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**What is the position of developing countries in the present world order?**

Developing countries refer to countries located in Africa, Latin America, Oceania and the Middle East **that fare poorly on the Human Development Index and has low levels of industrialization** as well as economic capacity. In the previous world order, developing countries were colonized, exploited and generally lacked autonomy. They played the role of stepping stones for the present developed countries to reach their own economic sustenance. For example, the developed countries of Europe colonized the African continent, exploiting their resources.

Currently, developing countries still often have low HDIs. They still exist at the bottom of global developmental rankings. However, due to the nature of this present world order, developing countries are confronted with new opportunities to allow them hit developmental goals. Due to globalization, terms of equal trade as well as mechanisms such as aid have redefined the terms by which states play giving developing countries a chance to change their economic status on the global front. Whether through these means or more unconventional means, some developing nations have been able to rise to dominance in the present world order.

Very important in the discussion of changing status in the international system are the BRICS nations consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The BRICS nations not only reflect the shifting trends of the new global economic order but are increasingly shaping it (Gordhan, 2011). The BRICS nations represent 42 percent of the world’s population and 18 percent of its GDP. The groups biggest major success story is China. China’s economy, after three decades of 10 percent expansion, massive foreign investment, and now domestic market-led growth has lifted some four hundred million people out of poverty and is creating a middle class at a phenomenal rate. It has seen urbanization approaching seventeen million people a year. China’s economy has grown ninety times since its liberalization in 1978, paving the way for China’s integration into the global economy. China has surpassed Japan as the world’s second largest economy, after the United States (Gordhan, 2011).

Another nation worthy of mention is India. Despite its established democracy and massive rural poverty, it has succeeded in creating an economic miracle led by technology and services that has laid the foundation for long-term sustainable growth and put India at the forefront of BRICS. Brazil has come into its own as the leading Latin American economy. It is finding large-scale synergy with China in joint ventures based on an exchange of natural resources and oil for low-cost manufactured goods. Russia likewise possesses a formidable economy, not least due to its role as a leading oil and gas producer. Its potential as a trade partner and expertise in science and technology make Russia a valuable ally for fellow BRICS members (Hurrell, 2013).

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