

## TIME FOR RENEWAL: THE BRICS AND THE GOALS OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

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Concerning the BRICS it's essential to consider comparatively the new power cycle in order to understand not only the impact of the world crisis as well as the relationship between the official political discourses and the economic instability. The economic interdependence accompanied with an uncertain international system are putting pressure to the BRICS with their own agendas for global order in seeking for a balance and also to regain a new political and economical dynamic for the promotion of new strategies. Apparently the BRICS are the symbol of a new political and economic order eventually more stable. However, as international actors they are states that are included and remain in the Westphalian paradigm. In that order, it is important to measure the limits and the possibilities of these "new" actors.

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Resumo:

*"The BRICS countries are regional powers endowed of global projection by the fact that they are carrying out the combination of three different levels in the international arena: (1) in the formal structures of the sovereign state, (2) in the internal environment with regional projection, (3) in the global external environment. The combination of these levels determines the effective capacity of balance and change over the international system, both politically and economically, with the intervention of a strong civil society; this is now an integral part of the change / reset in the redefinition of the world order. When considering that the BRICS are an integral part of the international subsystem stand out in this case the following functions: (1) maintaining the internal structure of the state, (2) strengthening regionally and (3) expanding its activity in the external environment, (4) increasing its influence in the international system in order to maintain the balance of the global order with the other powers.*

*Although they are disparate realities, the factor identity establishes the relationship between the BRIC countries, bearing in mind the need for convergence to ensure survival in the international arena means that the notion of difference should be legitimately recognized by the other to minimize the divergence in name of a common sentiment subsequently adapted or transformed (Anderson, 2002), to be avoided disruption of external and internal environment. Moreover, the formation of alliances depends on the homogeneity (and structures similar values) or heterogeneity (different structures and values) of the system, as well as the ability to influence decision-making among other actors in international relations (Aron, 1997). Consequently, in the sphere of BRIC it's possible to identify four dimensions (Hemant, 2008), as follows: (1) cultural, in which each country has its characteristics, (2) management, which evidence the practice of different policies, (3) geography, where the allocation of the cost of transportation and communication derives from the distance between each country, (4) economic inequality because of costs, wages and access to natural resources.*

*The BRICS eventually may fill a very important new role in redrawing the geopolitical order, and requiring the U.S. to share power with other powers in the international arena in order to avoid its transformation in an old Europe (Jain, 2006) of national states. Is it possible, however, reducing this problem to a simple, even if renewed, game of chess? We think that it's not possible, after all they are essential regulatory links, even if they differ in function of the cultural space experienced by social systems."*