRICS bloc. These strategies They focus on taking advantage of these countries' economic growth and increasing demand of products and services. We have also identified and assessed markets within The BRICS countries with the greatest growth potential for our products and services. Then, we developed specific expansion plans to enter these markets effectively, adapting our offering to local needs and preferences. In In that same vein, recognizing cultural differences and market preferences In the BRICS countries, we have adapted our products and services to meet the specific consumer needs in each country. This includes personalization. of features, functions and prices to ensure relevance and acceptance in the local market.

4.8 Analysis of results based on specific objectives

In Determining the Rise of the BRICS: An Analysis of Challenges and Opportunities in the International Trade. The results obtained from verifying each of the objectives Specifics include:

1. Specific objective No. 1 consisted of: **Identifying and analyzing the factors**

Drivers of the BRICS rise: In general, the countries of the BRICS group They can be characterized as developing powers with anti-hegemonic interests. In other words, they seek to limit, reduce, or counteract the dominance of the United States in the system. international. In fact, the BRICS aspire to be an alternative not only to the power American, but also to the primacy of Western values and logics in said system. However, their anti-hegemonic stance and status as emerging powers, These countries are still in the process of economic and social development. None of them They exhibit levels of wealth, productivity, quality of life of the population, and others indicators comparable to those of the major developed powers. This duality between the Anti-hegemonic discourse and the reality of underdevelopment generate controversies in action BRICS international. On the one hand, they are strong critics of the status quo, but they participate and they benefit from the institutions and organizations that seek to transform. On the other hand, There is a gap between his rhetoric on global stages and his concrete actions. Regarding the First, cases like Brazil, China, Russia, and India exemplify this tension. They criticize specific aspects of the international system, but without abandoning or weakening its participation in institutions such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund or World Trade Organization.

Regarding the second aspect, while they advocate for more global governance
While cooperative and peaceful, the defense of national sovereignty remains a priority.
on issues that are sensitive for each country (Ukraine for Russia, Kashmir for India, etc.).
Similarly, despite promoting more cooperative relationships, problems persist
latent conflicts within their respective areas of influence that could lead to
in armed confrontations

2. **Specific objective No. 2 consisted of: Evaluating the challenges**

Internal and external challenges facing the BRICS. The BRICS group is made up of
by the major emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and
South Africa. This group of countries has acquired substantial importance in the
global economy during the last few decades, due to accelerated growth
economic progress they have experienced. However, despite this progress, the BRICS
They also face relevant internal and external challenges.

One of the central domestic challenges is related to inequality and
Poverty. Although there has been economic growth, these nations still have poverty.
significant pockets of poverty and a wide gap between rich and poor. Overcoming
These social problems will demand redistributive policies that allow for a
better quality of life for the entire population. Another key internal challenge is the
Corruption, which continues to be a hindrance to development in countries like Brazil,
Russia and India. In terms of external challenges, the BRICS face a
global economic outlook less favorable than in the first decade of the present
century. China's growth has slowed; Russia's economy has seen

seriously affected by the fall in energy prices and international sanctions;

Meanwhile, Brazil has entered a deep recession.

Likewise, the normalization of interest rates in the United States has

caused capital outflows and currency depreciations in emerging markets.

Assessing how the BRICS manage these domestic and external challenges is

fundamental given the growing weight of these countries in the global economy. The success of the

The structural reforms they implement will be crucial to restoring growth rates

high and sustainable. It is also important to examine policy coordination

macroeconomic measures among the BRICS to cope with an adverse external environment and

changing. In short, overcoming current challenges will solidify the status of these nations.

as economic powers at the international level.

3. **To propose strategies to enhance the influence and collaboration of**

The BRICS: First, the possible inclusion of six new nations - Argentina,

Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - would diversify and expand

the geopolitical reach of the BRICS and will enhance their influence in geopolitics and

global geoeconomics. Each of these countries has a considerable economy and

unique geopolitical elements to contribute to the group. Likewise, one of the

strategies involve closer collaboration at the financial and joint investment level between

The members, for example, through the New Development Bank created by the group,

It would boost economic development both internally and in other regions in need.

around the world. This would also strengthen the BRICS' global influence on issues

economic and financial.

On the other hand, the consolidation of joint political positions, based on respect mutual agreement and consensus, as well as cooperation on security issues, would give greater weight to the BRICS in discussions on global governance and international security. Furthermore, the current geopolitical context, where powers like Russia and China face increasing Sanctions and isolation by the West are motivating these countries to seek Diversify their alliances. The expansion of the BRICS presents an opportunity. strategic in this sense. In conclusion, the inclusion of new members, a greater Economic cooperation and political coordination are key factors that would enhance Influence and importance of the BRICS as a multipolar global force in the coming decades

Conclusions

At the end of the presentation of the analysis of results achieved by the objectives specific through the data obtained from the research The Rise of the BRICS and its Impact on International Trade led to the following conclusions:

The BRICS, a group of developing countries that have gained economic relevance and Politics in the world. The BRICS represent 26% of global GDP and 42% of the world's population. The BRICS countries represent 20% of global trade and have contributed significantly to poverty reduction . global and to promote South-South cooperation.

The BRICS have a different trade policy model than the most developed economies advanced, based on increased use of subsidies, restrictions on market access and restrictions to exports. The BRICS have also created the BRICS Development Bank (NDB, (its acronym in English) to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects in its member countries and in other developing countries.

