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Emerging Powers' Trends in Foreign Policy: A Comparison of China, India and Brazil

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Abstract: ***As new countries like Brazil, China, and India assume increasingly important roles in global affairs, In the last few decades, the political environment has seen significant upheaval. These nations are dealing with an influence on security arrangements, economic policy, and international governance. They are commonly included into frameworks like BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). The foreign policies they implement are a reflection of how they deal with the outside world. according to their different historical legacies, strategic objectives, and financial needs. This study provides a detailed comparison of the foreign policy changes in China, Brazil, and India. This article that also explores their methods, inspirations, and global impacts. However, even though While these three nations share certain characteristics as rising powers, their methods for international relations and diplomacy due to their distinct geographic locations, financial as well as internal political systems and aims.***

I. THE HISTORICAL UNDERPINNINGS OF FOREIGN POLICY

A. India: Strategic Independence and Disagreement

The history of colonization, the struggle for freedom, and the guidance of figures like Jawaharlal
All of them had an impact on India's foreign policy. India kept cordial relations with the US and the USSR during the Cold War by maintaining a strategy of non-alignment with any military grouping and alliance following the country's 1947 independence.
Significant historical factors influencing India's foreign policy consist of:

1) India founded the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which advocated for the autonomy of nations that have just gained their independence.
2) India maintained strong ties while trading and developing technology with Western countries. alongside the Soviet Union during the Cold War.
3) Post-Cold War Pragmatism: In the 1990s, globalisation caused India to start liberalizing and become more fully integrated into the global economy.

B. China's Transformation from Isolation to World Domination

China's foreign policy under Deng Xiaoping and his successors has undergone significant transformation.Mao Zedong's isolationism gave way to vigorous global engagement.
The following significant historical factors have an impact on China's foreign policy:
Prioritizing independence and revolutionary ideology, China had previously allied with the Soviet Union during the Maoist Isolationism (1949–1978), the Sino-Soviet divide.
Under Deng, China adopted a pragmatic approach with its economic reforms and opening up (1978–present).
Xiaoping, with a focus on economic growth and international cooperation.Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): China has expanded its infrastructure investment capacity, In the twenty-first century, impact is felt globally.

C. Brazil: South-South Collaboration and Leadership in the Region

Support for the Global South, robust multilateralism, and a focus on regional leadership in
The foreign policy of Brazil has been characterized by Latin America significant historical components:

1) Identity after colonization: Brazil, a former Portuguese colony, has taken the lead in regional organizations like as Mercosur and tried to leave its impact on the global stage. Brazil's commitment to international law and diplomacy during the Democratic Transition (1985) was enhanced as a result of the nation's shift from military to democratic rule.
2) Soft Power and Multilateralism: Brazil has made trade and cross-cultural exchanges a priority military power above diplomacy.

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II. IMPORTANT COUNTRIES' REGIONAL POLICIES

A. India

1) India's "Neighbourhood First" program in South Asia places an emphasis on economic, ties with South Asian nations on a security and political level. Its objectives are to promote regional stability and economic fusion.

2) Ties with the neighbors:

Pakistan: Historical conflicts, border disputes (Kashmir), and other factors have caused tensions as well as worries about terrorism. The occasional conversation is frequently interrupted by geopolitical happenings. A Comparative Analysis of China, India, and Other Emerging Powers' Foreign Policy Trends Brazil and Bangladesh have strong strategic and economic connections, including trade cooperation connectivity as well as agreements for water sharing.

Nepal: Although relations veer because of border disputes, India continues to be Nepal's main development and trading partner.

3) Regional Associations

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, or SAARC: India backs

Regional efforts by SAARC, however their efficacy is restricted because of Indo-Pakistani tensions.

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Collaboration): India aggressively advocates for BIMSTEC as a SAARC substitute, emphasizing connectivity, trade, and security with South and Southeast Asia nations.

B. China

1) China's Asia-Pacific Strategy seeks to increase its power through economic and security means programs like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and regional trade accords such The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is known as RCEP.
2) China has contested claims over a significant area of the South China Sea with ASEAN countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam respectively. It's constructed artificial islands and sent out armed forces, escalating tensions in the area.
3) China is the largest ASEAN member in terms of relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations investing in infrastructure and trading, yet territorial disputes lead to friction. China diplomatically employs economic clout to sway ASEAN's position on concerns about regional security.

C. Brazil

1) Leadership in South America: Brazil, the continent's biggest economy, plays a vital part in economic cooperation, environmental challenges, and regional diplomacy, especially with reference to the Amazon jungle.
2) One important participant in the Mercosur (Southern Common Market) trading bloc is Brazil, which aims to deepen trade ties with Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay. Modernisation is its goal. Trade policy of Mercosur and the expansion of international trade agreements.
3) Relationships with Adjacent Nations: Brazil has steady ties with its neighbours concentrating on security cooperation, infrastructural development, and economic cooperation. Political conflicts do, however, occasionally surface, particularly in light of Venezuela's political crisis and challenges related to regional migration.

III. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

A. India

1) Strategic Autonomy: When deciding on foreign policy, India aims to maintain its independence maintaining a balance between its relationships with important countries and avoiding getting too close to any One country.
2) Regional Stability in South Asia: India strives to address security issues, such as terrorism while fostering peace and stability in the region, particularly with countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan.
3) Indo-Pacific Focus: India is a significant actor in the Indo-Pacific region, working with countries (via the Quad) including the US, Japan, and Australia to maintain an open and free marine environment, particularly as a means of curbing China's power.
4) Alliances with Superpowers: Russia and India have strong military and energy relations. collaboration, US defense and technology, and other international institutions such as the European Union for investment and trade.

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B. China

1) Economic Dominance: By expanding its manufacturing sector, creating technology (such China aspires to become the leader in artificial intelligence and 5G), as well as in international trade biggest economy in the world
2) The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) seeks to build ports, railroads, and roadways to connect China with Africa, Europe, and other Asian countries, thus strengthening China's political and financial power.
3) In the Asia-Pacific region, China is assertive, regularly using diplomatic pressure and military expansion to expand its sway over regional disputes, including those involving Taiwan and the South China Sea.
4) Global Influence: China aims to undermine US-led international governance frameworks, strengthen relations with international agencies (like the UN and WTO) to better serve poor countries goal.

C. Brazil

1) South American Regional Leadership: By means of institutions such as Mercosur and the Organization Brazil, the largest country in the Organization of American States (OAS), wants to lead regional economic and political pursuits.
2) Environmental Diplomacy: While its approach varies depending on the political leader, Brazil is looking to become a pioneer in environmental policies because of the Amazon rainforest's important function in controlling the global climate.Brazil participates actively in the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) alliance partnership that seeks to reduce dependence on Western financial organizations like the World Bank as well as the IMF, and to encourage economic collaboration among developing nations Problems and Remarks

IV. EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL LIMITATIONS

A. India

Border Conflicts: India's ongoing military spending and foreign policy are influenced by the disputes over territory, particularly with Pakistan (Kashmir) and China (Ladakh area).
Internal Political Difficulties: Calls for regional autonomy (as in Kashmir and the Northeast), internal political division, and religious conflicts complicate governance.
Economic Restraints: Despite India's economy's rapid growth, issues like income inequality, Its influence is limited globally by unemployment and inefficient bureaucracy.

B. China

Human rights concerns: allegations of violations have led to international censure and sanctions. human rights abuses, particularly in Xinjiang and Tibet (the way Uyghurs are treated). The assertiveness of China in the South is causing geopolitical tensions and regional instability.
China Sea, tensions with Taiwan, and disagreements about borders with India.
In addition to raising worries about "debt-trap diplomacy," the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Western countries have responded adversely to aggressiveness due to China's growing impact among global organisations.

C. Brazil

Instability in the Economy: Because of its reliance on foreign markets, Brazil is vulnerable to changes in on inflation, the export of commodities, and regular economic downturns. Political crises at home: Corruption scandals have tarnished Brazil's image outside unstable leadership (like the impeachment of Dilma Rousseff) and political division.
Limited Global Influence: Brazil is less powerful militarily and diplomatically than other countries, which makes it challenging for the biggest economy on the continent to influence events outside of South America.

V. ANALYSIS OF EMERGING POWERS' FOREIGN POLICY TRENDS COMPARATIVELY

A. (China, India, and Brazil)

The foreign policies of China, Brazil, and India, three major emerging powers, differ ideas that are shaped by their individual histories, goals in terms of geopolitics, and economic passions. Their methods differ, even if they share a vision for a multipolar world. Due in large part to their domestic interests, regional factors, and ideological tendencies.

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1) Key Similarities and Differences in Foreign Policy Approaches

Comparables Multipolar World Order: The three nations are in favor of a multipolar world order that seeks to reduce Western hegemony, particularly the might of the US and its allies, in international affairs. For In order to increase their diplomatic influence, they actively support institutions such as the BRICS, G20, and UN.

- South-South Cooperation: Through diplomatic and commercial channels, they communicate with emerging nations. Brazil, for example, focuses on Africa and South America. While China and India make substantial investments in Africa, Lusophone countries South-east Asia and America.
- Emphasis on Trade and Economic Diplomacy: A vital part of any country's foreign policy is trade. Three nations. India and Brazil both play significant roles in MERCOSUR and the export of commodities.China has its Belt and Road Initiative, and it supports regional trade agreements like ASEAN and SAARC BRI initiative.
- Strategic Autonomy: These countries maintain a degree of autonomy from the major powers in the world powers. Indian relations with the US, China, and Russia are balanced as part of its non-strategy for alignment 2.0. Brazil has never directly aligned itself with superpowers. China, meanwhile, takes a strong yet independent stance.

