

RE-EMERGING MULTI-POLAR STRUCTURAL SYSTEM AND THE UNITED NATIONS' BIG FIVE: A FORCAST**Judith, Amanda Ozoani, (Ph.D Candidate)**Department of International and Comparative Law, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus
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Abstract: The international community comprises sovereign states relating for the purpose of peaceful co-existence among states, in the pursuit of development, economic and political interests. International politics is therefore a system of power relations among sovereign states at the international stage, where the capacity of each state is rated in terms of its economy, military strength and political civilization. The United Nations, (UN), as a union of independent states, exists to ensure global peace and unity among all member states, for the avoidance of anarchy and the outbreak of war in the power relations among states in the international system. The UN is not an independent and neutral international polity, as it is the scene of North-South hegemonic polar politics dominated by the north, led by the United States as a uni-polar hegemonic power. However, the emergence of other strong economic and military regional powers, questions the continuity of the uni-polar status quo with the United States. The paper adopted documentary methodology, and utilized complex interdependency theory to examine, the future of the UN in today's globalized world. The paper found that in a possible multi-polar international system, the United States would still take the lead. The paper therefore recommended inter alia, multilateralism in the future politics of the UN.

Keywords: UN Politics, Polarity, Uni-polarity, Multi-polarity, multi-lateralism

I. Introduction

International system, according to Ozkan (2016) can be defined as a complex system of systems that is comprised of economic, political, scientific, technological and military systems. The United Nations (UN) is a leading international system. The UN, is an international

organization and community of sovereign states formed in 1945 to foster unity and peace, and ensure development and mutual aids to all member states. The union of states in the UN, is the co-existence of the more developed states of the global North led by the United States of America (USA), and the Less Developing States (LDSs) of the global south. Ogbonna, (2015) noted that the UN generally, comprises 193 members states that co-exist in the union. Each of the states at specific poles is at varying levels of development. While states of the global North Pole are advanced in economic and political developments, the states under the global South Pole are the LDSs. The UN politics is the power relations among the LDSs of the south and the advanced nations of the north. The historic polar politics of the global north and global south is the power struggle for the domination of the south from the era of the bipolar politics and cold war struggle of the USA and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR).

While the two great power blocs of the global north led by the USA and the then global East under the USSR, “warred” on economic, political, and military supremacy, the centrality of the East-West Cold War of the USA and the USSR, was the struggle for global ideological domination and governance of capitalism advanced by the USA, and socialism promoted by the USSR. The then bipolar global structure was therefore the global governance with the USA and the USSR, taking the lead at the world stage and in the UN as the global economic and political giants, until the collapse of the Berlin Wall, in 1989, Microsoft Encarter Premium (2009), and the emergence of the USA as a uni-polar power in global governance and politics, giving rise to the global capitalist advocacy and crusade of liberal democracy the trans-nationalization of liberal democratization and market economy. Hooft (2014), posited that:

The accelerated economic globalization that followed the end of the Cold War and the increasingly prominent role for frameworks of transnational governance has been interpreted as a fundamental shift in the nature of international relations, and specifically as a sign that nation-states should no longer be considered the pre-eminent unit in global politics. However, in retrospect, there is an inherent contradiction in these beliefs. The multilateral system that developed alongside trans-nationalization did so only under the aegis of American uni-polarity and a broad consensus on the part of Western if not global state elites on the benefits of globalization. (Hooft, 2014,p.3).

From the view of Hooft (2014) above, it can be understood that the trend of polar power shift and change in international politics, the economic and political transmogrifications of states, specifically the expansion of liberal democracy and capitalist globalization, are all features of the post-cold war economic and political international revolutions, restructuring global polar politics from multi-polarity , bi-polarity to uni-polarity; uni-polarity to, as a matter international necessity, multi-polarity .

