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The Geopolitical and Economic Impact of BRICS on the Middle East

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The recent expansion of BRICS into Middle Eastern countries signifies an important shift in global power. The research is aimed at comprehensively exploring various aspects of such influence concerning the geopolitical and economic dynamics of the Middle East. The first part of the article focuses on how BRICS membership brings about a shift in the regional power balance that could be detrimental to the long-standing dominance of Western powers and therefore alter the US-Middle East relations. The second part of the paper highlights the role of BRICS in presenting itself as the mediator both in cases of stability and conflict resolution in the region and draws attention as well to the possible limitations and difficulties arising from the existence of different aims within the group. The case study of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE has been discussed in this article to investigate the relations between BRICS countries are explained by their importance in the contemporary global geopolitical and economic context. All these countries have a significant influence on regional and international affairs and therefore are valuable to analyzing the external relations of BRICS. It is concluded that the BRICS membership destabilizes the traditional balance of power in the Middle East, dethroning the Western powers and restructuring the US-Middle East relations. BRICS' influence on the Middle East is geopolitical and economic, with the transformative shift in global power dynamics, offering both opportunities and challenges for regional stability, economic growth, and international relations.

Keywords: BRICS, Emerging Economies, Middle East, Economic Alliance, Financial Challenges

BRICS represents an association of five leading developing economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) (Kahn 2020); it was established in 2009 and is a distinguished geopolitical and economic group whose emergence attracted attention for its potential to restructure global power dynamics(Pant 2013). BRICS is a powerful group of countries, which individually have great economic potential and influence, so BRICS collectively challenge the traditional power of the West in international affairs(Armijo & Roberts 2014). The main objective of BRICS is to ensure the partnership and cooperation of its member states in different areas, such as economic, political, and strategic(Laidi 2012). Through the progress of closer relations and mutual understanding, BRICS is designed to increase the importance and impact of emerging economies in global affairs(Vom Hau, Scott et al., 2012); BRICS identifies and addresses common challenges and jointly pursues common interests, which cover economic development and poverty reduction, geopolitical stability, and reform of the global governance institutions (Mielniczuk 2013). Economically, BRICS countries make up a considerable proportion of the world's GDP and population, which give them the role of the main engines of global economic growth and development (Siddiqui 2016). The organization pursues these goals through initiatives such as increased trade, investment, and technological cooperation that intend to use the combined power of the member states to promote economic prosperity and reduce inequalities.

The BRICS aspires to strengthen financial collaboration and explore alternative financing systems that decrease the dependence on Western-effected financial institutions and currencies (Kiely 2015, Nayyar 2018). BRICS goes beyond economic interaction; it is also a forum for diplomatic engagement and strategic discussion among its members. Through organizing summits, meetings, and exchanges regularly, BRICS provides its members with an opportunity to synchronize their views on crucial international issues, voice their concerns and defend their interests, and contribute to the creation of a multipolar world with more diversity and inclusivity in the decision-making processes on the global arena(Armijo & Roberts 2014). Recently, BRICS has expanded its reach to include four Middle Eastern countries: Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)(Kazelko & Semeghini 2024); this expansion is a major

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milestone for the BRICS' geopolitical and economic influence that is now extended into the sphere of engagement beyond the original member states in Latin America, Asia, and Africa(Das & Mahapatra 2023, Rubina 2024). This move by BRICS nations highlights their rising prominence and aspiration not only to expand their presence but also to gain strategic significance in the world. The inclusion of Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE in BRICS is an attempt to create an in-depth engagement with the major players in the Middle East which is a region of geopolitical complexities, economic significance, and cultural diversity(Özekin & Sune 2023). This development highlights the BRICS's understanding of the Middle East's importance in world affairs, especially in domains like energy, commerce, security, and regional stability. BRICS countries aspire to strengthen bilateral relations with the Middle Eastern nations to bring about cooperation on a wide range of issues such as economic growth, energy security, infrastructure investment, and political dialogue(Abdenur 2017). Hence, the membership of Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE in BRICS also represents a global geopolitical realignment and ongoing diversification of partnerships in the international landscape (Chaziza 2020).

With the transformation of traditional power structures and new centers of influence coming to the fore, BRICS attempts to adjust and expand its membership according to the changing geopolitical map and support the multipolar world order (Stuenkel 2017). Middle Eastern nations are welcomed into the BRICS membership, expanding its geopolitical power and reach. BRICS is strengthening its position as a powerful global faction, which can change the balance of power and create a multipolar world order, through its enlargement of the membership. Planning to include the Middle Eastern countries in BRICS, enriches partnerships beyond its original member states, and creates a way to the new markets, resources, and strategic opportunities(Sun 2021); Middle Eastern countries could look at BRICS as a means to diversify their geopolitical alliances and lessen their dependency on traditional Western powers(Antony 2023). By allying with the BRICS bloc, these countries can acquire additional sources of political, economic, and strategic counterbalance, growing in influence and autonomy. In economic terms, BRICS membership enables Middle Eastern countries to attract foreign investment, technological transfer, and infrastructure development(Asongu, Akpan et al. 2018); this gives rise to varying social and economic levels, job creation, and development that cuts across the board. This is done to counteract the volatile nature of such activities in the region. The prime objective of BRICS on dialogue, diplomacy, and peaceful negotiation provide an avenue for Middle Eastern countries to solve regional issues and secure the region, with all the actors actively participating in the process(Lee & Sims 2024). BRICS, as the forum, is a tool that Middle Eastern countries use to be part of peace-building efforts, conflict reduction, and security measures, thus building trust and cooperation in the region(Brosig 2019, Brosig 2024).

This edge-cutting study covers the research gap of new trends in relations between BRICS and Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE that have been trade and investments as a basis for further development of economic cooperation of these countries. Because the literature shows that, in the past few years, China and India, which are part of BRICS, have focused and invested in these regional economies, thus expanding infrastructure and energy sectors. China has invested significantly in FDI in the UAE and Saudi Arabia where it has invested in infrastructural projects such as seaports and industrial areas. All these investments have gone further to increase sectoral contribution to the national GDP and contributed to the stabilization and diversification of the economy of these nations from oil-based economies to part of the global economy. The net impact of these trade and investment activities is a closer and stronger economic coordination between BRICS and the Middle East as significant actors in the global economy.