The rise of the BRICS presents both a challenge and an opportunity for the economic order and global politics. On the one hand, the BRICS can bring more diversity and representativeness to the institutions and norms of global governance, as well as promoting innovation and growth economic. On the other hand, the BRICS could generate tensions and conflicts with the major powers. established, especially on issues such as the reform of the financial and monetary system international relations, climate change, and international security. From a different perspective, The global influence of the BRICS is due to the more equitable distribution of power among the various units of the international system. This structural equilibrium acts as an incentive so that the five members of the bloc can maintain a system from which they benefit. This is not It's not just a matter of logic, but also a necessity to act, because if integration fails and we

If we move towards radicalization, the global consequences would be disastrous.

An example is the joint action of the BRIC countries in reforming their financial systems and

International monetary policy. Two opposing views are possible. A more realistic view.

I would see the beginning of a cycle that has started with the transformation of the increase in the

BRIC capabilities are increasing in their demands. Teleologically, I would foresee that

In the future, these demands would grow in scope and intensity until they reached an inevitable

A zero-sum conflict between the system and an increasingly revisionist BRICS. But that's not

It is based not on the evidence we have so far, but on the assumption of theories.

pre-existing. Thus, although structural incentives and pressures exist, Disraeli was right.

By saying that man is not a child of circumstances; circumstances are children of man.

man. The increase in BRIC capabilities has been accompanied by greater acceptance

of the system: none of the possible alternative rejection values have increased

system and have increased measures of acceptance of it. In conclusion, the BRICS are

a key player in international trade and in shaping the global future.

BRICS must seek greater coordination and cooperation among themselves and with the rest of the world.

to harness their potential and address their challenges. The BRICS must also

assume more responsibility and commitment to sustainable development and world peace.

Recommendations:

Following the conclusion of this investigation on, THE RISE OF THE BRICS: An Analysis Challenges and Opportunities in International Trade. The following are carried out recommendations.

To the G-7 and the World's Most Advanced Economies:

- To include Western countries more equitably in their policies development and investment
- To promote economic and trade cooperation, recognizing the importance of emerging economies and their global importance.
- Support sustainable development and inclusion in emerging economies and respond to needs to inequalities.
- Promote the strengthening of knowledge and technology to close the gaps digital.

To the Teachers:

- To focus their global education on culture and geopolitics for their students to turn on the light of knowledge about the world economy.
- To promote the economic dynamics of the BRICS in the classroom with the aim of giving to understand their challenges and opportunities.
- To promote collaboration and international student exchange to share

- Develop skills relevant to the global economy to prepare students for the future.

To the Business Owners

- Understand global dynamics and dedicate time to trade studies international and how this affects emerging economies in the event of unrest and economic collapse.
- Establish strategic alliances given the growing importance of the BRICS in the global economy and seek advice on the changes that these may alter traditional economies.
- Adapting to cultural and regulatory diversity, therefore, entrepreneurs must adapt to different cultures in order to understand the differences in decision-making in the economy.
- Invest in innovation and sustainability to maintain a short-term competitive advantage and long-term in emerging economies versus the BRICS.

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APPENDICES

Questionnaire for Teachers

The main objective of this questionnaire is to assess teachers' performance in relation to level of knowledge of the BRICS at the level of International Trade and Geopolitics.

Mark your preferred option with an X. (You can choose more than one option)

1. Which countries make up the BRICS group?

2. a) Brazil

3. b) Russia

4. c) India

5. d) China

2. What is the main objective of BRICS?

a) To promote economic cooperation among its members.

b) Promote sustainable development.

c) To promote social equality.

d) All of the above.

3. What economic aspect is fundamental within the BRICS?

a) International trade

b) Foreign investments

c) Infrastructure development

d) Common monetary policy

4. What is the role of BRICS in the global geopolitical arena?

a) To counteract the influence of other economic blocs.

b) To promote peace and stability.

c) To expand the political power of its members.

d) All of the above.

5. What is the venue for the annual BRICS summit in 2023?

a) Brasilia, Brazil

b) Moscow, Russia

c) New Delhi, India

d) Beijing, China

6. What type of agreements are promoted within the BRICS?

a) Trade agreements

b) Security agreements

c) Financial agreements

d) All of the above

7. What is the main environmental concern addressed by the BRICS?

a) Climate change

b) Air pollution

c) Loss of biodiversity

d) Water scarcity

8. What is the purpose of the BRICS Development Bank?

a) To finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects.

b) Facilitate loans to member countries in economic crisis.

c) Regulate trade between the countries of the group.

d) Promote foreign direct investment.

9. What is the approximate percentage of the world's population represented by the BRICS countries?

a) 25%

b) 30%

c) 42%

d) 50%

10. What recent global crisis has led the BRICS to strengthen their cooperation?

a) 2008 Global Financial Crisis

b) COVID-19 Pandemic

c) Migration crisis in Europe

11. What is the main obstacle to effective cooperation within BRICS?

a) Ideological and political differences among the members.

b) Communication and coordination problems.

c) Territorial conflicts between countries.

d) All of the above.