With this trend, the current global polar order with the hegemonic supremacy of the United States in the international system, no doubts still remain strong. However, irrespective of the US nationalist orientation of the sustenance of the America’s hold of global politics and the classical model of international relations in which the big powers dominate, the globalization of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, EBOLA and the intractable terrorist activities of the

ISIS, Al Qaeda and other organized regional and sub regional security threats, all indicate the overwhelming rise of global situations to the incapacities of the big power states in the international community and the UN as a world body, to contain. Hence, there is the need for reform of international power for effective multi-polarity, in consideration of a continually changing global world. Koahane (2005) in Hooft (2012) observed that rising global situations has placed much demands on the US that the country might not continue to answer global questions. Thus:

...it is apparent that the US is reprioritizing its regional strategic interests towards the Pacific and Indian Ocean. It is unclear if and how an already preoccupied US will be able to continue to provide the basis for a global order in the future, and also if such a role is indeed necessary, or that the system can survive without it. (Hooft, 2014, p.3).

Corroborating the above view of Koahane (2005), on the global challenges and the need for a multi-polar-multi-lateral order, Feng et al (2009), noted that:

...Sudden events – the global financial crisis of 2008-09, the spread of swine flu, the rise in the price of oil to 140 dollars per barrel, the breakdown of transatlantic solidarity over Iraq, the effects of the Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Karina, the terrorist attacks of 9/11, and others – were not isolated events but rather interrelated consequences, direct or indirect, of the new era of globalization. Globalization was rendering obsolete the old dividing lines – East-West, North-South, developed-undeveloped, aligned-nonaligned – that had helped define the international order for half a century. Managing this revolution in world affairs demands nothing less than a new international system. The nature of these challenges, calls for a concerted international action, because no one country, not even the United States, with its unrivalled power, could successfully address them...Barack Obama marked a decisive return to multi-lateralism on the part of the United States. The Obama administration has not only abandoned the unilateral policy of George W. Bush, but the new president knows that dealing with the enormous challenges he inherited needs the cooperation of other countries to whom he is prepared, in an unprecedented way, to offer co-leadership, offering engagement with all states including those with whom the United States has serious differences. What is uncertain is if the other players are prepared to respond to Obama's proposal of strategic partnerships for effective multi-lateralism and to work for the success of US engagement policy.... (Feng, 2009, p.15 & 108)

In all these, it is clear that time has necessitated remarkable changes in the structure of global social, economic and political space. Hence the UN, which is the central scene of international politics, maintaining peaceful political and economic transactions among member states, needs significant intra-institutional and organic reforms especially the Security Council. With the currently emerging phase of multi-polarity, the question of the future of the UN, remains consequential to academic concentration. This is therefore the focus of this study.

II. Conceptual Clarifications

UN Politics

The experiences in the World War II, necessitated a system of global governance and coordination for peace, unity and mutual aid among member states in the international community; hence, the formation the UN as a global body at the demise of the League of Nations, due to the League's inability to prevent the outbreak of World War II. The essence of this, is to mobilize member states through the various special organs such as the General Assembly and the Security Council, among others, for a united effort to ensure collective security, the protection of human rights, and the aversion of intra or international war. Microsoft Encarta (2009) identifying the UN as international organization of countries created to promote world peace and cooperation rightly noted that the UN was founded in 1945 after the Second World War in promotion of global peace and cooperation.

Onomrerhinor, (2015), cited the UN charter and vividly stated the aim of the organization as follows:

To maintain international peace and security and to that end; to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of peace and to bring about by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace. To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human right and for fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion; and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends. (Onomrerhinor, 2015, p.5)

The UN politics is the power exercise and relation of the five permanent members of the Security Council: China, France, Russia, the Great Britain, and the United States of America, and the rest of the other members of the organization. These states are elite countries noted for high rate of material and human capital developments. Their unity with the rest of the member-states is a polarized class relation North/South politics, in which the Less Developed Countries, (LDCs) of the south, and their economy are subjected to the developed countries of the North. The UN politics therefore is such that the highly developed countries of the North, through the instrument of the UN as an organization, maintain a system of class relation that sustainably perpetuates Marxist class dependency of the south.

Therefore, the permanency of the seat of the members of the Big Five is the permanency of economic exploitation of the countries of the global south, and the perpetuation of

dependency, poverty, disease and undeveloped status, to the benefit of the developed countries of the global North. Hence, continents and countries of the global south are a huge market to the global north. The need for a multi-polarity reform of the UN, amendment of the UN's charter that instituted the permanent five, the restructuring of the UN Security Council, is all premised on the fact that rising cases of global insecurity has overwhelmed intervention of the UN; also, most of the LDCs, have overtime improved in their development indices, and have all it takes to be in the permanent membership of the UN Security Council, and not just the two years election of other member countries into the Security Council of the UN.