Differences

Aspect	India	China	Brazil
Geopolitical Approach	Balances regional and global diplomacy	Expansionist & aggressive in regional disputes	Focuses on regional leadership in Latin America
Economic Strategy	Trade-driven but with protectionist tendencies	Export-driven, heavily state-backed investments	Commodity-dependent economy with market-driven policies
Security & Military	Defensive posture; focus on Indo-Pacific & border disputes	Military assertiveness (South China Sea, Taiwan)	Least militarized; focuses on soft power
Regional Engagement	Strong regional engagement (SAARC, BIMSTEC, Indo-Pacific)	Tense relations with neighbors (Japan, India, ASEAN)	Leadership role in Latin America (MERCOSUR)
Global Alliances	Partner with QUAD, BRICS, and G20	BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRI	BRICS, UNASUR, G20

2) Pros and cons of each country's foreign policy strategies

a) India

Strengths

Democratic Credibility: The democratic governance of India attracts Western nations, which allows for strategic partnerships, like the one between the US and India.

Soft Power Impact: Through cultural diplomacy, India's standing abroad is enhanced which incorporates Bollywood, yoga, and diasporic influences.

Strategic Alliances: QUAD and other alliances do not fully align with any superpower. The Indo-Pacific strategy strengthens its standing globally.

Limitations

Regional Conflicts: Border disputes take focus away from more ambitious global objectives along with Pakistan and China. Despite having a sizable economy, trade competitiveness is hindered bybureaucratic inefficiencies and protectionist measures

Slow Expansion of Infrastructure: India has invested comparatively less in foreign infrastructure, for example, in Africa vs China.

b) China

Advantages

Economic Leverage: China, the world's second-largest economy, has leveraged trade and investment to influences the globe in a significant way.

Power of Global Infrastructure: The Belt and Road Initiative is expanding into Latin America, Africa, and Asia BRI stands for Road Initiative.

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Weaknesses
Particularly in the South, its growing military presence amplifies regional influence.
China Sea. Strength & Assertiveness in the Military: Constraints
Geopolitical Tensions: Tense relations due to aggressive policies and territorial disputes (South China Sea, Taiwan) relationships with many countries.
Global Trust Deficit: China is viewed as an enemy by Western nations and regional rivals an authoritarian government
Dependence on global markets and supply chains: An excessive dependence on export-led growth Economic hazards are caused by disruptions.

c) Brazil.
Strength
Regional Leadership: Brazil is a key actor in regional diplomacy because to its largest
the Latin American economy significant impact on international sports, cultural diplomacy, and environmental legislation (such as hosting the World Cup or Olympics) are instances of soft power influence. A balanced foreign policy maintains cordial relations with both parties while avoiding major conflicts both Eastern and Western countries.

Limitations:
Economic Volatility: Brazil's dependence on foreign markets makes it vulnerable to shifts in those markets Exports of commodities.
Restricted Military and Strategic Impact: Brazil lacks the military power to influence world politics the manner of India and China.
Political instability: Changes in internal politics can lead to unpredictable foreign policy. comes close. 3. Effects on the Dynamics of Global Power

3) Impact of India
• Strengthens the security framework in the Indo-Pacific to counter China's growing influence.
• keeps ties with Russia while forming business and technology partnerships with western nations.
exacerbates global crises through mediating them (e.g., maintaining equilibrium between the Global The West and the South).

4) Impact of China
• China is posing a threat to US global dominance through its economic and military growth.
• alters international economic networks by expanding trade routes and dependence on the initiative for the Belt and Road.
• faces increasing containment efforts from multiple organizations, including QUAD, AUKUS, and NATO allies in the west.

5) Impact on Brazil
The establishment of Latin America as a significant player in discussions concerning global governance (e.g., UN climate-related regulations).
• improves South-South ties, especially with Africa and China.
• exports resources to support the global economy but lacks a clear geopolitical goal steadiness.