The research is aimed at comprehensively exploring various aspects of such influence concerning the geopolitical and economic dynamics of the Middle East. The main focus of article is;

I. To highlight the geopolitical and economic impact of BRICS on the Middle East in the contemporary era
II. To discuss the case studies of different BRICS countries to investigate the relations between BRICS economies.
III. To focus on how BRICS membership brings about a shift in the regional power balance.
IV. To highlight the role of BRICS in presenting itself as the mediator for conflict resolution in the region.

Prior Investigation and Arguments

The Middle East's present geopolitical and economic balance is a complicated mix of various factors that govern the region(Amanat 2012). In the geopolitical environment, the Middle East is marked by a high level of conflicts, historical disputes, and rivalries between different states and non-state actors. This area is home to a diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural population that forms a connecting line to political and economic factors, thus, creating a difficult and unstable environment. The foremost regional problems in the Middle East are the political uncertainties caused by leaders who are not willing to work with others, the lack of institutions that can keep a country together, and the social unrest that is often associated with such things (Sela 2012). Conventional conflicts, like those in Syria, Yemen, and Libya, aggravate instability and humanitarian crises, forcing millions to flee and putting regional security to the test

(Ahram 2020). Economies of many countries in the Middle East still have to contend with the problem of over dependence on oil revenues and limited progress in stepping up the building of diversified and sustainable economies(Kubursi 2015). Furthermore, resource dependence brings countries to the instability of global oil prices and geopolitical risks. In the past, the Western powers were the main ones who were influential in the Middle East, and therefore they were the ones who shaped the alliances, economic policies, and security arrangements (Halliday 2005). Western interventionism, colonial legacy, and political interests of some countries had shaped regional dynamics for decades which often resulted in resentment and anti-Western sentiments in some populations (Clesse, Cooper et al., 2023). Nevertheless, the dynamics of the influence are in a process of shift, with the emergence of new powers like China, Russia, and BRICS countries that are aiming at increasing their presence and influence in the region through economic investments, diplomatic engagements, and strategic partnerships. Such transformations could question the old hierarchies of the West and consequently lead to a more multipolar geopolitical context in the Middle East. With the emergence of new powers in the area, Middle Eastern countries would feel the need to look for new cooperation and partnership opportunities, consequently having their alliances diversified and getting more independence while planning their political, economic, and security future (Chaziza 2020). In other words, the political and economic transformations in the Middle East are evolving and that makes the region both a place of turmoil and of opportunity for peace, prosperity, and security (Cammett 2018).

BRICS and the Middle East: Geopolitical Impact

The BRICS participating countries give a new dimension to the geopolitical scenario of the Middle East, foretelling a multipolar and diversified future for regional politics (Moch 2024). The BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) coming into the Middle East change the old power structures at play and thus modify the strategic calculations of these regional and global players. The most noteworthy aspect of the BRIC's membership is the fact that these countries are considered to be the leading powers in the Middle East, which rejects the false standard previously held by Western countries. The significance of the BRICS, especially in terms of economy, politics, and military activities, led to a rebalance of power and gave many Middle Eastern countries more maneuvering space for international decision-making(Juutinen 2019). This shift in policy grants the region an opportunity to break free from the reliance on Western alliances and open access to the creation of new diplomatic initiatives and partnerships. On the other side, by BRICS membership, new economic cooperation and development possibilities in the Middle East were opened. The BRICS member countries have ample resources for investment and regional knowledge technologies, which in turn stimulate economic growth and diversification. This economic partnership replaces the traditional trade relations with many countries in the Middle East and enhances trade and investment opportunities by making them less dependent on those economic partnerships(Henry and Springborg 2010). Also, the participation of BRICS in diplomacy and the dialogues of the region bring this to a whole new level. The BRICS nations, using their growing power and ambition to go global, are playing more important roles in mediating local conflicts, promoting stability, and supporting multilateralism(Larionova and Kirton 2018). Their engagement in the affairs of the Middle East offers new avenues for diplomacy and conflict resolution, completing the efforts of the existing ones by regional and global actors. Nevertheless, BRICS membership brings about some problems for the Middle East as well. The variety of BRICS countries' interests and priorities might cause competition and tensions within the region that could aggravate the current fault lines and make the diplomatic process more difficult (Khorbaladze 2021). Additionally, the resurgence of new geopolitical patterns and partnerships emerging in the BRICS context may lead to a higher level of rivalry and increase regional instability.

US-Middle East Relations and Regional Power Dynamics

BRICS's membership in the Middle East region can result in shifts in US-Middle East relations and regional power distribution (Kowner, Evron et al., 2023). The existence of the BRICS countries gives Middle Eastern countries an alternative to the United States' economic and political partnerships, which could in turn decrease dependence on the United States (Glosny 2010). This might result in the review of US policies and adjustment of engagement approaches to keep the influence. Moreover, BRICS' appearance in the Middle East will help create a multipolar geopolitical outlook where different power centers compete for their influence. This might result in a greater level of competition and game-playing that would be between the US and BRICS nations for regional domination and control over key resources and geopolitical issues.

Intra-Regional Relations and Potential for Conflict Resolution

BRICS participation in the Middle East can be seen as a factor affecting intra-regional connections and conflict-resolution activities (Paul 2020). The bloc's policy focus on non-interference and multilateralism offers an alternative way of dealing with regional conflicts compared to the traditional Western intervention (Brosig 2023). The BRICS members may reaffirm their mediator role in intra-regional disputes, using their diplomatic power to promote dialogue and negotiation processes. Nevertheless, the divergent interests among BRICS nations and the countries within the Middle East could impede conflict resolution efforts. Moreover, BRICS in the region can make current conflicts and rivalry worse as countries explore new alliances and power balances(Laidi 2012, Jones 2014).

BRICS aims at the maintenance of stability and security in the Middle East through diplomatic interaction, economic cooperation, and conflict settlement initiatives (Jones 2014). The bloc's joint resources and its diplomatic weight enable it to undertake regional issues such as terrorism, extremism, and political instability (Burton 2015). BRICS members can undertake development projects, peace building activities, and capacity-building projects to stabilize the region and promote security and socioeconomic well-being. Nevertheless, the capability of the BRICS to stabilize the global political situation is conditioned by its capacity to negotiate complicated geopolitical realities, overcome its internal differences, and obtain support from regional stakeholders. The role of the bloc in the Middle East is supportive of the existing regional and international initiatives, which through additional paths of cooperation and partnership may help to tackle common security challenges(Gause III 2014).