Polarity, Uni-polarity, Bi-polarity , Multi-polarity, and multilateralism

Polarity as a concept relates to the international system of state and the structure of governance and power. The question of polarity in international politics therefore, is the question of power location and the locus of power exercise to the rest of the members of the international community. Muzaffar et al (2017), posited that in the international system, polarity explains how power is balanced among states. Such a balance is based on the polar configuration of the international system at any given time and the degree of the capacity of each state within the international polar configuration. From polarity as the basic word, other concepts such as uni-polarity, bi-polarity, multi-polarity formed, reflecting the polar structural composition.

Uni-polarity is a polar order in the international system with a mono-power configuration. The post-cold war international system has reshaped the global configuration from a bipolar system. The collapse of the Berlin Wall, signaling the demise of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), resulted in the rise of the United States as a sole standing global power. Mcglinchey et al (2022) stated that:

When the Cold War ended, a debate raged over how to describe the system. Some maintained that it was a system of uni-polarity – as there was only one superpower remaining, the United States. This idea was captured by Charles Krauthammer when he described it as a ‘uni-polar moment’ in which the United States stood in an unprecedented historical situation where one state was significantly more economically, militarily and politically powerful.... (Mcglinchey,2022, p.1).

Bi-polarity is a power configuration in the international system where two strongest states are reorganized as the global powers at a given time. After the Second World War, a new world order emerged with the USA and the USSR as the leading global powers. However, global leadership under the USA and the USSR, was a leadership with divergent political and economic ideologies. While the USA championed economic and political liberalism, with liberal democracy and capitalist economic orientation, the USSR advocated a socialist political and economic order. The two great powers therefore mobilized global alignment in a divide-and-rule order under the different ideologies. Hence, while the Second World War was a hot bloody

global experience, the post-1945 international system, was a bipolar Cold War struggle of ideological alignment. According to McGlinchey et al (2022):

...the Cold War represented a global system of bi-polarity . A bipolar system is one where two powers dominate. In that case, it was the United States on one side, and the Soviet Union on the other – with each side assembling their allies into their sphere of influence. (McGlinchey,2022, p.1).

Multi-polarity has different power configuration in the international scene. The power formation ranges from three strong powers that wield strong economic, political and military influences. In the Second World War, the USA, the USSR, and the Great Britain, were the players in the multi-polar international system. Muzaffar (2017) posited that multi-polarity endorses the interplay and alliances of three or more states in the exercise of power. Thus:

In Multi-polar power structure, three or more states intermingle and often make alliances for making balance among them. The strongest state will not form an alliance. As a superpower one or more can be capable to influence the policy on a larger scale. During WWII, the three great powers US, Britain, and USSR fought for peace but tangled later in fight of economic, political, andmilitarily power.(Muzaffar et al, 2017, p.5)

Multilateralism is a necessary diplomatic mechanism adopted in a multi-polar structure. Multilateralism therefore looks into the nature of interaction between the players in the multi-polar configuration in the relation of states in the international system. The idea of multilateralism brings to a harmonious coordination the actions of actors in a multi-polarity .Maull (2020) observed that multilateralism frames an interactive diplomatic system of the states in a multi-polar international structure:

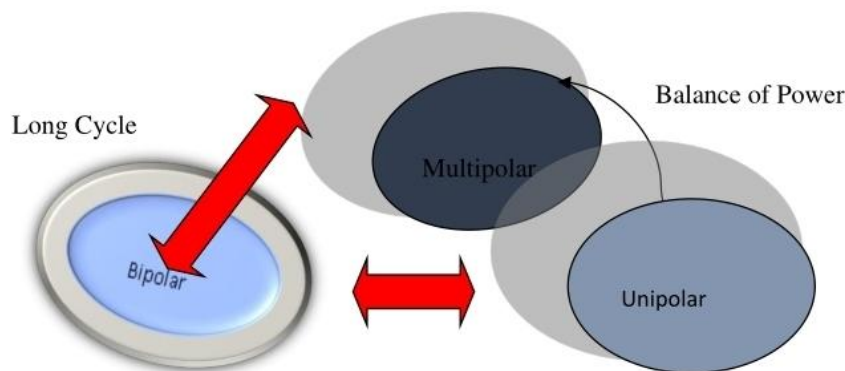
It simply means the coordinated diplomatic interaction of three or more states (or other actors) in international politics. According to this definition, the term is not controversial; “multilateral” foreign and security policy stands in contrast to bilateral or uni-lateral action. This combine coordinated diplomatic interactions of more than two actorswith action within the framework of international organizations, oriented towardsthe principles and norms and carried out inaccordance with the rules and regulationsthat underlie those organizations (such as,for example, the United Nations Charter) (Maull, 2020, p.1-2).