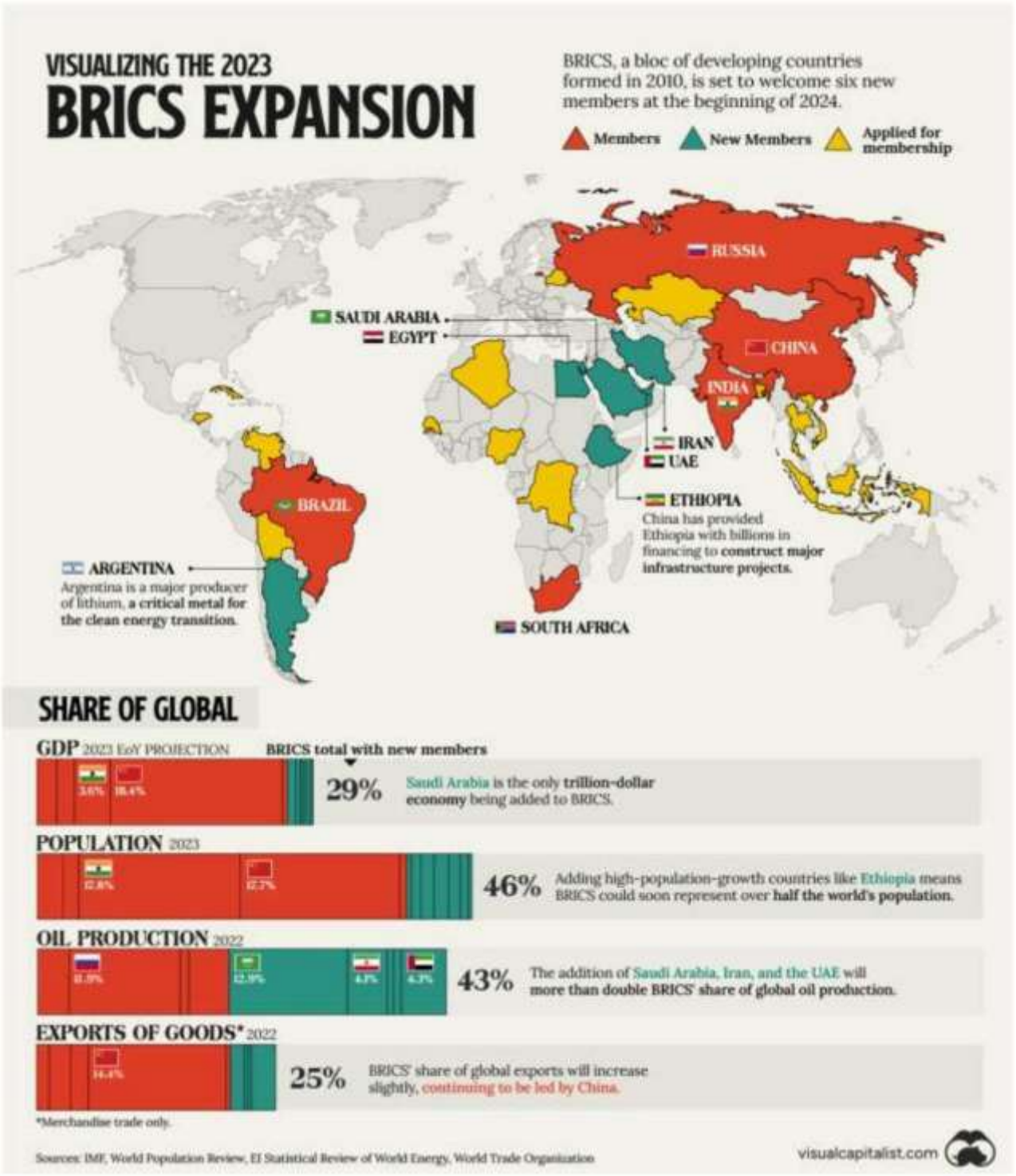
12. Which economic sector has experienced significant growth within the BRICS in recent years?

a) Information and communication technology (ICT)