Contemporary Economic Relations of the Middle East Countries

The addition of these Middle Eastern countries into BRICS is a histrionic shift in the balance, as it is an indication of a growing multipolarity in the world's economic pattern (Klieman 2015). For example, China has deepened its economic cooperation with many Middle Eastern countries, especially in the energy sector(Kemp 2012). Currently, Saudi Arabia and UAE are some of the key oil exporting countries for China, which heavily relies on the import of oil to support its rapidly growing economy. Saudi Arabia and China have a pivotal role in energy cooperation, with Saudi Arabia exporting 61.2 million tons of oil to China and China representing the largest oil export market, absorbing 14.4% of Saudi oil exports in 2018 (Chen 2020). China's Belt and Road Initiative complements this, where Beijing plans to establish a new Silk Road line through infrastructure investment for Asia to connect with Europe and Africa(Afzal, Afzal et al., 2023, Xu, Afzal et al., 2023). It has brought substantial amounts of direct Chinese investments in the development of infrastructure such as ports, railways, and energy facilities in the Middle East countries hence increasing bilateral relations as well as trade.

India, on the other hand, has been forging ahead with its improvement efforts in its economic relations with the Middle East, with sectors such as medicines, information technology, and renewable energy in mind. India's economic relations with the Middle East include oil imports, bilateral trade, and millions of Indian migrants seeking jobs in the region (Nandy 2020). Many Indian companies are expanding their stakes in energy sectors, exploring and establishing oil and gas production facilities in countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE. This growing economic interdependence is clear evidence of India's strategic turn towards the Middle East given its desire for energy and its quest for markets.

Russia has extended its interests towards the Middle East mostly based on energy and military dealings with Iran. The two countries have had bilateral cooperation, especially within the context of the OPEC+ agreement, where they manage oil production levels to stabilize global oil prices(Mann 2009). Russia has sold Iran military equipment, which strengthens the bilateral relations between the two countries (Freedman 2006). However, Russia has somewhat different relations with other Middle Eastern countries including Saudi Arabia because it cannot afford to jeopardize its interests in the region.

Although Brazil and South Africa have not maximized the opportunities for trade and investment within the Middle East, there are emerging opportunities. Brazil, as a country that specializes in agricultural exports, should be able to complement the food security of countries such as Egypt, who import most of its foods (Woertz & Keulertz 2015). South Africa in particular has a diverse economy and has opportunities in sectors such as mining and renewable energy, which are relevant to the Middle Eastern region.

These Middle Eastern countries when included in BRICS have its advantage and disadvantages. On one hand, it permits the enhancement of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and technology imports, especially in strategic sectors such as infrastructure and energy(Kumari, Kumar et al., 2024). The possibility of developing joint projects can contribute to increased economic growth and progress of the region. At the same time, the struggle for resources and markets can cause geopolitical tensions between the members of BRICS, making the economic environment more complicated(Balcilar, Bonato et al., 2018). The member countries of BRICS have different economic policies, governance structures, and levels of development this may lead to conflicting interests, which may harm the collective interests of the countries in the bloc. The geopolitical context in which these economic relations progress cannot be ignored; there are many coalitions and competitions within the Middle East and the entrance of BRICS into this region makes it even more challenging(Laidi 2012). For example, the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran creates challenges for BRICS as it tries to facilitate dialogue and subtleties among its members. Another layer to the equation is the political reasons, such as historical relations between Middle Eastern countries and Western countries, and the shifting of commitments as these countries try to balance relations with both the BRICS and the traditional Western partners.

Geopolitical Influence of BRICS

Divergent National Interests: As a major issue affecting BRICS' geopolitical influence, the divergent national interests and priorities among the member states play a key role. The BRICS countries have different geopolitical aspirations, economic targets, and regional interests. These differences usually create different opinions on the most important global problems, and this is very much to the disadvantage of the bloc because it cannot face the world as one(Li & Carey 2014).

Geopolitical Rivalries: Another complicating factor in the geopolitical influence of the BRICS bloc is geopolitical rivalries among the members(Nuruzzaman 2022). The struggle for regional dominance, access to resources, and strategic influence may not be conducive to integration and coordination within the BRICS. As an illustration, competition between China and India in South Asia or between Russia and China in Central Asia may hinder cooperative endeavors and diminish the influence of the bloc on regional issues.

Internal Disputes and Conflicts: Domestic disagreements and conflicts within the BRICS member countries can reduce the bloc's capability to influence geopolitics; instability in socio-political spheres, ethnic conflicts, and territorial disputes in India, Russia, and South Africa drain resources necessary for them to actively engage in international diplomacy and regional cooperation. The internal challenges may turn the attention to internal affairs and redirect the resources away from the joint efforts to increase the collective geopolitical influence of BRICS(Van Noort 2019).

External Skepticism and Resistance: The geopolitical might of the BRICS attracts skepticism and resistance from the established global powers and international organizations (Öniş & Kutlay 2020). The Western powers such as the United States and the European Union tend to regard the rise of BRICS with suspicion and they often perceive the latter's growing influence as a threat to their domination. This implies the BRICS members have difficulties in integrating the bloc into global governance structures and decision-making processes and that is why it undermines the BRICS capability to shape the international norms and institutions.

Economic Vulnerabilities: Economic Vulnerabilities: However, the BRICS countries are additionally challenged economically by the existing vulnerabilities within the bloc and this makes the block underrated geo politically. In case a BRICS member country pursues a recession, currency fluctuations, and trade imbalances the problem of insufficient engagement in the world is likely to be faced. In addition, the external economic pressure in the form of trade sanctions, financial crisis, and market volatility might aggravate the economic vulnerability of BRICS countries, and hamper their efficiency to go about their geopolitical goals (Roberts 2019).

Limited Institutional Framework: BRICS is an informal grouping and has neither a mechanism for decision-making, nor coordination, and enforcement(Arapova & Isachenko 2019). In contrast with the UN or NATO which are the usually formal international organizations, BRICS summits, and bilateral meetings are normally used to implement its agenda. The lack of an institutional system and legal frameworks may prevent the bloc from adopting coordinated policies and initiatives, which will eventually diminish its geopolitical influence and its function in dealing with global challenges(Cooney, du Toit et al., 2015).