...Multilateralism thus comes to stand for foreign policy action within the normative framework of a system of ideas about what diplomacy should strive for, and by what means it should pursue its goals... Here, “multilateralism” refers to the “right” and“appropriate” answers to the current problems of world politics and thus stands for effective world governance. (Maull, 2020, p.2).

With the rising powers in the global south, multilateralism in today’s international system, becomes a necessity especially within the frame of the UN, to accommodate a wider idea to the project of global development and improved human existence.

III. Literature overview

Significant changes and occurrences in the international system, especially the UN, have always attracted scholarly attention. The aim is to make analyses of global effects and implication of such changes and how members states of the UN are likely to react to such in protection of their territorial interests at first, and secondly, keep the international system as a united community. The downward trend of the global polar system from multi-polar, to the cold war of bi-polarity, from bipolar to uni-polar and the currently emerging multi-polar systems has been of scholarly focus. The following diagram shows the trend of the polar change in the international system, beginning from multi-polarity.



Source: (Muzaffar, et al, 2017, p.11)

This section therefore x-rays relevant materials on the subject of the study based on the following subtheme.

The Rising Powers and a Multi-polar UN System

The increasing quest for a multi-polar international order, is the advocacy of the rising powers of the global south. The BRICS states of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are states that have shown considerable economic, political, and military strength in global affairs. Apart from China and Russia, that have permanent seats in the UN Security Council, the inclusion of other non-European states in the BRICS, indicates that other strong economic, military and democratic powers have arisen beyond the shores of Asia, North America and Europe; hence, the need to restructure the UN to reflect the presence of relevant emergent global powers the 21st century.

Murphy and Graig (2013), has posited that:

The global financial crisis can be seen as having accelerated trend so for a significant challenge to the geo- political and geo-economic predominance of the West and to the

global hegemony of the Anglo-Saxon model of capitalism. This has been characterized as a transition from a uni-polar US hegemony to one of emancipator multi-polarity in which the countries that represent the majority of the world's peoples now have a position at the head table. (Murphy & Graig, 2013, p.4).

Murphy and Graig, (2013), from a more economic perspective, has argued that ubiquitous global financial crisis, has been of emancipatory effect to the global south, as both the north and south have a concentration on fixing their respective regional economies. With the increasing economic capacity of the BRICS states, in the international system, there is a turn-around from the traditional western uni-polar hegemony to a more inclusive non-western and multi-polar participation in global governance. Thus:

...the crisis has now opened up space for rising powers of the south to play an increasingly active role in the reform of global economic and political governance, to the extent that a 'regime change' in global governance is now at least distinct possibility. Crisis management has not only involved a reliance on the financial reserves of the rising powers, but has also conferred participatory role for rising power governments themselves... (Murphy & Graig, 2013, p.4)

From the above notion of Murphy and Graig (2013), it is obvious that the BRICS are growing in terms of the economic capacity of the states. Thus, North-South economic and financial relations are shifting from the era of global south dependency to a more symbiotic North-South complex interdependency. This thus indicates a necessarily universal system of multi-polar multilateralism. The UN as a global institution naturally reflects multi-polar governance with the presence of the BRICS in their increasing economic strength. Arkhipov and Yelesky (2015), corroborated the view of Murphy and Graig, (2013) above on how the global economic and financial crisis have resulted in a reformed global governance with the rising powers reforming the international system to multi-polarity. Thus:

Just as the collapse of the Soviet Union designated the end of the bipolar economic and political order, the recent global financial and economic crisis became the catalyst of the processes forming geo-economic multi-polarity . The countries-leaders (first of all, China, and other BRICS countries), and the most advanced economic union (e.g., EU,) actively reshaped the world economic system and created competition with the USA and its Anglo-Saxon allies. (Arkhipov &Yelesky, 2015, p.1).