b) Agriculture

c) Renewable energies

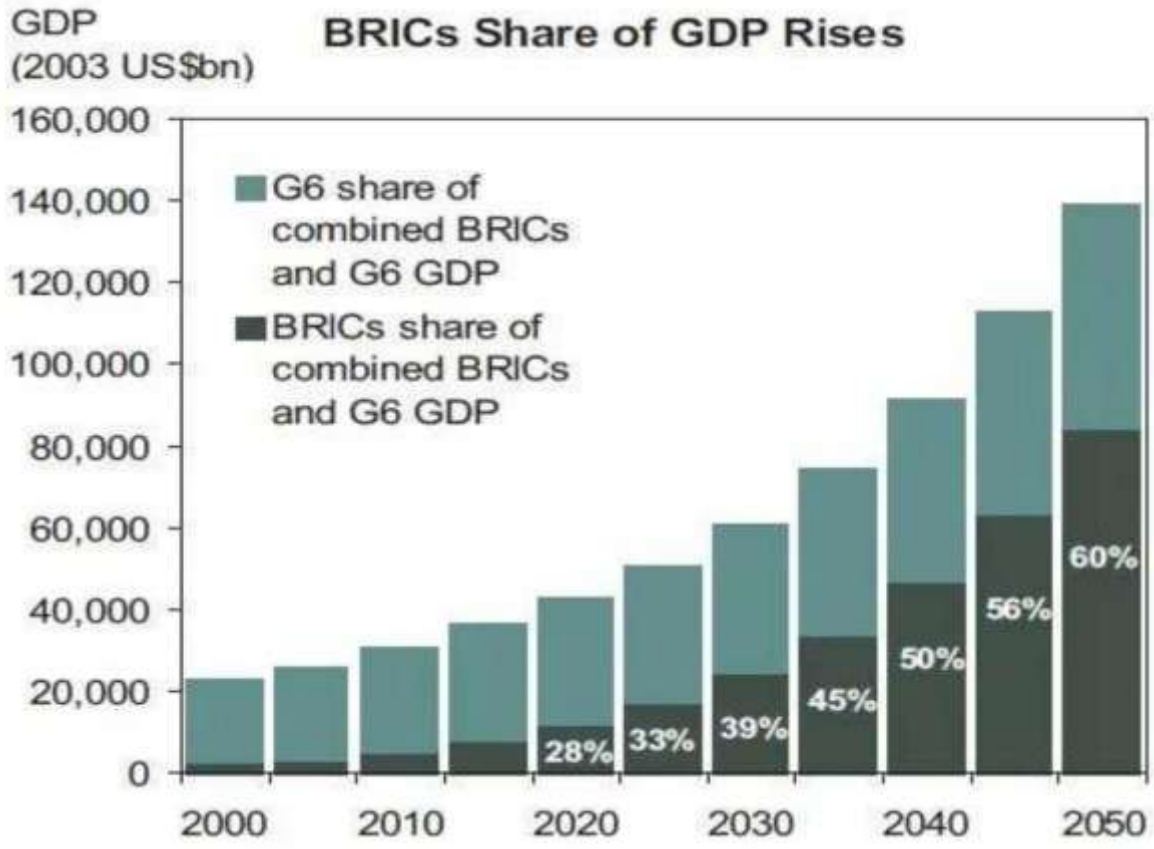
d) Manufacturing industry



Source: Visual capitalist. com

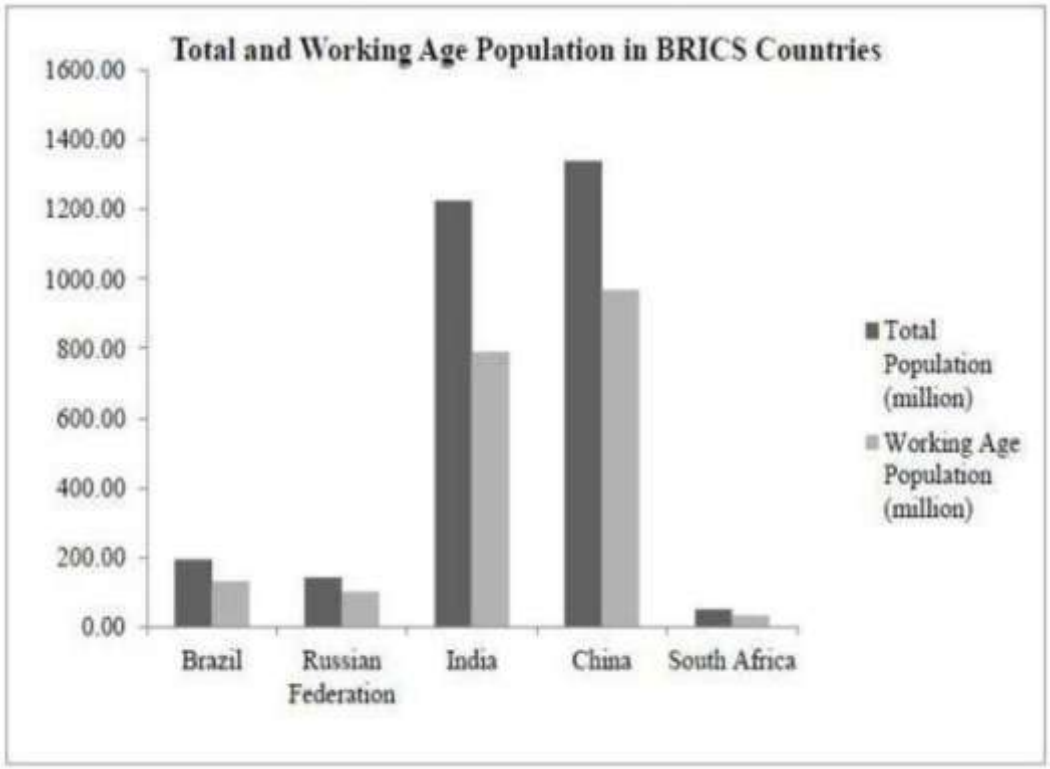


Source: Prepared by Dall-E

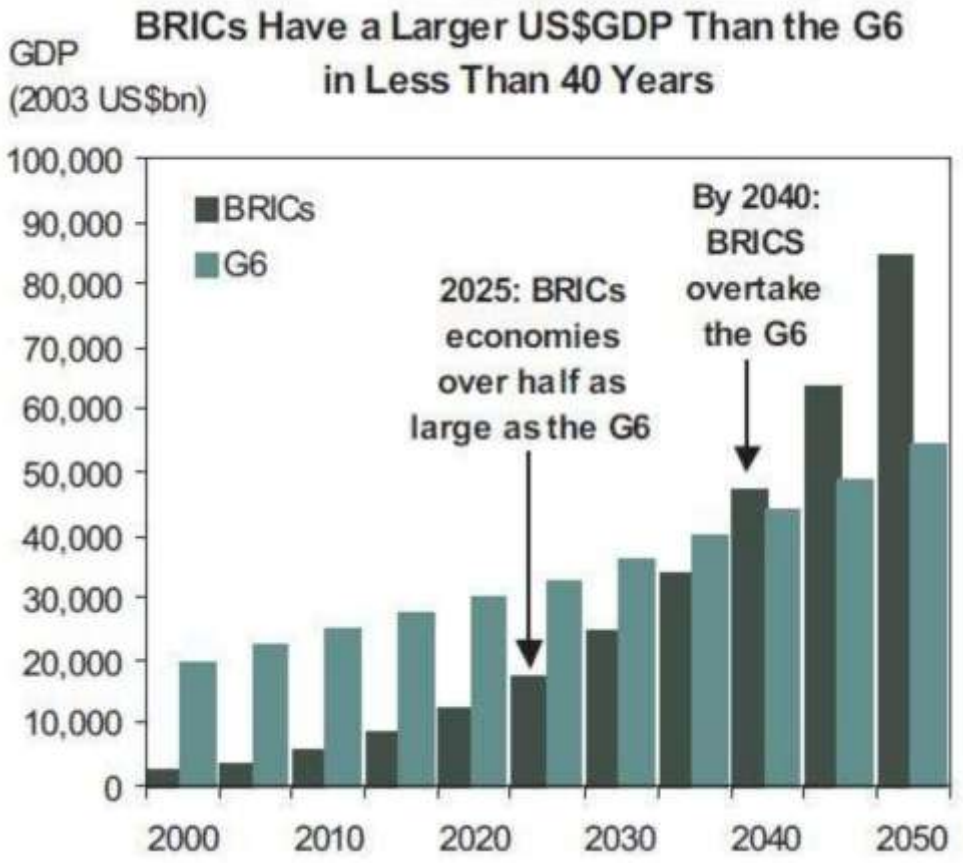


Source: Wilson, D. & Purushothaman, R. (2003). Global Economics Paper No. 99,