BRICS and the Middle East: Economic Impact

BRICS membership has a stunning potential to bring up a new set of challenges, risks, and interactions in regional trade, investments, and development discourse in the Middle East. Analyzing the effects of BRICS membership on the Middle East's economic impact involves various factors such as:

Trade and Investment Opportunities: BRICS membership presents trade and investment gates between the Middle East and new trade and investment partners like Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa(Prabhakar, Azam et al., 2015). The enhanced economic links create the channels for the movement of goods, services, and capital that feed off economic growth and diversification in the region. Middle Eastern countries can explore new export markets while benefiting from foreign investment and technology transfer from BRICS nations, thus creating jobs and stimulating industrial development.

Infrastructure Development and Connectivity: BRICS countries, especially China, are well-known for their large-scale infrastructure development ventures in other countries (Batista, 2021). In the Middle East, BRICS membership can become an engine for infrastructure investment in sectors like transportation, energy, telecommunications, and urban development. The expansion of ports, roads, railways, and energy pipelines facilitates regional integration, and the movement of goods, people, and services through borders, hence, creating economies of scale and promoting competitiveness.

Energy Cooperation and Resource Management:
The Middle East is an essential energy hub that has plenty of oil and gas reserves which are a source of the world's energy markets. BRICS membership assists energy cooperation and resource management in the area, developing partnerships in energy exploration, production, and distribution (Sun 2014). Technology transmission, skills, and investment from BRICS nations to the countries of the Middle East help the latter to develop their energy sector, improve its efficiency, and diversify fuel types.

Diversification of Economic Partnerships:
Being a part of the BRICS membership provides an incentive for Middle Eastern countries to diversify their economic alliances beyond the traditional Western allies. The Middle East region achieves diversification by being a trade partner to emerging economies and this ensures that the region is not subject to geopolitical tensions or economic fluctuations in the Western markets. Through the BRICS membership, Middle Eastern countries have more room and capacity to respond to global economic instability (Stuenkel 2020).

Challenges and Competition: Although, BRICS membership brings advantages it also has the elements of competition and challenges for the Middle East. The intensified economic cooperation with the BRICS countries may lead to the disruption of existing trade patterns and industries, thereby creating disturbances to local businesses and labor markets. As well, the competition for resources, markets, and strategic assets between BRICS countries and other regional players will be further aggravated, which may result in geopolitical tensions and rivalries in economic fields (Nuruzzaman 2022).

Diversification of Trade Partners

Growing trade and investment relationships between the Middle Eastern countries and the BRICS nations mark the emergence of new dynamics in the global economy(Cousins & Borras Jr et al., 2018). This rise in trade and investment is an outcome of the economic clout of BRICS nations, i.e. Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, and their need to penetrate the strategic markets and resources of the Middle East. An increasing trend in trade and investment is determined by several factors. As the BRICS economies, particularly China, have taken the role of major trading partners for the Middle East, the growing demand for energy resources, infrastructure projects, and consumer goods in these countries have been the key drivers behind this trend (Gusarova 2019). While BRICS countries seek access to the Middle Eastern markets for their exports, the latter also look to the BRICS market to sell their oil, natural gas, petrochemicals, and other commodities. One more important point to be highlighted is that the diversification of trade partners is a crucial part of BRICS membership in the Middle East. They have been from time to time relying on Western markets to trade their commodities. Now they are diversifying their economic alliances to reduce dependency and manage risks of unpredictable fluctuations in Western economies. BRICS members serve as an alternate setting for markets and investment opportunities, which opens up new opportunities for Middle Eastern countries to explore their development on the economic front. The opportunity to use BRICS development funds not only helps economic cooperation between the Middle East and BRICS nations but also provides it with an additional boost. Initiatives like the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which involve the BRICS countries as major players, provide funding for infrastructure projects, renewable energy programs, and other development projects in the Middle East(Zhu 2019). These funds provide an additional source of financing, which in turn is complementary to other traditional sources, including multilateral development banks and foreign direct investment.

Infrastructure Development and Technological Collaboration

The Middle East and BRICS nations' interconnection in infrastructure development and tech sharing through joint efforts are vital in the growth of their economic partnership, which is evident through innovation, connectivity, and development in various sectors.

Infrastructure Development: Infrastructure development collaboration includes the planning, financing, as well as construction of key physical structures and facilities. Particularly China with its vast knowledge of infrastructure development is an important partner for the Middle East among the BRICS countries. Infrastructure projects are about transportation networks (i.e. roads, railways, ports, and airports) energy facilities (including power plants; pipelines, and renewable energy installations), telecommunications systems, and urban development initiatives (Basoli & Ricceri 2018).

Technological Collaboration: Technological cooperation stands for the transfer of information, skills, and resources in different technological areas. BRICS countries have significant technological potential across multiple domains, such as information technology, telecommunications, renewable energy, healthcare, and agriculture(Gu, Renwick et al., 2018). Technology collaboration includes joint research and development activities, technology transfer agreements, capacity-building initiatives, and the creation of centers of research and innovation.

Benefits of Infrastructure Development and Technological Collaboration

Infrastructure development helps to grow the economy by creating jobs, increasing productivity, and drawing investors. Technological cooperation stimulates innovation and competitiveness, the engines of economic diversification and sustainable growth. Infrastructure projects are aimed at improving connectivity within the MENA region and with BRICS nations, which will favor trading, tourism, and cultural exchange. Improved connectivity provides a solid basis for regional integration and cross-border collaboration. Investments in infrastructure for energy, water, and transportation can enhance resource efficiency and environmental sustainability. Technological partnerships to promote the use of green technologies and environmentally friendly practices lead to a reduction in carbon emissions and environmental impacts(Khattak, et al., 2021, Nile, et al., 2024). Projects of an infrastructural nature, like schools, hospitals, and community centers, aid in social development and human capital formation. Technological collaboration is the main driver of access to healthcare, education as well as information services, which in turn empower communities and improve their quality of life.