Within the BRICS and the non-BRICS states, there have been expressions indicating the need for a multi-polar involvement of capable states in addressing global issues. An example of this is the willingness of America in the Obama Administration, to partner with other states in the quest for global solution to international issues, as noted by Feng et al (2009). On the part of the BRICS states, Russia and South Africa, have expressed the need for a multi-polar global order. According to Feng et al (2009):

China, Russia, and South Africa, are vocal about the need for multi-polarity, with multilateralism as an interactive principle for policy making in a multi-polar system. The place and role of the UN in a multi-polar international configuration, is as important as Feng (2009) has thus submitted:

China is convinced that multilateralism is the key to building a just and effective common security regime, with the United Nations serving as the best platform for multilateral responses to common threats and challenges. In China's view, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the only body with the right to make decisions on the use of force and should be regarded as the core of a common security regime. (Feng, 2009, p.37).

The fore-going notion, Feng et al (2009) rightly pictured the role of the UN in a multi-polar international society. It also necessitates a multi-polar reform of the UN special agencies, especially the Security Council to effectively address security issues in the international community of member states. Foundation (2022) further explained as follows:

In a multi-polar world where power is increasingly dispersed, the United Nations is an indispensable organization for solving global problems. This can be for the sake of peace and security, development, health, human rights, or the well-being of the planet itself. For the organization to play its problem-solving role successfully in these particularly challenging times, effective leaders are needed at all levels. (Foundation, 2022, p.28)

As already noted by Feng et al (2009), the international system has metamorphosed into a multi-polar system. This is consequent upon the trend of events and globalized issues of economic and security needs, hence, the need for a multi-polar engagement of capable states. The fact is that, at present, the global south is increasing in economic, political and security capacities to deal with regional security challenges and contribute to similar issues in the international scene. India, Brazil and South Africa are notable powers in the global south. A good study of the contemporary international system, will reveal a significant change in international politics, from the traditional international relations with a uni-polar hegemonic dominance and influence of the United States, to a contemporary international system of multi-polar necessity. Carlisle Scholars (2016), corroborating this, observed that:

...the international system is changing. The manner in which the U.S. has sought to maintain hegemony since the end of the Cold War has eroded confidence in U.S. leadership and caused some states to view any alternative as the better course. At the regional and in some cases the global level, other countries are well-positioned to assume leadership and may surpass U.S. capacity in certain aspects of national power. Globalization has spawned increasing interdependence and has increased the number of issues requiring global action by the international community as a whole. Within the international community, other states are demanding a greater stake in the international system, which is expressed by the increasing influence and credibility of their own security and cooperative economic arrangements... (Carlisle Scholars, 2016, p.4)

The above notion of Carlisle Scholars (2016) is an advancement of the ongoing observation of polarchange in the international space. Important to note is the fact that it captures contemporary interdependence of states in the international system, as one major effect of globalization. This interdependence necessitates a broad approach to global issues through the instrument of multi-polar multilateralism, involvement of capable rising powers in the international system. Even though the USA remains a world economic, military and political superpower, it is vital to state that in the multiplicity of challenges in nation states: poverty, insecurity, unemployment, pandemics and global warming among others, no one country, not even the USA can claim comprehensive capacity in solving the problems. The convergence of multi-polar hands attracts multilateral table of discourse with the BRICS states. The UN therefore serves as an international platform providing such an enabling environment for a multilateral table with the rising powers in charting the way forward on global problems. Karns and Mingst (2010), explains the environment of multilateralism not just involving states alone, but also other actors and institutions relevant in the business of international politics. Thus:

Power and influence in global governance do not belong only to powerful states, coalitions of states, or even rising powers such as Brazil, China, India, and South Africa. MNCs exercise power in investment choices and financial markets. NGOs exercises of power—the power to persuade, name, and shame. They also command resources such as money from donations, and expertise that can be used to affect the lives of those who receive humanitarian relief or development assistance. IGOs such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees have the power to shape the development and monetary policies of borrowing states, and the lives of millions of refugees. (Karns & Mingst, 2010, p.30).

