

Foreword by the editor

The BRICS group, as a concentration of countries with emerging markets, has been brought up since 2001 and officially entered the global economy since 2009 with the holding of summits of member countries' leaders in Yekaterinburg, Russia. The structure of the BRICS group, with the membership of South Africa and as of January 1, 2024, several other countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, has garnered more attention from stakeholders than ever before. The presence of China and Russia, which have a perspective based on the obligation to reduce Western bloc hegemony, in the BRICS group is likely to lead to a greater role for BRICS in the international system and global economy. It seems that the members of the BRICS group, with various capabilities and capacities, will have a significant share in guiding global political, economic, and social trends. The *Journal of Country Studies*, as the first specialized scientific journal addressing interdisciplinary global issues, has published a special issue on "BRICS Countries and Global Trend Developments" and invited Dr. Roxana Niknami, a faculty member of the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Tehran, as a guest editor. In this special issue, six important articles have been included, each focusing on BRICS group and its members.

The first article, authored by Salehi and colleagues from Tarbiat Modares University and Shahid Beheshti University, titled "China's de-dollarization policy and its impact on the hegemony of the US dollar", addresses the action and reaction of China in the de-dollarization policy. According to the results of this research, it has not posed a serious challenge to the dollar hegemony. The findings of this study indicate that although China's de-dollarization policy poses a potential threat to dollar hegemony, it has so far failed to challenge the dominance of the US currency and it seems that the dollar-based order will continue predictably into the future.

In the second article, Sadeghi from Allameh Tabataba'i University has focused on a research titled "Iranian view on BRICS and developments in international system: Examining the research approaches of Iranian scientific-research articles on international relations". The significant results of this research indicate that Iranian researchers have approached articles on BRICS with a perspective based on political economy, and the reception of fundamental or partial changes in the current international order has shaped the analysis of issues related to BRICS, based on a multilateral approach and a tendency towards transforming the unipolar world into a multipolar one.

In the following article, Safari and Moradifar from Islamic

Parliament Research Center (IPRC) and the University of Isfahan have delved into the study of risk management in Sino-US relations and its impact on regional and international order. The most significant point derived from this research indicates that in the current situation where the world is experiencing slow globalization, risk management in Sino-US relations may lead to monopolization and protectionism, and with increasing influence of geopolitical tensions, dual economic blocs may form. The formation of these economic blocs also implies a reduction in the hegemonic role of the United States or China, which could pave the way for a multipolar bloc-centered order.

In the fourth article, Rasoulinezhad and Halil Eksi from the University of Tehran and Gaziantep University in Turkey have conducted research on the subject of the economic development trend analysis of the Russian Federation. According to the findings, the energy and knowledge aspects of Russia's economic development from 2000 to 2022 have shown an increasing trend and a decreasing trend in welfare aspects. This transformation indicates Russia's entry into knowledge-based development over the past two decades; a development that is founded on information and communication technology and, transcending geography and time, brings developmental opportunities throughout the geographical expanse of this country.

Noroozi from the University of Tehran has reflected on the institutional rationality and practical attractiveness of the new BRICS Development Bank in the fifth article. The research conducted indicates that the founding powers of BRICS and the New Development Bank strive to highlight this new structure in the international economic-financial system with their positive and constructive performance in these institutions and structures. They seek to consolidate their competitive and managerial institutional paradigm in international development affairs.

In the final article of this special issue, Sazmand from the University of Tehran has conducted research on the Global South and BRICS, focusing on the reasons for Indonesia's non-membership in BRICS. Based on the arguments presented in this article, it is concluded that Indonesia aims to become the fifth largest economy in the world by 2045 and, to achieve this important goal, it must operate within the framework of multilateralism and adhere to the principles and norms of the current international system, while refraining from entering polarizing mechanisms.

As the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Country Studies*, I extend my utmost gratitude to all contributors to this special issue. Undoubtedly, each of the published articles required authors to dedicate a significant amount of time to brainstorming, conducting research, finalizing the text, and revising, resulting in the formation of

considerable scholarly capital in the field of BRICS in this special issue. I would also like to express special thanks to Dr. Niknami for her exemplary commitment and scientific expertise in managing the finalization of the articles in this special issue as the guest editor. In conclusion, I believe that issues related to the BRICS group require further interdisciplinary studies, and this special issue of our journal has been a significant and practical step in understanding BRICS-related issues.

**Best regards,
Editor in chief, Dr. Ehsan Rasoulinezhad**