Challenges and Mitigation

Egypt and Iran are the most affected countries by debts in the Middle East region, as debts place severe constraints on their growth and development(Safwat, et al., 2021). Egypt's debt has increased in recent years, driven by a combination of external borrowing and domestic fiscal pressures. This situation demands a strategic approach to foreign investment and economic partnerships especially with great powers like China, India, and Russia, which present both risks and opportunities. China has been quite active in the Middle East. Being one of the largest investors globally, China has been involved in infrastructure development in the region investing its money in projects such as those in Egypt. Since 2015, Egypt has been a key country in the BRI, which has led to large Chinese investments in infrastructure projects, particularly transport and energy(Shaaban and Moneim 2020). While these investments can encourage economic growth and create jobs, they also raise concerns about debt sustainability(Abdul-Rahman, et al., 2024). The inflow of Chinese loans can lead to a cycle of dependency, where countries may struggle to repay their debts, possibly resulting in a loss of control over critical infrastructure. This dynamic is especially applicable to Egypt as the country is at a crossroads as to how it can use Chinese investments for development without falling into the Chinese debt trap. India offers a different kind of opportunity to the Middle Eastern countries. Being an emerging economic power with an expanding demand for energy resources, India has focused on expanding its cooperation with the countries of the region in energy, technology, and trading spheres. To Egypt, India provides an opportunity for expansion of economic relations and can be a counterbalance to Chinese dominance. However, the problem is that India is still struggling to challenge China and find a consistent strategy to improve its advantage in the region. India has a history of cooperation with Iran, especially in the energy field and this can be valuable for Iran now, as the country is experiencing economic problems because of sanctions(Suresh & Ramesh 2015). However, due to its efforts to balance its strategic interests and political relations with Iran on one hand and with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on the other, the position of India is a bit tricky in the region. Russia's contribution to the Middle East is categorized by its strategic alliances, particularly with Iran and, to a lesser extent, Egypt. Russia's military and political support for Iran, especially in the context of the Syrian conflict, has strengthened its role as a key ally for Tehran(Keshk 2021). But this relationship is far from smooth sailing as Russia's interests may not always be in line with Iran's, especially regarding energy and security. Assuming that Egypt is a key player in the region, Russia can provide it with military and energy cooperation; however, this does not seem to be deep in comparison with the multiple connections Egypt has with China and the Gulf states.

Financial Constraints:

Financial requirements for large-scale infrastructure projects may cause concern about the issue of debt sustainability and fiscal responsibility. Besides, technological collaboration can be accompanied by high costs for research and development, infrastructure improvements, and skills upgrades.

Regulatory Frameworks:

Regulatory frameworks, legal systems, and bureaucratic practices between the Middle East and BRICS nations may hinder infrastructure development and technology partnerships. Alignment of regulations and increasing transparency are vital to creating trust and cooperation(Poskitt, et al., 2016).

Technological Transfer: It is of utmost importance to provide equal opportunities for technology and knowledge transfer to reach the peak of benefits from collaboration. Intellectual property rights, technology license agreements, and skill development programs must be strategically negotiated to prevent unevenness and to promote inclusive growth.

Financial Cooperation and Alternative to US Dollar Dependence

Financial cooperation between the Middle East and BRICS nations offers opportunities for expanding economic policies and decreasing reliance on the US dollar (Stuenkel 2013). This partnership offers a sustainable way of maintaining financial stability and progress in the region. Cooperation brings about diversification of currency reserves away from the US dollar so that they are not exposed to its fluctuations and at the same time diminishing the risk of changes in US monetary policy. Trading settlement in local currencies or through other options decreases the need for the US dollar in Middle East-BRICS trade. Formal currency swap arrangements and regional clearinghouses facilitate trade operations and reduce foreign exchange risks. Collaboration mostly leads to the region’s financial infrastructure development which can comprise payment systems, clearing mechanisms, and financial institutions among others. The BRICS (New Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) are among the initiatives that have been created for investing in infrastructure projects and economic development (Chin 2014). Partnerships are built upon the Middle East's expertise in Islamic finance, and BRICS countries' concern about Sharia-compliant banking products. Joint schemes, Islamic bonds, and investment funds that serve the Islamic preferences of the Muslim-majority countries are also a way of developing Islamic finance. Collaboration increases the resilience of Western financial institutions and markets by reducing dependence on them (Larionova & Shelepov 2022). It also reduces the external pressures and geopolitical risks. This leads to greater resilience through global economic turbulence or financial crises. Financial cooperation with BRICS countries has geopolitical dimensions, as it may change economic influence from Western-controlled structures. This increases a more multilateral world order and gives greater weight to the Middle East in the international financial markets.

Competition between BRICS Members

Within BRICS, competition among the members for influence and resources is a key driving force, which is based on the differences in national interests, strategic priorities, and economic aspirations. This competition reveals the intricate geopolitical landscape and power relations among the five permanent member countries, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. BRICS member states constantly compete with each other for consumer markets, raw materials, and capital within their regions as well as beyond the region. Concerns about the market and being in various sectors are the effects of China as a dominant partner of the BRICS countries (Pant 2013). Other countries, however, are worried about the competition and the trade imbalance. Similarly, in the manufacturing, technology, and infrastructure development sectors, China is in competition with Brazil and India for both market share and investment choices. The BRICS members are trying hard to get geopolitical influence, especially in areas where their interests overlap or diverge(Chaturvedi & Saha 2017). For instance, Russia is sometimes seen as being too belligerent in Eastern Europe and the Middle East while China is mounting economically and India is being more emphatic in their region. Such competition for influence may be reflected in diplomatic games, strategic alliances, and proxy conflicts which can influence regional dynamics and global governance structure. The rivalry of BRICS members for access to energy reserves, natural resources, and strategic assets is another facet of the competition. BRICS economies which are in the process of development as well as increasing energy consumption act as competing parties for the control of crucial resources like oil, natural gas, minerals, and agricultural land. This competitiveness may create geopolitical tensions, resource conflicts, and strategic rivalries in the regions where there are plenty of natural resources. The BRICS countries are fighting for technological leadership and innovation to enhance their economic competitiveness and strategies(Cassiolato & Lastres 2011). The progress of China in the field of technology, for example, artificial intelligence, telecommunications, and renewable energy caused worries to other BRICS nations about technology dependency and security risks (Armijo & Roberts 2014). India is thriving with technology and Brazil's efforts to innovate also add to intra-BRICS competition in this sector. The emerging powers of the BRICS countries aim to gain the status of the regional hegemony in their respective areas of influence and in the course of this struggle for the leadership they seek the alliances with other powers. China's rise and assertiveness in Asia-Pacific, Russia's actions in Eastern Europe, and India's ambitions in South Asia are, on the other hand, indicative of their struggle to be regional leaders and to keep the external powers in check.