From Karns and Mingst (2010) as seen above, it is clear that the regime of multilateralism is the regime of diversified multilateral consultation with relevant stakeholders in the processes of decision and policy-making in the international system. With the increasing need for a multi-polar acceptance in world affairs, one important question remains the role and future of the UN in a multi-polar international system. Again, Foundation (2022) opined as follows:

Maintaining open dialogue between nations and organizations to ensure cohesiveness in the multilateral system, UN leadership in such a turbulent period should be about keeping the dialogue going wherever possible between increasingly competitive nations and in particular, between the western blocks and non-western powers. At a time when the multilateral system is increasingly pulled apart by tensions between countries, the ability of the UN to talk to all the parties has become its strongest asset and not only on peace-keeping initiative. But dialogue is importantly needed in many areas such as economic and social issues, cyber security, management of outer space maintaining open dialogue between nations and organizations. (Foundation, 2022, p. 37)

From the fore-going literatures, it is clear that the international system is increasingly in a complex polar configuration from the currently uni-polar US super power to a fast-evolving multi-polar world of necessary powers in the BRICS states. With this trend, the world body of states – the UN, must reflect the time the world is in. Hence, a reform of the UN Security Council to provide permanent seats to the rising powers is essential.

The BRICS and the P.5 Economy

One of the indicators of a viable economy is its Gross Domestic Products (GDP). The GDP of any economy is the market value of the total services and good produced in the country. Hence, Leamer (2009) noted that:

GDP is the market value of goods and services produced within a selected geographic area (usually a country) in a selected interval in time (often a year). Rightly or wrongly, this has become the standard by which we measure the size and health of a country. Leamer (2009, p.2)

This section of the study pictures the GDP of the rising global powers of the BRICS countries and that of the permanent members of the UN Security Council known as the Permanent Five, Big Five or P.5, as shown in the table below. The essence of this analysis is that it rightly posits the strength of the economy of the respective states in international politics.

e BRICS States and their GDP

S/N	States	GDP (\$)
1.	Brazil	1,608,981
2.	Russia	1,775,800
3.	India	3,186,860
4.	China	17,734,063
5.	South Africa	419,946

Source: Author's computation

The P.5 States and their GDP

S/N	States	GDP (\$)
1.	China	17,734,063
2.	Russia	1,775,800
3.	United Kingdom	3,186,860
4.	United States	22,996,100
5.	France	2,099,880

Source: Author's computation

The BRICS Economy and the P.5 Economy: A Comparative Difference

S/N	The P.5 States	The P.5 GDP (\$)	The BRICS States	The BRICS GDP (\$)	GDP Comparative difference (\$)
1.	China	17,734,063	Brazil	1,608,981	161, 250, 82
2.	Russia	1,775,800	Russia	1,775,800	1,775,800
3.	United Kingdom	3,186,860	India	2,937,473	2, 493, 387
4.	United States	22,996,100	China	17,734,063	5,262,037
5.	France	2,099,880	South Africa	419,946	1, 679, 934

Source: Author's computation

The above details show the GDP of some states in the global north (the rich and highly developed states of the west) represented by the above five states occupying the permanent seats of the UN Security Council, and that of the global south which include some developing countries of other continents apart from Europe and North America. Heywood, (2007) rightly observed that North-South is rather a conceived classification and not based on natural geographical world division. Thus:

Although the division of the world into a 'north' and a 'south,' is based on the tendency of industrial development to be concentrated in the northern hemisphere, (apart from Austral,) the terms are essentially conceptual rather than geographical. North-South divide draws attention to the way in which aid, third world debt and practices of the TNC help to perpetuate structural inequalities between the high-wage, high-investment industrialized North and low-wage, low-investment predominantly rural south. (Heywood, 2007, p.147).

From the table above, it is clear that the BRICS economy comparatively falls below that of the P.5. However, the fact that the BRICS are developing capable economies is clear. Globalization is greatly bridging the North-South gap as many states especially the rising powers such as: India, Saudi Arabia, Japan and South Africa, have greatly developed with liberal economic features. With this, it is essential to note that the current configuration of the UN permanent seat is significantly inadequate to reflect global democracy and representation.

Rather, the structural composition is an elitist hegemonic oligarchic dictatorship to other non-P.5 states, and to the benefit of the P.5 using the UN as an institutional instrument; hence, the need for a review and reform of in the UN.

