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The Rise of the Multipolar World Order: Opportunities and Challenges for Africa.

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Abstract

Purpose: The aim of this article was to investigate the rise of the multipolar world order and focus on opportunities and challenges for Africa. The 21st century is witnessing a fundamental shift in global power dynamics, moving away from the unipolar dominance of the United States towards a multipolar world characterized by multiple centers of economic, political, and military influence. In this evolving landscape, Africa, long relegated to the margins of global affairs, stands poised to play a pivotal role. With its burgeoning population, abundant resources, and increasing economic clout, the continent stands at a crossroads – a potential powerhouse with the agency to shape its own destiny and influence the trajectory of the international system. In this paper focus on some theories such as Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism and Rational Choice theory.

Methodology: This study used a qualitative descriptive design to obtain a straight description of the phenomena, explain deeply the issues, and provide an accurate analysis for the study and target of the article was Africa.

Findings: The result of the study was positive and it needs to demonstrate that and maintain Africa cooperation and capital building.

Unique contribution to theory, policy and practice: Diversification move beyond resource extraction invest in value-added industries, agriculture, and tourism to build resilient economies less vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations. Regional Integration, deepen continental free trade agreements, infrastructure development, and joint investments to create a strong African market and attract foreign investment. Technological Leap, embrace technological advancements like digitalization and renewable energy to leapfrog development stages and gain competitive advantages.

Keywords: *Multipolar World Order, Geopolitics, Security, Politics and Economy*

Introduction

The 21st century is witnessing a shift in the global power structure, moving away from the unipolar dominance of the United States towards a multipolar world order and the multiple Centers of Power which was addressed this paper were Economic, the rise of China, India, and other emerging economies creates new power centers impacting global trade, finance, and investment. Military, while the US remains dominant, China, Russia, and others invest heavily in defense, potentially challenging American military supremacy in specific regions. Political, no single nation sets the global agenda. Regional blocs gain prominence, and multilateral institutions face challenges from competing ideologies and interests. The purpose of this paper was to examine the rise of the multipolar world order in terms of economic, military, or security, and political terms and its challenges for Africa.

The African continent is faced with both difficult challenges and possibilities as a result of recent changes in global great power politics. Africa was viewed as an object of global politics during the unipolar era of 1991–2014, waiting to be schooled by the global West Akum & Tull, 2023. The term "unipolar world" describes the geopolitical order that has ruled the world since the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, leaving the United States as the only superpower in a dominating position Acharya, 2004. Previously, the US and the Soviet Union competed with one another as the two leading superpowers in a bipolar order from the end of World War II until the collapse of the Soviet Union (Ishmeal, 2023). However, as evidenced by its support for destabilizations against leaders deemed to be hostile to the West—as was the case with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) invasion of Libya and sanctions against Zimbabwe—the West abused its influence against long-term African interests of sustainable development and peace and so on (Dobler, et al., 2013)

The economic and political ascent of China, which has grown more aggressive and openly threatening to the US's supremacy, characterizes the modern multipolar world, additionally, Russia has made a comeback, Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, claims that his country launched a "special military operation" in Ukraine to prevent the US and NATO from encroaching on its territory Mathies & Deleglise, 2023. The emergence of regional hegemonies like Iran, which are upending the US- and Western-driven international order, and the decline in the power of the Western model of democracy following the triumph of the Chinese model are other characteristics of this multipolar world (Abramova & Fituni, 2018). Numerous cooperation conferences and forums have demonstrated that numerous states seeking global dominance are increasingly looking to Africa for collaboration, there have been paradoxical interactions in which foreign powers sought tailored collaboration with particular African countries while also engaging all African countries as a bloc Alexander, 2014.

The establishment of a multipolar international order has drastically altered Africa's interactions with the rest of the globe, African countries have reached a period of choice, a growing number of "non-traditional actors," mostly emerging economies from the so-called Global South, are

emerging China, India, the Gulf nations, and Turkey, among others, have used economic and trade sanctions, diplomacy is used to form alliances and convey a mix of soft and hard power (Wade, 2021).

The desired strategy has been to broaden and deepen their presence, largely economically, but increasingly also politically and, to a lesser extent, in security and defense, China, Russia, Turkey, and the Gulf countries Cilliers & Hedden, 2014. Africa was once a dance stage, but now a great opportunity has arisen, and the continent's leaders need to seize it, the African continent can no longer remain a dance stage, instead, it must move forward and follow its interests, both internal and external, this allows for the rational making of decisions, Africa has potential natural resources and is growing faster than other continents in terms of economy and population.