Concerns over Human Rights and Governance

Issues related to lack of transparency, accountability, institutional effectiveness and governance systems within BRICS have gained prominence as a major concern, showing that the political systems, cultural values, and historical backgrounds of member states are different. The BRICS bloc encompasses different countries with different governance models and ideologies.

Corruption and Lack of Transparency: Corruption and transparency still pose a big problem in BRICS countries, which results in a decline of public trust, deterioration of institutional integrity, and preservation of sustainable development projects. Corruption Perceptions Index from Transparency International shows various levels of corruption among BRICS countries, and this shows the requirement for comprehensive anti-corruption measures and governance reforms(Nguyen & Duong 2021).

Accountability and Institutional Effectiveness: The failure of accountability mechanisms, institutional performance, and oversight mechanisms to function properly leads to governance problems in the countries of BRICS. Power concentration, lack of accountability, and immunity for human rights violations are among the most prominent concerns, which underline the need for the development of democratic institutions, transparency, and public oversight.

Limited Capacity to Absorb Investment

The limited absorptive capacity of some Arab countries to endure the investment reflects various structural, institutional, and socio-economic obstacles that prevent them from using foreign capital efficiently and promoting sustainable economic development. Infrastructure deficits are widespread in Middle Eastern countries, including inadequate transport systems, electricity supply networks, and telephone/communication systems. The lack of well-established infrastructure hinders the ability to pull in and retain investment because it is the reliable infrastructure that investors need to do business and facilitate trade and commerce. Weak regulatory regimes, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and legal uncertainties usually play a part in dissuading investment and slowing economic development(Afzal and Yongmei 2023, Yongmei & Afzal 2023). The regulatory framework which is complex, opaque (Afzal 2024, Afzal 2024), and with ambiguous laws and inconsistent enforcement of laws is an investment challenge, negative to investor confidence, and inhibits entrepreneurship and innovation(Afzal 2024, Afzal 2024). The limited institutional capacity, manifested in weak governance structures, local administrative inefficiencies, and pervasive institutional corruption, makes it impossible for Middle Eastern countries to utilize investment efficiently. Deficient governance structures undermine investor confidence, exacerbate regulatory issues, and block the implementation of investments and policy reforms. Shortage of skills, insufficient educational systems, and ineffective labor markets impede the ability of the countries of the Middle East to absorb investment and accelerate economic development (Manimala & Wasdani 2015). The skills of the workforce mismatch with market demand, thus, adversely affects the productivity, innovation, and competitiveness that are necessary for the capacity to fully capitalize on investment opportunities and realize sustainable development outcomes. Political instability, regional conflicts, and security risks are factors that undermine the confidence of investors and hinder investments in many Middle Eastern countries. Uncertainty and volatility, stemming from the protracted geopolitical tensions, social unrest, and security threats, have become the major reasons for the discouragement of long-term investment and the hindrance of economic diversification and development. The macroeconomic imbalances, fiscal constraints, and external vulnerability in some Middle Eastern countries challenge the ability to absorb investments. High government debt, exchange rate volatility, and reliance on commodity markets make for increased economic risks and constrain the ability to absorb investments productively(Chin 2016).

Israel-Palestine Conflict

The Israel-Palestine conflict has had significant economic repercussions on Middle Eastern countries, affecting trade, tourism, energy prices, and investment flows in the region(Khan 2024). The conflict has led to interruptions in regional supply chains, as tensions affect transportation routes and border operations. Egypt and Jordan, which have peace agreements with Israel, may face strained trade flows and economic pressures to balance relations between different regional players. Cross-border trade, particularly with Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, faces potential disruptions. This can hinder exports and imports, especially for goods that rely on road or sea transport near contested areas. Conflict in the Middle East often leads to speculation about oil supply risks, particularly when tensions arise close to oil-producing countries(Ahram 2020). This speculation can drive up oil prices, directly benefiting oil-exporting countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Kuwait. This risk can impact global energy markets and raise shipping costs for all Middle Eastern countries dependent on secure sea routes. Investors tend to be cautious during periods of conflict, and an escalation in Israel-Palestine tensions can cause a ripple effect across the region, where investor sentiment may turn pessimistic. Countries like the UAE and Saudi Arabia, which are heavily invested in diversification and attract significant foreign investments, could see a decline in FDI as investors wait for stability. If the conflict intensifies, there could be further displacement of Palestinian populations, putting strain on these countries and increasing the need for humanitarian aid, health, and housing services(Alameddine, Fouad et al., 2019).

The Israel-Palestine conflict has significant implications for both Iran and Egypt, as each country plays a unique role in Middle Eastern politics and has distinct interests in the outcome of the conflict. Iran has historically provided political, financial, and military support to groups opposing Israel, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon(El Husseini 2010). This support is part of Iran's strategy to project influence in the region and position itself as a champion of Palestinian resistance against Israel, aligning with its ideological stance against Western influence in the Middle East. Escalation of the conflict often leads to heightened tensions between Iran and Israel, especially along Israel's northern borders with Lebanon and Syria. Egypt has long served as a mediator in the Israel-Palestine conflict; Egypt's strategic geographic position, sharing a border with Gaza, allows it to act as a channel between Palestinian groups and Israel. Egypt has a vested interest in regional stability, which is essential for its economic growth, especially in tourism and foreign investment(Ikram 2007). Conflict escalation can harm investor confidence and tourism flows to Egypt, impacting its economy.

Case Studies

The selection of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE as the cases for studying the relations between BRICS countries is explained by their importance in the contemporary global geopolitical and economic context. All these countries have a significant influence on regional and international affairs and therefore are valuable to analyze the external relations of BRICS. Iran with its large energy reserves and geographical location plays an important role in the Middle East. Its distribution of energy is important for countries such as China and India within BRICS, which are major energy consumers. The relations between Iran and the BRICS countries present the efforts of the association to overcome geopolitical barriers such as sanctions and develop the energy sector. Saudi Arabia is the largest oil-exporting country and constitutes a great influence on the international markets, and has expanded its political and economic relations diversifying them such as enhancing cooperation relations with the BRICS countries. This shift corresponds to the kingdom's diversification policy of decreasing reliance on traditional Western partners and increasing its role in world politics. Finally, the UAE can be considered as one of the strategic regions that play a significant role in the development of the Middle East as a large number of economic infrastructure projects and investments are attracted by BRICS countries. Due to the UAE's aim of diversification, accumulation of technology, and competent shift from relying on the Western market, it is a strategic partner to BRICS in terms of trade, investment, and security in the region. These countries were selected based on their economic significance, geographical position, and how their relations with BRICS are shaping new power relations in the Middle East and other regions to explain how BRICS is shaping and responding to the geopolitics of the Middle East and the world.