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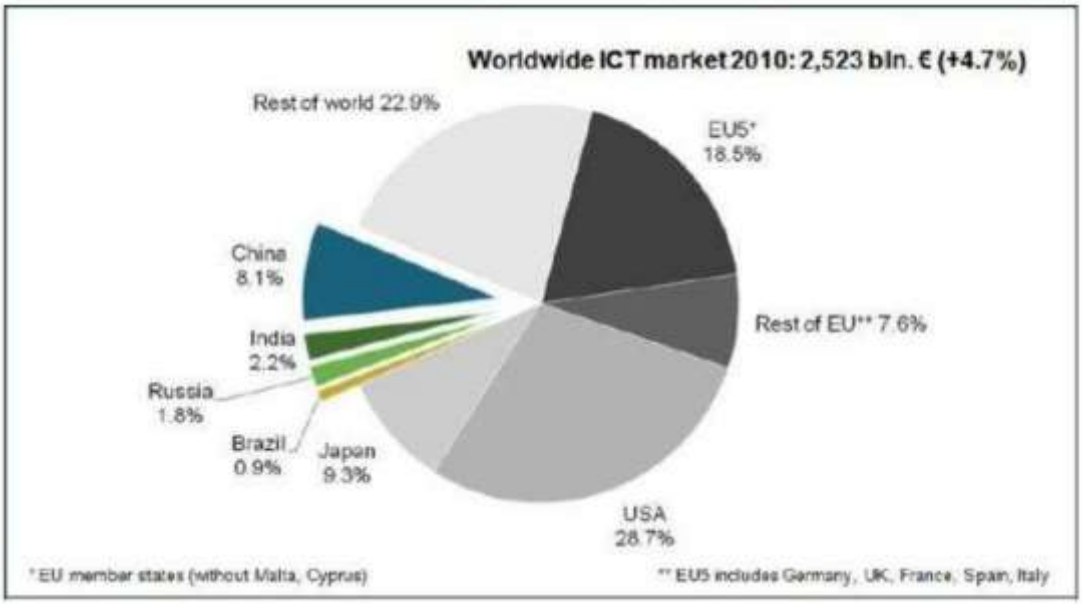


Source: Basu, T., & Arokiasamy, P. Demographic Determinants of Economic Growth in BRICS and selected Developed Countries.

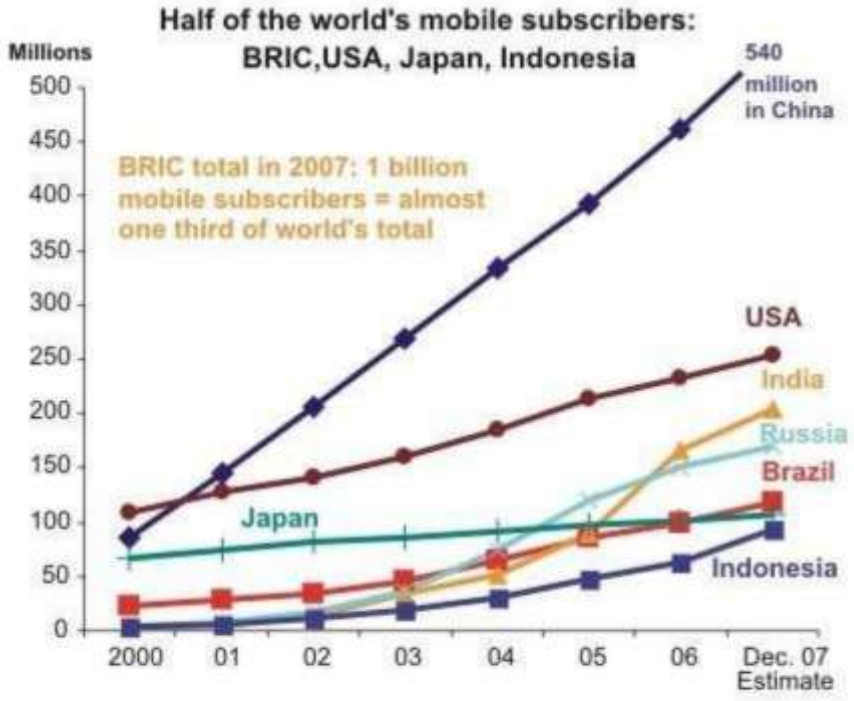


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Dreaming with BRICs: The Path to 2050.