After realizing that real authority and influence on the continent would not always follow the loss of formal sovereignty, French authorities began the process of decolonization from above in Africa following World War II. General Charles de Gaulle translated his vision of a Franco-African community—a Franco-African community that would grant autonomy and internal government to the African colonies while maintaining French control over critical areas like defense, foreign affairs, and economic, monetary, and strategic minerals policy—shortly after taking office as the first president of the Fifth French Republic in June 1958 Mathies & Deleglise, 2013. The legacy of France in Africa is convoluted and erratic, given France's past of colonialism in Africa, criticism of the policies of previous French presidents has grown in comparison to Macron's speech. This history dates back to the French colonization of the continent, which began with the invasion of Algiers in 1830 Perskaya, 2017. French colonialism changed military, political, and economic institutions west Africa as well as African nations and societies. Information and products were exchanged between France and Africa during and after the colonial era, and the elites of both countries pursued shared goals, which cultivated distinct power dynamics and local reactions to them.

The western nations are likely to face competition from East countries in the Africa, and as a result of how they have treated the continent, they have lost influence there, China is one of the main rivals of the western nations, and through its alliances, these rising powers have expressed their intentions and drawn attention to Africa. Eventually, the western nations will face significant difficulties in west Africa as well as whole the Africa, where they have already lost influence in those western nations in Africa, following many coups, those governments decided their connections with Turkey, Russia, and China as well as their alliances, closing the door to the West. East Africa will also be a competition theater, and governments located there will probably be eliminated from the competition and unable to influence ongoing participation because of their strength and clout in the region. If our continent transforms the present culture and strengthens the African Union's capabilities, the superpower will gather at that point and make a choice outside of Africa. It is feasible to incite disputes among the states in the area in an effort to divert and distract

them. However, due of their misuse of power when they were alone in the world's order, the western countries in the east Africa do not have more trust with the region's population.

Statement of the problem

The global power structure is shifting from a US-led unipolar order to a multipolar one, characterized by multiple centers of economic, political, and military influence. This transition presents both challenges and opportunities for Africa, a continent rich in resources and brimming with young, dynamic populations.

Many researchers were focused on them separately, and they did not investigate combinations of those terms, which this study believes are crucial for global power and their interdependence with each other, because in the global order, we cannot ignore one of them, we have to respect all of them.

Therefore, this paper investigated the rise of the multipolar world order, challenges and opportunities for Africa, and its sources in terms of economic, security and politics.

Literature review.

International relations theory offers a framework for understanding the complex dynamics between states in the global arena. Realism, this traditional school emphasizes power politics and national interest. States, motivated by survival, compete for power in an anarchic international system (lack of central authority). Hans Morgenthau, pioneered the concept of national interest as the driving force in international politics (Book politics among nations by Hans Morgenthau). Kenneth Waltz emphasized the role of the balance of power in maintaining stability (Book Theory of international politics by Kenneth Waltz). Liberalism, in contrast to realism, liberalism focuses on cooperation and interdependence. It emphasizes the role of international institutions, democracy, and free trade in fostering a peaceful world order. John Rawls in his theory of justice informs liberal thought in international relation, advocating for cooperation based on fairness (Book A theory of justice by John Rawls). Robert Keohane championed the role of international institutions in promoting cooperation (Book After Hegemony by Robert Keohane). Rational Choice Theory this approach applies economic models to analyze international politics. States are seen as rational actors making decisions based on cost-benefit calculations this theory belong to Scholars like Kenneth Arrow, Robert Axelrod and others. Constructivism this theory challenges the realist and liberal focus on material interests. Constructivist argues that states' identities, norms, and ideas shape their foreign policy choice and this theory belong to Scholars such as Alexander Wendt, Martha Finnemore and others.

The role of the African continent in the multipolar world order.

The 21st century world is witnessing a tectonic shift in power dynamics, moving away from the unipolar dominance of the United States towards a multipolar order characterized by multiple centers of economic, political, and military influence. In this evolving landscape, Africa, long

relegated to the margins of global affairs, is poised to play a pivotal role, with its burgeoning population, abundant resources, and increasing economic clout, the continent stands at a crossroads – a potential powerhouse with the agency to shape its own destiny and influence the trajectory of the international system Manoba, 2023.