BRICS and the Islamic Republic of Iran

The BRICS-Iran relations are varied and determined by geopolitical interests, economic factors, and regional power dynamics. Iran, being one of the principal oil and gas producers, occupies a key position in the world of energy. The BRICS countries, particularly China and India, which have the most energy demands, Iran can provide the hydrocarbons needed to meet the increasing energy needs. Bilateral agreements and energy partnership programs between Iran and BRICS countries provide energy security by increasing energy supply diversity and reducing dependence on traditional energy exporters. BRICS countries, among them China and Russia, have been striving to keep diplomatic and economic relations with Iran despite the internationally imposed sanctions and geopolitical tensions(Khanmohammadi & Sun 2022). These relations are proof of the efforts to keep the balance of geopolitical interests and achieve strategic objectives in the Middle East and even beyond. Iran's geostrategic position and energy resources are reasons that this country plays a significant role in the regional geopolitics that affect BRICS countries' relations with Iran and form the approaches of BRICS countries to regional security and stability. The relations between BRICS and Iran have regional security and stability implications, especially concerning the Persian Gulf and the Middle East. Economic and energy relationships between Iran and BRICS countries may have an impact on regional power distribution, alliances, and rivalries. The economic partnerships of the BRICS countries with Iran can help Iran to integrate into the global economy, and this can bring about regional economic cooperation and development and, as a result, can reduce tensions and promote peace and stability in the region. The International sanctions, geopolitical rivalries, and security risks hamper Brics-Iran relations and regional energy security. The sanctions the Western powers imposed on Iran have narrowed Iran's access to global markets and restricted its potential for full-scale energy cooperation with the BRICS countries (Murugesan 2018). Geopolitical tensions and security threats in the Persian Gulf region, including maritime insecurity issues and military conflicts, could lead to disruption of energy supplies and weakening of regional security, affecting BRICS-Iran relations and global energy markets. Multilateral forums such as the BRICS summit and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) create venues for talks and partnerships on energy security and regional stability issues that involve Iran and other regional partners(Valizadeh and Houshialsadat 2013). Through their collective strength and diplomatic channels, the BRICS countries can help in promoting dialogues, confidence-building measures, and conflict resolution mechanisms that will ensure the energy security of the region, and build cooperation among regional actors.

BRICS and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The BRICS-Saudi Arabia partnership and its impact on US-Saudi relations constitute a complex game of geopolitics, economy, and strategy that determines the character of the interaction between these major actors in the world arena. The BRICS bloc, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, is made up of emerging economies that have huge economic might and a growing presence in the world markets. Saudi Arabia, being the leading oil exporter and a main economic force in the Middle East, aspires to diversify its economic relations with non-Western partners and investment projects (Ramady 2010). Increased economic partnership between Saudi Arabia and BRICS countries is particularly beneficial for the development of trade, investments, and technology transfer with China and India. This leads to economic growth and development in both regions. The energy requirements of BRICS nations, especially China and India, which are two of the largest energy consumers in the world, are in line with Saudi Arabia's strategic significance as a major oil producer and exporter (Sultan 2016). Energy cooperation and investment partnerships between Saudi Arabia and BRICS countries create a safety net for energy security and supply stability for both sides. BRICS-Saudi Arabia partnership in the energy sector helps to diversify the sources of energy supply and reduces the dependence on traditional suppliers of energy, changing the global distribution of energy and challenging the dominance of the Western energy markets. The US-Saudi partnership is influenced geopolitically by the BRICS-Saudi partnership, with a particular focus on the changing global power dynamics and realignment of international alliances. Saudi Arabia's involvement with the BRICS nations is an indication of its attempts to broaden its geopolitical allies and cut down on its reliance on the Western powers(Kamin & Langhammer 2024). The mutual development of economic and strategic relations between Saudi Arabia and BRICS countries in the face of conflicting interests and priorities can increase the pressure that the US-Saudi relations are under and may even affect the US foreign policy as well in terms of the Middle East. The BRICS-Saudi Arabia partnership could be challenging traditional US-Saudi relations if strategic cooperation has been the only thing characterizing the relations in areas of defense, security, and energy. The expansion of Saudi Arabia's ties with the BRICS group of nations might be read as a reconfiguration of its foreign policy priorities and a move away from the past dependence on Western allies. US-Saudi ties might also experience tensions and competition in areas where BRICS countries and Saudi Arabia overlap, such as energy, infrastructure, and regional security projects. The US could see the Saudi Arabian engagement with BRICS countries as a threat to its regional dominance and objectives, prompting changes in US foreign policy approaches in the Middle East(Özekin & Sune 2023). The partnership between BRICS and Saudi Arabia spotlights shifts in global power dynamics and the emergence of multilateralism in world affairs. Saudi Arabia’s engagement with BRICS countries reflects the dynamics of the geopolitics of the day, which includes not only the emergence of non-Western actors but also the reshaping of global alliances and partnerships. The strategic impact of the BRICS-Saudi Arabia dialogue on US-Saudi relations underlines the necessity for adaptability and diplomacy in the face of changing geopolitical realities and the development of mutually beneficial cooperation among the main actors in the global arena(Gouvea & Gutierrez 2023).