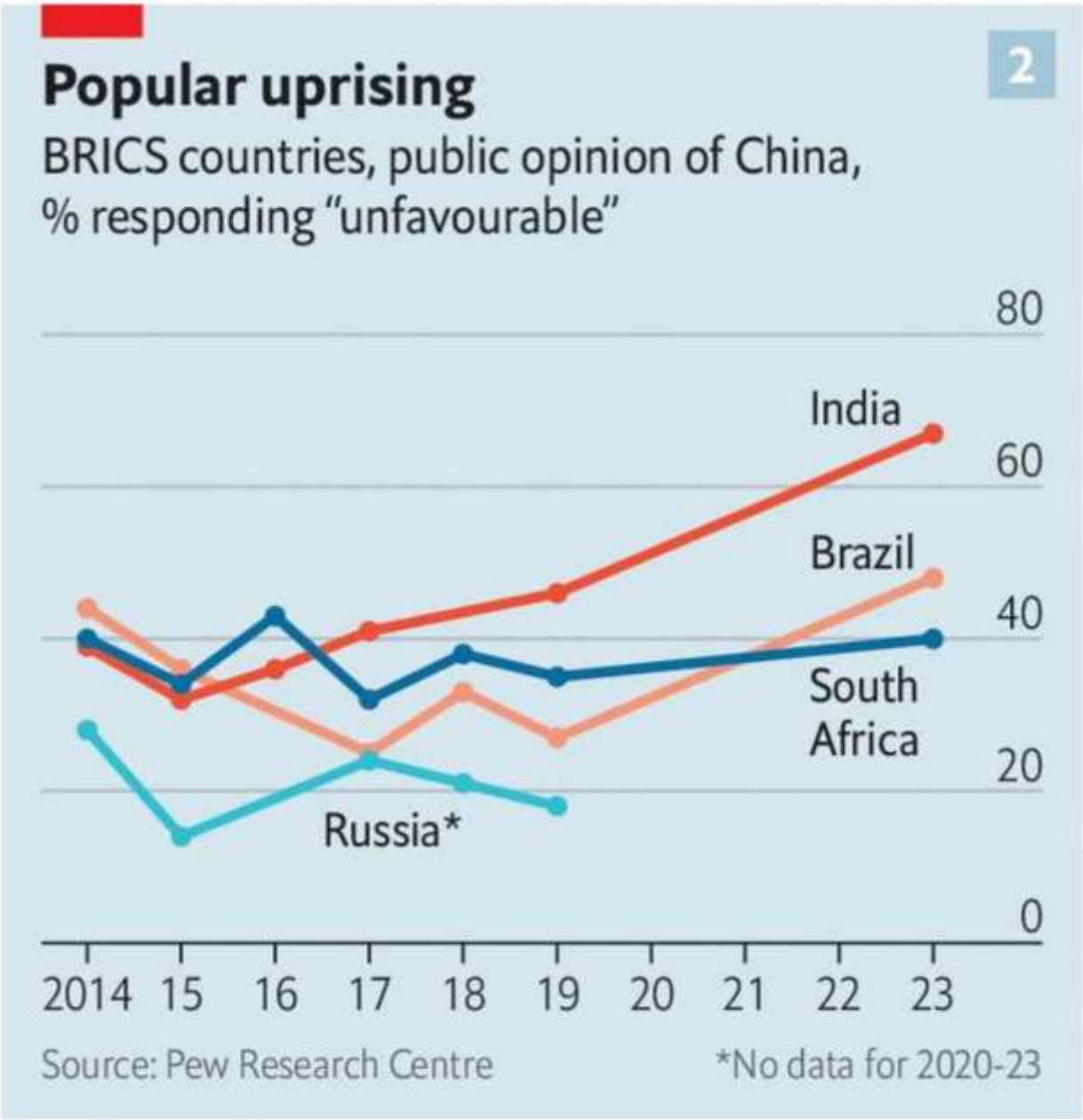
Source: Simon JRC-IPTS Scientific and Technical Report. EITO Special Report, BRIC countries' ICT markets, 2007-2011, January 3, 2011.