Theoretical framework

The paper utilizes the theory of complex interdependency as an analytical lens to view the subject of the study. The justification for this theory is premised on the fact that this is international relations and as such shows the economy and complementary interaction of the super powers and the rising powers as well as their positions in the UN as an international body.

The complex interdependence theory in international relations as a critique of political realism was postulated by Keohane and Nye (1977), as cited in Gimba and Ibrahim (2018). The argument of the theory is premised on specific characteristics that critique the implicit and explicit assumptions of traditional international politics; (that is the superiority of the state and a hierarchy of issues with military force and power. It further argues that states and their fortunes are inextricably tied together. The concept of economic interdependence was popularized through the work of Richard Cooper. With the analytical construct of complex interdependence in their critique of political realism, Keohane and Nye went a step further and analyzed how international politics and trade relations are transformed by interdependence. Complex interdependence theory posits that the various and complex transnational connections and interdependencies between states and societies are increasing, while the use of military force and power balancing is decreasing but remains important. The theory is characterized by: Multiple channels of actions between societies in interstates, trans-governmental, and transnational relations, the absence of hierarchy of issues with changing agendas and linkages between issues prioritized and decline in the use of military and coercive power in relations among sovereign states.

Theoretical Application

In the analysis of this paper, the theory relevantly explains that in the contemporary international politics, globalization has gradually eroded state-centric focus. Hence, even though the presently Super Powers or the Big Fives occupying the permanent seat in the UN remain strong, over time, the global south has gained improvement economically and politically as can be seen in China, India and South Africa among others, and have been of relevance in solving global or regional issues, in the international system. Today's international political economy also shows the reliance of states on each other as the US feeds from China in the consumption of finished products, while India and China maximize demographic advantage for cheap domestic labour and military force.

In all, apart from the traditional P.5 powers in the UN from Europe, North America and some part of Asia, necessary powers have arisen from Africa, some other parts of Asia, and South America. In the multiplicity of sophisticated global problems, independent states are individually

overwhelmed. However, interdependent states in a system of complexly interdependent multi-polar multilateralism, regulated under the umbrella of the UN, can figure out more viable global solutions to specific global issues.

IV. Methodology

The paper adopted documentary method of data collection with content analysis. The importance of this method was that it enabled us navigate through a lot of relevant materials to the study. Hence, internet materials, journal papers, books etc, were utilized.

Findings

In the course of the study, the paper found that:

- The world polar order is has evolved from multi-polar to bipolar and currently uni-polar orders. Currently, global occurrences are necessitating a reverse of the trend back to a multi-polar international system.
- The United States currently remains strong and stands as the world's uni-polar super power. However, the future of the global polar system is multi-polar with the rising powers of the BRICS states.
- There is need for a reform of the UN Security Council's permanent seat to accommodate the BRICS state and for the UN to implement multilateralism as a policy principal in a multi-polar international system.

V. Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

The study deeply examined the future of the UN in a multi-polar international system. For a detailed analysis of the issues involve, the paper examined the permanent members of the UN Security Council otherwise called the P.5 or the Big Five states occupying the UN permanent seats and the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) of the global south. The study discovered that the global south has greatly improved in economic and political areas and has become of capacity in solving notable global problems. This necessitated the adoption of complex interdependency theory to argue that in the currently world polar order, uni-polarity has insufficiently addressed global problems. Hence, there is the need for a multi-polar liberalism in order in the quest for viable ideas to global problems. The paper therefore submitted the prediction that the future of the UN in a multi-polar international system is a reformed United Nations especially the UN Security Council, with the principle of multilateralism in consultation with the BRICS states, and to accommodate the rising powers in the UN permanent seat.

VI. Recommendations

In the light of the foregoing findings, the paper recommends as follows:

- The UN must be reformed for effective performance in the emerging multi-polar order. This can be done by the amendment of the UN's Security Council charter.
- As the BRICS states are strongly emerging for a multi-polar system, the US should give a support the emerging polar order of multi-polarity. This can be done by the US adoption of a foreign policy that favours multi-polarity.
- As the world gradually returns to multi-polarity, the UN must utilize the instrument of multilateralism as a policy principle.

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