BRICS and the United Arab Emirates

The participation of BRICS in the UAE's infrastructure projects is a manifestation of a close collaboration between emerging economies and a regional superpower, which has a lot of consequences for both BRICS nations and the UAE. BRICS investments provide an EV with the necessary funds to implement the infrastructure projects that are fundamental to economic development. The investments support UAE's oil and gas diversification efforts, with a focus on transport, renewable energy, real estate, and tourism. In the UAE, investments in BRICS allow the development of the country’s infrastructure networks, which in turn increase connectivity, efficiency, and sustainability. The emerging projects such as transportation hubs, ports, airports, roads, and utility infrastructure make the UAE a pivot for global logistics and trade, ensuring the movement of goods, services, and people. BRICS investments bring with them the technical know-how and the technology transfer opportunities to the UAE which is needed to promote innovation and knowledge transfer; the UAE benefits from collaboration in infrastructure projects by working with BRICS nations which are equipped with advanced technology in the field of renewable energy, smart cities, and digital infrastructure, which in turn contribute to the long-term growth and competitiveness of the UAE's economy. BRICS investments offer the UAE an alternative to Western investors thereby reducing dependency and hedging the risk associated with fluctuations in global markets. Deepening relations with the BRICS countries broadens the horizons for trade, investment, and partnerships, which can facilitate the development of a more balanced and resilient economic environment for the UAE. BRICS investments magnify UAE's global influence and appeal as a destination for investments, portraying the country as the hub of the MENA region. The BRICS nations partnering with the UAE, the latter strengthen its position as a regional development initiative and get a good name as a friendly and futuristic economy. Investing in UAE infrastructure projects provides BRICS countries with direct entry to major markets in the Middle East and enables them to diversify their investments and obtain a global reach (Kamel 2018). It also underpins economic collaboration and geopolitical partnership between BRICS countries and the MENA region, thus enabling the BRICS bloc to pursue its broader agenda of fostering South-South cooperation and a multipolar world order. These BRICS investments, however, reinforce the previous partnerships, but they might affect the UAE-US relations too. Developed collaborative economic ties with BRICS countries will widen UAE's alliances and diplomatic engagements, thus making it possible to influence its relationship with the United States. Yet the depth of such implications depends on several geopolitical and economic determinants among which are US priorities, regional dynamics, and UAE's strategic interests.

Comparative Analysis of BRICS Relations with Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE

All these countries have a significant impact in defining the geopolitical politics of the Middle East and are hence vital in the study of the BRICS system and its operating model towards regional integration and strategic standing. Iran is one of the world's major energy exporters with considerable oil and gas reserves that are important for BRICS countries, particularly China and India. Bearing international sanctions, Iran has shared a comprehensive economic and diplomatic relationship with the BRICS due to its strategic location and energy resources. This further demonstrates the strategic intent of BRICS as a group to diversify energy imports and decrease dependence on Western sources. Related to this is the relationship with Iran where BRICS has signed cooperation deals while at the same time enjoying access to energy needed to fuel growth despite the sanctions that characterize the global political system and the instability surrounding the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia being one of the most important oil producers in the world is of equal importance in the context of relations between BRICS countries. The kingdom's increasing interaction with BRICS countries – in energy, infrastructure development, and technology transfer – is indicative of its shifting course from the West. It was pointed out that the BRICS-Saudi Arabia partnership is a direct reaction to the shifting structure of the global energy market, where BRICS countries, especially China and India, are trying to diversify their energy sources. Saudi's joining BRICS intensifies the historical relation between KSA and USA as it is a clear sign of shifting of its foreign policy towards strengthening its relations with the new world powers instead of relying on traditional allies.

Another reason to consider BRICS relations is the UAE, which has an advanced infrastructure and increased its role in the Middle East economy. Based on the above analysis it is clear that the UAE is an important partner for the BRICS countries that are seeking to establish a strong foothold in the Middle East and North Africa as a trade and financial center, and technology and innovation hub. The UAE's policies of moving away from oil and gas and attracting foreign investments dovetail well with BRICS' general goals of South-South cooperation and multi-polarity in the world. Also, UAE stands at the crossroads between the East and West which makes it a strategic partner to BRICS in addressing issues to do with regional security, business, and technology.

These countries were chosen not only for their economic and geopolitical significance but also because their relationships with BRICS provide a better insight into how BRICS is refashioning global relations and balancing multipolarity. These features underscore some emergent regional and global dynamics that shape BRICS' external environment and its strategy in the search for energy, infrastructure, and investment cooperation in the world becoming more multipolar. Through the analysis of these cases, it is possible to learn more about the various ways that the members of the BRICS act toward key actors in the region with specific geopolitical and economic factors influencing the behavior of each member.

The analysis of BRICS' partnerships with Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE reveals both similarities, and differences in the bloc's regional strategies, and further demonstrates the shifts in its function and role in global governance and international relations. Even though each of the partnerships is developed in the context of specific geopolitical interests and goals – from energy security in the case of Iran, through the diversification of Saudi Arabia's economy, to the development of infrastructure in the UAE – such partnerships as a whole indicate a more general tendency of BRICS gradually beginning to present itself as an option to the post-WEST world order. These partnerships are indicative of new trends within the bloc's drive for multipolarity, economic sovereignty, and the security of regionalization through diverse partnerships. However, there is still divergence in the way BRICS operates in the different regions, due to the specific characteristics of the areas and the priorities of the countries therein. For instance, Iran has abundant energy resources, and its geopolitics complement BRICS' requirement of energy security, Saudi Arabia is interested in economic diversification, and the UAE is keen on infrastructure development, this shows that BRICS has flexibility in its strategy to help its partners. The strategic implications of these partnerships are profound. They are involved in remodeling energy security for the world, providing new prospects for economic development, and questioning current international relations, especially with the U.S. and traditional Western countries. Finally, the BRICS' regional strategies reflect the transition to a more polycentric world in which emerging countries are the dominant drivers of economic and geopolitical processes.

Conclusion

The accession of four Middle Eastern countries to the BRICS group is clear evidence of the new world order where power relations are changing and the geopolitical and economic landscape of the region is undergoing a radical transformation. Through the presented research, it is concluded that the BRICS membership destabilizes the traditional balance of power in the Middle East, dethroning the Western powers and restructuring the US-Middle East relations. Together with BRICS as a main player in maintaining stability and solving conflicts in the area, they are faced with difficulties from the different objectives within the group. In terms of economic benefits, BRICS provided opportunities for Middle East trade, investments, and technology collaboration, but it also faces internal rivalry, the Israel-Palestine issue, and addresses human rights and governance matters. Nevertheless, the analysis reveals that BRICS offers alternative funding channels and routes to lessen the dependence on the US dollar, giving the Middle East new directions for economic transformation and strategic cooperation. As we conclude, BRICS' influence on the Middle East is geopolitical and economic, with the transformative shift in global power dynamics, offering both opportunities and challenges for regional stability, economic growth, and international relations.

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