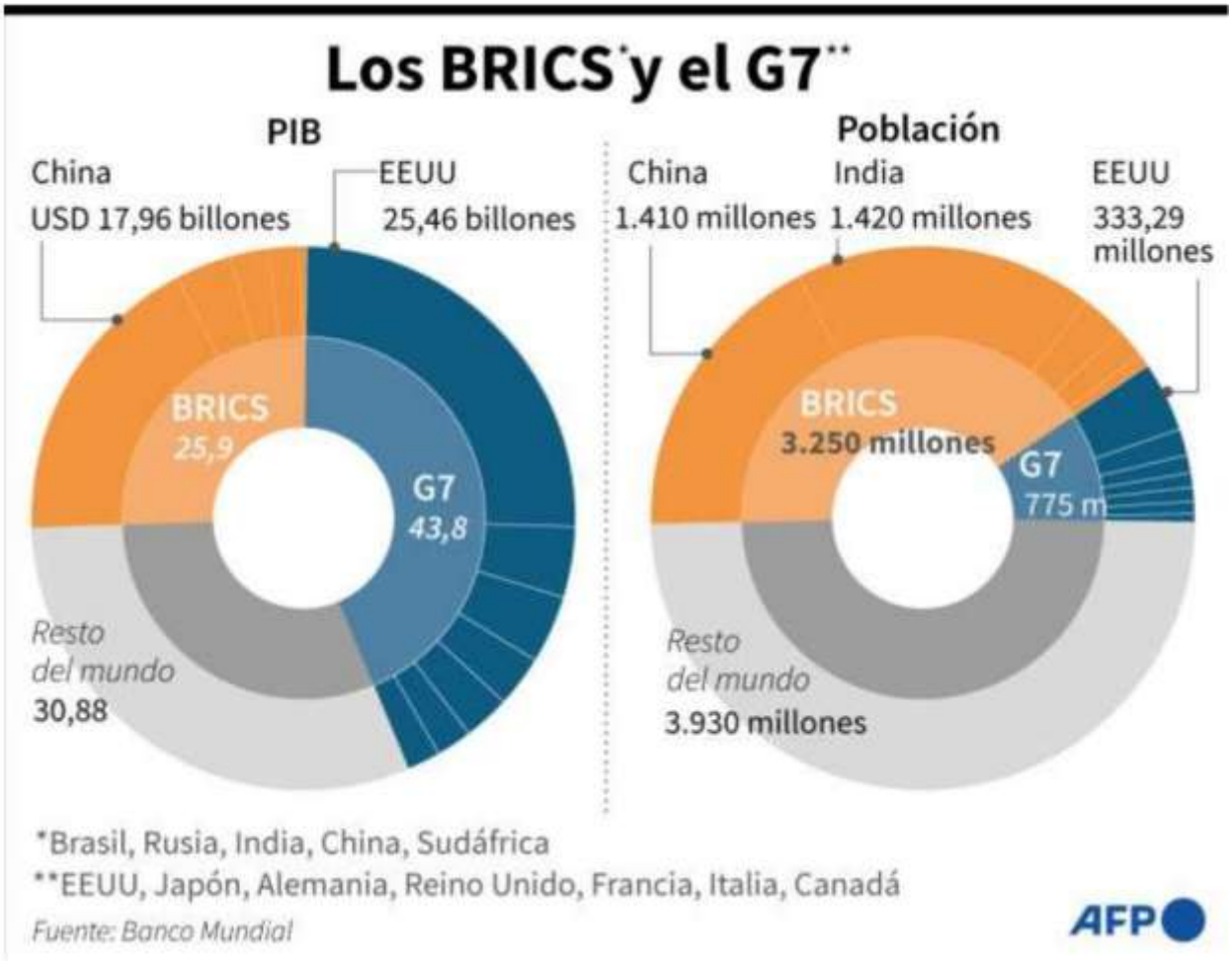
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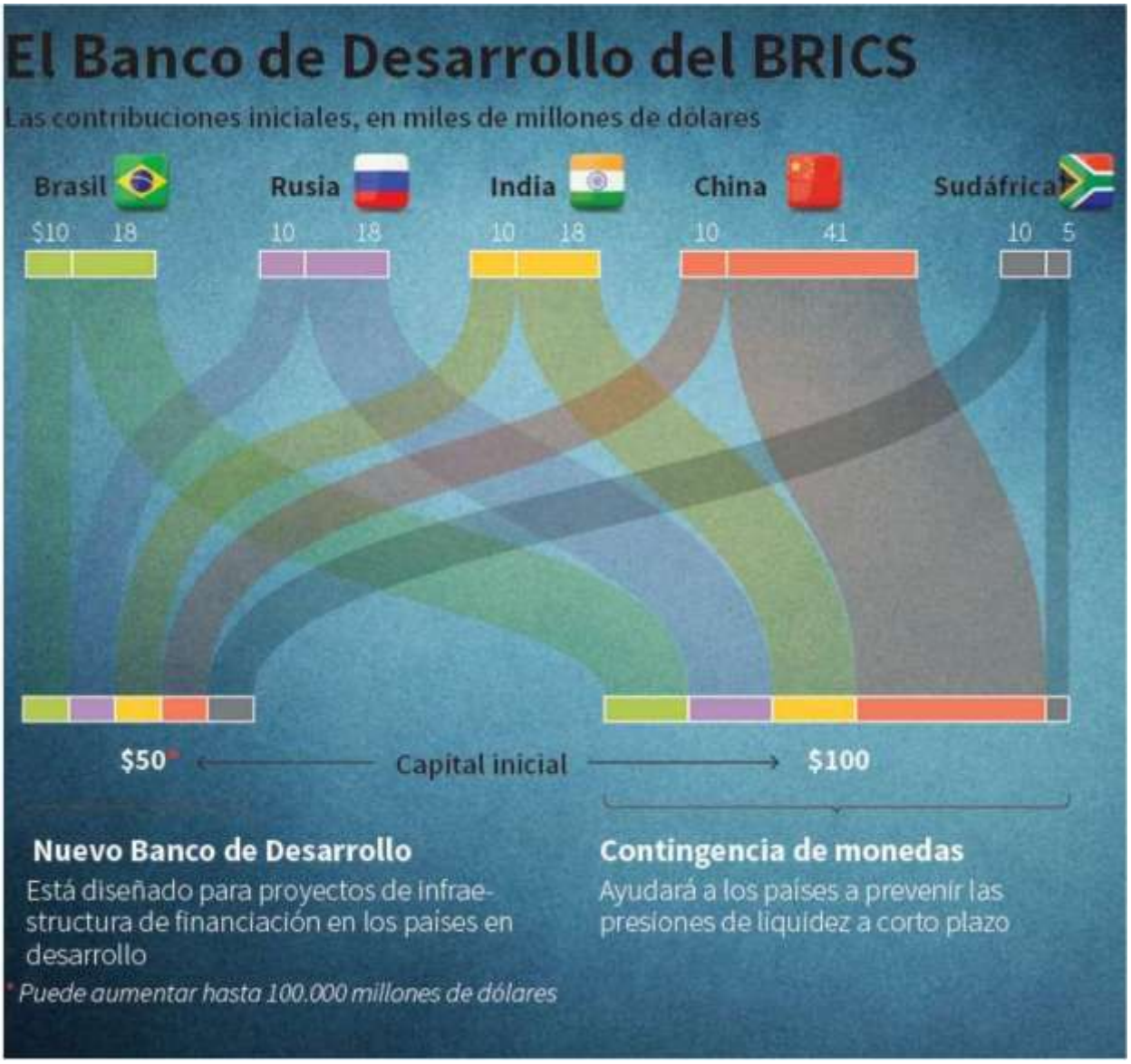
ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database. *Note:* BRIC refers to Brazil, Russia, India, South Africa and China