The decline of the unipolar world order presents both opportunities and challenges for Africa. Gone are the days of Cold War-era proxy conflicts and rigid ideological alignments, emerging economies like China, Russia, India, Brazil, and Turkey are flexing their muscles on the global stage, seeking new markets, resources, and spheres of influence, this multipolarity offers African nations greater diplomatic flexibility and bargaining power, they can no longer be beholden to a single dominant power, but can instead play different players off against each other to secure favorable trade deals, development assistance, and political support Citrinowicz, 2023. The continent's vast natural resources, from oil and minerals to fertile agricultural land and rare earth elements, are increasingly coveted by both traditional and emerging powers. This resource wealth translates into economic leverage, allowing African nations to command a greater say in international negotiations and attract foreign investment, additionally, Africa boasts a youthful and rapidly growing population, projected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050, this demographic dividend represents a vast pool of potential labor and a burgeoning consumer market, further increasing the continent's strategic significance Baaou, 2017.

Beyond its own internal development, Africa has much to offer the world in the multipolar era, the continent's unique experiences with conflict resolution, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction can inform global approaches to security challenges, additionally, Africa's innovative solutions in areas like renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and mobile technology can provide valuable lessons for other regions grappling with similar challenges Moti, 2019. Africa stands at a pivotal juncture in the multipolar world order, the continent's vast resources, youthful population, and strategic location hold immense potential for shaping its own future and influencing the course of global affairs, by overcoming internal challenges, fostering regional cooperation, and leveraging its unique strengths, Africa can claim its rightful place as a key player in the new world order, contributing to a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future for all Ploeg, 2014.

The opportunities and Challenges: Security, Politics and Economy

The multipolar world order presents both challenges and opportunities for Africa in terms security, economy and politics. By harnessing its resources, fostering regional cooperation, and asserting its agency on the global stage, Africa can claim its rightful place as a key player in the new world order. By navigating the complexities cautiously and prioritizing its own development and unity, Africa can contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future for the continent and the world.

Opportunities in Security. Diversification of partnerships: The multipolar world offers African nations the opportunity to diversify their security partnerships beyond traditional allies like the West, emerging powers like China, Russia, Turkey, India and other new power are increasingly active in African security, providing alternative sources of military equipment, training, and intelligence, this diversification can reduce dependence on a single power and potentially lead to better deals and more responsive partnerships Dike, 2023. Enhanced African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA): The AU's APSA framework provides a platform for continental cooperation on security issues, with a multipolar world offering more resources and partnerships, APSA can be further strengthened, enabling African nations to take greater ownership of their security and address regional threats more effectively Atkinson, 2022. Peacebuilding and conflict resolution: Africa's own experiences with conflict resolution and peacekeeping can be valuable assets in the multipolar world, African troops and expertise can be deployed in conflict zones with greater legitimacy and acceptance, potentially leading to more sustainable peace solutions Studies, 2023.

Opportunities in Economy. Increased trade and investment: The multipolar world presents new opportunities for African nations to expand their trade and attract investment, emerging economies like China are hungry for African resources and markets, offering new trade possibilities and potentially fairer terms than traditional partners, additionally, the focus on infrastructure development by many players can benefit African economies through improved connectivity and regional integration Astun, 2023. South-South cooperation: Collaboration between developing countries in the Global South can foster knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and joint ventures in areas like agriculture, renewable energy, and infrastructure development, this South-South cooperation can offer more equitable and mutually beneficial partnerships compared to traditional North-South relationships Were, 2023. Leveraging the digital economy: Africa's rapidly growing mobile phone penetration and youthful population present a vast market for digital goods and services, by developing domestic tech industries and fostering innovation, African nations can capture a significant share of the global digital economy and create new jobs and opportunities Business, 2017.

Opportunities in Politics. Greater agency on the global stage: The multipolar world allows African nations to play a more active role in shaping global governance and addressing international issues, with a more balanced distribution of power, African voices can carry greater weight in international organizations and negotiations, leading to more inclusive and representative decision-making Links, 2020. Promoting regional integration: In a multipolar world, regional blocs and organizations gain greater importance, by strengthening regional integration through bodies like the AU, IGAD, ECOWAS and others, African nations can amplify their collective voice, negotiate more effectively with external powers, and promote shared interests like peace, security, and economic development Olukoshi, 2023. Championing Pan-Africanism: The multipolar world offers an opportunity to reinvigorate the spirit of Pan-

Africanism, promoting continental unity and cooperation, by working together, African nations can overcome colonial legacies, address common challenges, and build a more prosperous and influential continent Jurgens, 2023.