VI. CONCLUSION

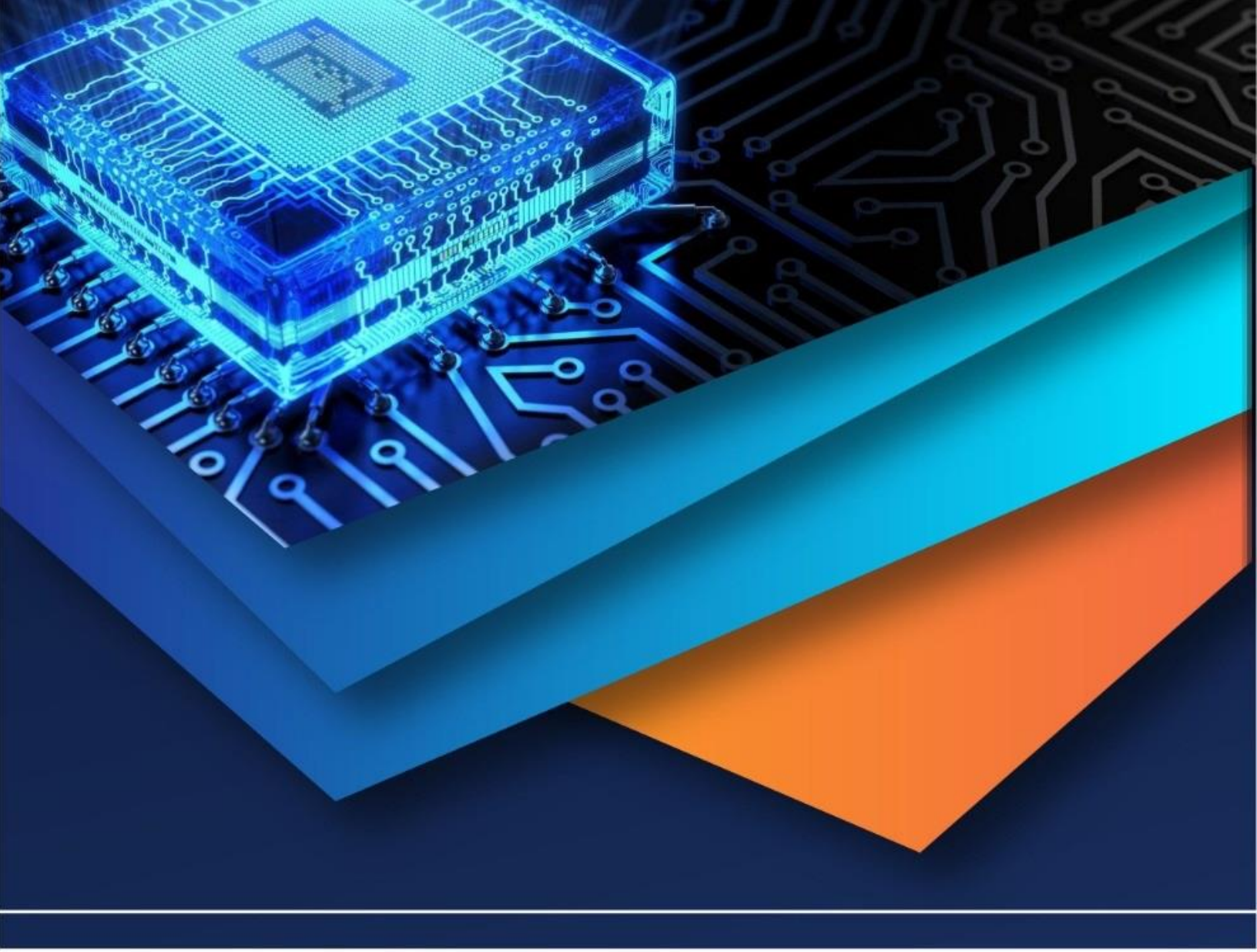
Each of Brazil, China, and India has distinct historical legacies, geopolitical needs, and economic objectives that show up in their foreign policy paths. In spite of the fact that aiming to maintain their strategic independence and expand their global influence, the The strategies employed by the three nations differ slightly.
China's foreign policy is characterised by assertiveness, particularly in territorial assertiveness in areas like economic diplomacy via the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the South China Sea. It is
Military modernisation, economic statecraft, and strategic planning all contribute to the definition of strategy partnerships with the intention of changing the global power structure.
On the other hand, India takes a multifaceted strategy, balancing its longstanding alliances with the US, Russia, and other regional partners, as well as non-alignment. The pursuit of a broader global role is demonstrated by its emphasis on economic expansion and South African regional leadership.

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Asia, as well as active participation in multilateral forums of the G20, BRICS, and QUAD.
Being the biggest South American nation, Brazil takes a multilateral, soft power-driven strategy.
focusing on UNASUR and Mercosur as regional leaders while simultaneously interacting with international organisations such as the WTO and BRICS. But its foreign policy is more impulsive and frequently influenced by cycles of the economy and domestic political changes. All three nations advocate for increased South-South cooperation despite these differences, a global governance with greater representation and a multipolar international order. Nevertheless, their ability to navigate 21st-century complex geopolitics and their complex economic Their ability to affect international norms will depend on their level of domestic political stability. Their responses to global concerns such as shifting climate patterns, technological advancements, and relationship between trade and their ability to effectively manage regional disputes and strategic alliances, is likely to impact future developments.

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