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Shuffle and give again: BRICS, G7 and NATO as expressions of global geopolitical reconfiguration

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The 18 leaders with virtual presence at the BRICS Summit

Last Friday Alberto Fernández participated in the inauguration of the BRICS Summit, an acronym that refers to the five founding countries of that international cooperation association that make up Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. At the close of this

edition of El Cohete, the Argentine President will be participating as a guest of the meeting of the Group of Seven (G7), the club that brought together Germany, Canada, the United States, France, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom. Argentina will participate in both meetings in the hope that it will be able to privilege its interests without being required to take sides. However, at the two ends of that journey, between Beijing and Garmisch-Partenkirchen Castle in Bavaria, where the deliberations of the Atlanticist conglomerate are taking place, alternative forms of global cooperation are instituted. In the case of the BRICS, starting from the principle of sovereignty, and in the case of Atlanticism, enshrining a verticalized globalism, coordinated by the logic of transnationals, based on financial reason.



Alberto Fernández's virtual intervention at the Brics summit

The five BRICS countries account for 41% of the world's population, express 24% of world GDP and 16% of global trade, and are responsible for one-third of world cereal production. The quintet that makes up the bloc differs from other alliances by the fact that it does not demand from its partners a certain political or ideological orientation, nor does it demand a specific governmental format from them. It assumes, as an incontrovertible principle, non-interference in the internal affairs of each of the members, privileging cooperation for common development, based on mutual interest.

While the European Union and the G7 intend to homogenize the rest of the countries according to their own rules, alien to the historical tradition of each of the national entities, the global south assumes as a priority the overcoming of poverty, equity, development and the need to establish a new global financial architecture capable of overcoming systemic

indebtedness, capital flight and speculation. In addition to its five founders, the heads of State of 12 countries participated in this XIV annual summit, including Argentina, Indonesia, Egypt, Thailand, Algeria, Malaysia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The alliance was initially formed in 2009. Its founding members were China, Russia, Brazil and India. In 2011 South Africa joined.

The marathon of meetings aimed at shaping the two geopolitical blocs will continue with the NATO meeting in Madrid between June 29 and 30, where it will seek to tighten the siege on Moscow and Beijing. A month later, on July 25, Alberto Fernández will visit Joe Biden to insist on external indebtedness, overcoming interventionist practices and the sovereignty of the islands of the South Atlantic. The US president, for his part, will demand that he abandon ties with the New Axis of Evil (Moscow, Beijing, Tehran and Caracas) and return to the civilized world of the West.

To persuade Fernandez, as president pro tempore of CELAC, he will be exposed to the new dangers suffered by Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to those who differ from Atlanticism: last week, the heads of the North and South Commandos – Generals Glen VanHerck and Laura Richardson, respectively – warned, in a session of the Senate Military Services Committee, that the Kremlin has been deploying intelligence officers in Latin America and seeks to have access to the United States from its southern border: "Russia's military spy agency (GRU) currently has more intelligence officers deployed in Mexican territory than in any other country in the world with the ultimate goal of influencing the decisions made by the United States," VanHerck said.

In September 2021, VanHerck stated that "Russia is the main military threat to my homeland. It's not China, it's Russia." In March of this year, Laura Richardson noted that "China and Russia are aggressively expanding their ancestry in our neighborhood ... China continues its relentless march to expand economic, diplomatic, technological, computer and military influence in Latin America and the Caribbean, and challenges U.S. influence in all these domains."

There come the Russians



Vladimir at the XXV St. Petersburg Economic Forum, which was held between June 15 and 18.

Coincidentally, the U.S. ambassador in the Aztec capital, Ken Salazar, declared after the friendship group between the two countries was inaugurated in the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico that "the ambassador of Russia was yesterday [in Congress] and said that Mexico and Russia are close, that can never happen." The next day, <u>Andrés Manuel López</u> <u>Obrador</u> replied to the U.S. diplomat: "We are not a colony of Russia, nor of China, nor of the United States." Mexico's manifest neutrality regarding the war conflict in Ukraine and the decision not to attend the Summit of the Americas held in Los Angeles have ignited the alerts of the Pentagon and Washington's intelligence services.

In that same framework of demonization, the <u>unofficial spokesmen</u> of the State Department in Buenos Aires exhibited their displeasure after listening to Alberto Fernández's speech in Friday's teleconference, in which he refrained from condemning Vladimir Putin and called for the establishment of a peace negotiation table, a scene that Washington dismisses since it intends to see Moscow discredited and weakened before ending the war stage.