These last two figures indicate that the BRICS countries have a strong presence in terms of connection to ICTs and a significant and growing portion of subscribers mobile phones worldwide. This is important because it's not just these countries, as mentioned. Previously, they demonstrated a solid baseline level of ICT connectivity for use in the implementation of MOOCs for teacher training, but mobile connectivity predominant indicates the potential to leverage unconventional internet connectivity through smartphones that can connect to the Internet even when there are no computers physical stores available.

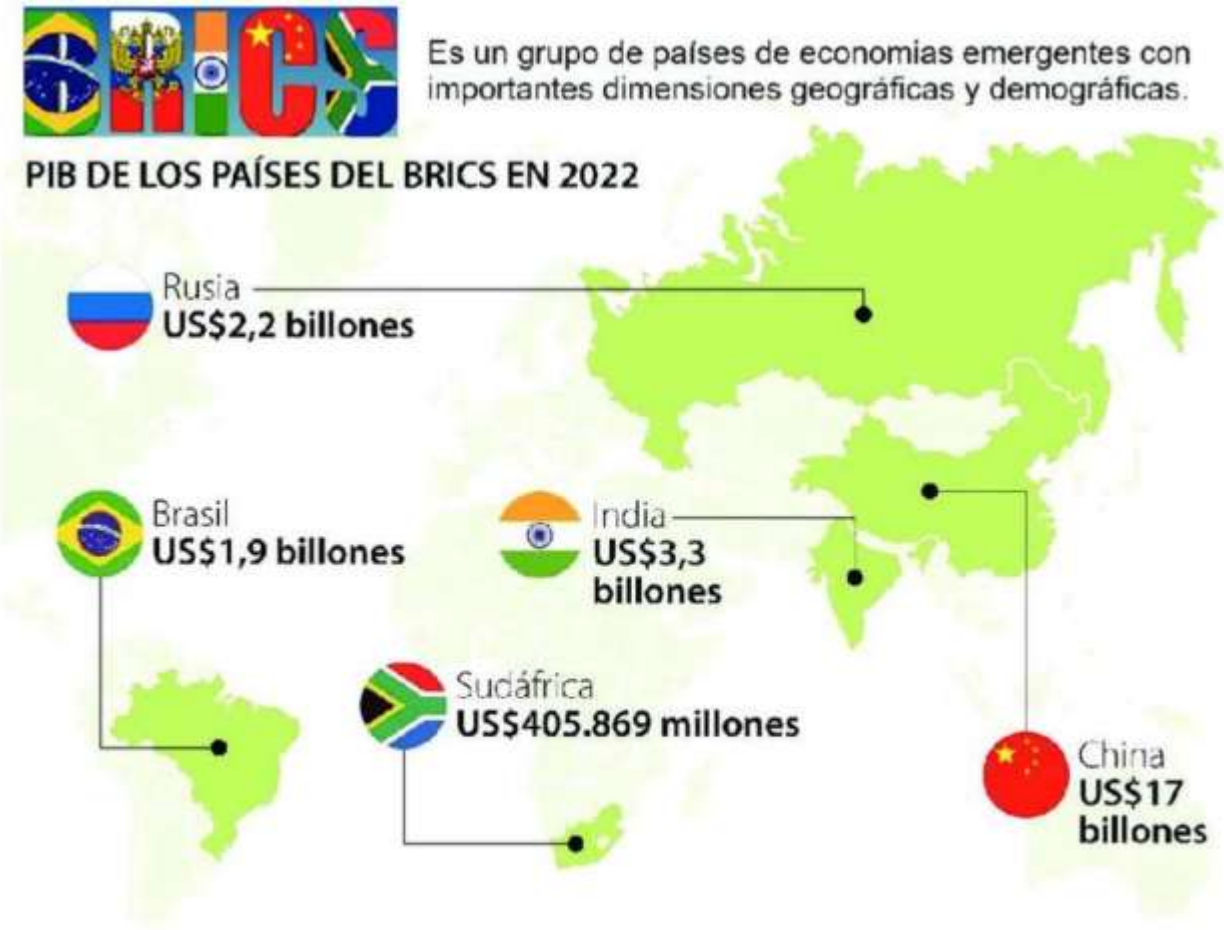


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Los BRICS* y el G7**
PIB
China
USD 17,96 billones
EEUU
25,46 billones
BRICS
25,9
G7
43,8
Resto
del mundo
30,88
Población
China
1.410 millones
India
1.420 millones
EEUU
333,29
millones
BRICS
3.250 millones
G7
775 m
Resto
del mundo
3.930 millones
*Brasil, Rusia, India, China, Sudáfrica
**EEUU, Japón, Alemania, Reino Unido, Francia, Italia, Canadá
Fuente: Banco Mundial
AFP



Source: RT News



Fountain: . Researchgate.net. Retrieved March 1, 2024, from https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Figure-2-PIB-de-los-paises-del-BRICS-en-2022-Source: World Bank Expansion Statista_fig2_374554513



Source: Statista