While Atlanticism seeks to place Moscow as a pariah of international relations – both politically, economically and commercially – the teleconference organized by Beijing gives Vladimir Putin an alternative atmosphere to the one that the G7 intends to impose with its dehistoricized rules. The Strategy for economic partnership, known as BRICS

2025, is proposed as a platform for the formation of a multipolar scenario capable of respecting national particularities and sovereignties. The program, which was stressed by Xi Jinping at the opening of the Summit, consists of three central axes: concerted security, sustainable global development and fair trade without proscriptions or sanctions.

With regard to the first dimension, it is proposed to establish a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable concept of security that respects the integrity and territorial autonomy of all countries. The project, which is entitled <u>the Global Security</u> <u>Initiative</u> (ISG), aims to establish multilateral models of negotiation, alien to the vertical logic imposed by the G7, and refers to the resolution of conflicts – including that of Ukraine – in which no country can guarantee its security at the expense of a third sovereign national entity. That has been Kiev's design: to insist on the location of war apparatus on the border with Russia financed by Washington and NATO.

The second axis refers to sustainable global development and is based on China's successful experience of growth and inclusion. It proposes to strengthen the coordination of macroeconomic policies with the help of the New Development Bank (NDB) and the contribution of contingency reserve agreements (ARC). The ARC will seek to ensure a global financial protection scheme to contain market volatility in the face of investment withdrawals, capital flight or speculative attacks on national currencies. For its part, the NDB will seek to alleviate infrastructure deficits. Its scheme for the next four years envisages financial assistance to member countries totalling \$30 billion, or its equivalent in a potential basket of member countries' currencies.

The third dimension is that of trade, aimed at overcoming discrimination schemes based on unilateral sanctions and political-ideological considerations. "Facts have proven time and again," Xi Jinping said during the Opening of the BRICS Business Forum on June 22, "that sanctions are nothing more than boomerangs and double-edged swords. Those who politicize, instrumentalize and arm the world economy, and impose sanctions at will using their predominant position in the international financial and monetary systems, will only end up harming their own interests and those of others, and will make everyone suffer."

The fourth axis is related to the institutionalization and expansion of the bloc that includes the incorporation of new States, through a roadmap approved during the conference, and the configuration of areas of cooperation in science, technology, productive innovation and problems linked to the environment.

Sovereignty and sanctions



The failure of sanctions on Russia is a severe blow to Atlanticism.

The virtual summit of the BRICS, organized by China – which holds the *presidency pro tempore* – was also aimed at reorganizing global supply chains on the basis of a stability alien to the interventionist logic, generating unilateral sanctions and destructive of the ties of horizontal cooperation. To this end, the development of a payment system different from the dollar and an alternative to the model of financial communications between banks known as SWIFT will be sought. In an antagonistic way, the G7 will discuss the diversification of suppliers – today offered by Chinese and Russian companies – to weaken Moscow's energy export infrastructure and Beijing's export and productive innovation, such as Asian microchips.

The Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, Janet Yellen, anticipated the fears of the transnationals – with Atlanticist headquarters – by warning that a *reshoring* will not be attempted (with the return of all production at the domestic level) but a *friendshoring*, based on corporate relocations in allied and reliable countries. According to data from the Center for Geoeconomics of the <u>Atlantic Council</u>, in 2021 half of the large corporations decided to diversify their suppliers to guarantee the supply chain, within the framework of the trade war against Russia and China.

At the BRICS business forum, two days before the summit of heads of state, Putin warned that "the free market with the West will only exist for those who resign their sovereignty (...) since Western partners omit the basic principles of the market economy, of free trade." Weeks earlier, at the St. Petersburg forum for the Global North and South, the Russian president stressed that "the break with the West is irreversible and definitive. No pressure from the West will change it. Russia has renewed itself with its sovereignty. Strengthening political and economic sovereignty is an absolute priority. The EU has completely lost its political sovereignty. The current crisis shows that the EU is not prepared to play the role of an independent and sovereign actor. It's just a set of American vassals deprived of any political-military sovereignty."

Joe Biden noted last Tuesday that global reconfiguration is being decided in Ukraine: "War will become a game of patience: what the Russians can endure [in the face of sanctions and military losses] and what Europe is willing to resist." The historians of Russia were in charge of answering him unanimously: those who were educated in the identity experience of the battle of Stalingrad, and in the taking of Berlin, do not know the word capitulation.

The new geopolitical blocs are in the process of structuring within the framework of the crossroads proposed by the US President: many international analysts already conjecture their outcome.

Jorge Elbaum for La Pluma

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