Challenges in Security. Proxy wars and militarization: The competition for resources and influence between major powers can turn African nations into battlegrounds for proxy wars, exacerbating existing conflicts and undermining regional stability, the proliferation of arms and increased militarization further fuels these conflicts, jeopardizing human security and hindering development Carnegie, 2010. Fragile states and failed governance: Fragile states with weak security structures and endemic corruption are particularly vulnerable in a multipolar world, they become easy targets for manipulation by external actors, creating breeding grounds for instability and extremism, this undermines regional security and hampers collective efforts to combat transnational threats like terrorism and organized crime (Murithi, 2023). Resource curse and environmental degradation: The scramble for Africa's vast natural resources can lead to unsustainable exploitation and environmental degradation, conflict over resource control, environmental pollution, and the displacement of communities exacerbate existing security challenges and threaten long-term sustainable development Rane, 2023.

Challenges in Economy. Debt traps and unequal partnerships: Unfavorable loan terms and resource extraction deals with emerging powers can trap African nations in unsustainable debt cycles and neocolonial dependencies, exploitation of resources without equitable benefit sharing leaves communities impoverished and hinders economic diversification Akum & Tull, 2023. Economic volatility and external manipulation: The multipolar world can exacerbate the volatility of global markets, making African economies reliant on primary commodity exports particularly vulnerable to price fluctuations, external actors can manipulate these vulnerabilities to exert economic pressure and influence political decisions Astun, 2023. Fragmentation and unequal benefits: Increased competition for investment and trade deals can lead to regional fragmentation and a race to the bottom in terms of regulatory standards and labor rights, this undermines regional integration efforts and benefits multinational corporations and external powers more than African economies and workers Atkinson, 2022.

Challenges in Politics. Erosion of sovereignty and neocolonialism: The competition for influence can lead to interference in African internal affairs, undermining national sovereignty and potentially facilitating coups or destabilizing political processes, this neocolonial interference hampers democratic consolidation and perpetuates dependence on external actors Citrinowicz, 2023. Manipulation and political instability: External powers may exploit existing political divisions and grievances within African nations to further their own agendas, exacerbating political instability and hindering internal cohesion, this can derail efforts towards inclusive governance and sustainable development Carnegie, 2010. Loss of leverage and marginalization: In a multipolar world, African nations may find their collective voice diluted and their agency on the global stage diminished, the focus on bilateral relationships between major powers can leave smaller

nations, including many African countries, marginalized and unable to influence global decision-making on issues that directly impact them (Ishmeal, 2023).

Methodology.

This study was used descriptive research design. Descriptive research aims to systemically describe the characteristics of a population, situation, or phenomenon and this article focused on the situation of the multipolar world order, in term of Politics, Economics and Security and challenges and opportunities for Africa.

Recommendations

Diversification move beyond resource extraction invest in value-added industries, agriculture, and tourism to build resilient economies less vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations. Regional Integration, deepen continental free trade agreements, infrastructure development, and joint investments to create a strong African market and attract foreign investment. Technological Leap, embrace technological advancements like digitalization and renewable energy to leapfrog development stages and gain competitive advantages. Leveraging Partnerships, negotiate fair trade deals with all major powers, secure technology transfer, and attract investments while maintaining independent policymaking. Strengthen African Peace and Security Architecture, enhance the African Union's peacekeeping capabilities, address internal conflicts through mediation and regional cooperation, and combat transnational threats like terrorism and piracy. Develop Collective Defense Strategies, collaborate on cyber security, intelligence sharing, and maritime security to counter external threats without relying solely on external powers. Promote Good Governance and Human Rights, upholding democratic principles, rule of law, and human rights strengthens internal stability, attracts investment, and fosters international partnerships. Unified African Voice, strengthen the African Union's role in global governance, speak with a united voice on international issues, and advocate for Africa's interests in major fora. Promote Pan-Africanism, strengthen cultural and political ties within the continent, fostering a sense of shared identity and collective action towards common goals. Engage Strategically with All Powers, maintain diplomatic relations with all major powers, and leverage competition for favorable aid, investments, and partnerships, while avoiding alignment with any single bloc. Invest in Education and Youth Development, equip African youth with the skills and knowledge to take on leadership roles, drive innovation, and build a stable and prosperous future for the continent.

Conclusion

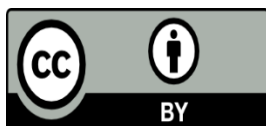
The rising multipolar world order presents both challenges and unprecedented opportunities for Africa. By capitalizing on economic diversification, continental integration, and technological advancements, Africa can achieve sustainable development and economic prosperity. Strengthening African security architecture, promoting good governance, and speaking with a unified voice on the global stage will ensure Africa's security and influence. Through strategic engagement with all major powers, Africa can avoid becoming a pawn in their rivalry and leverage

competition for its own benefit. Investing in education and youth development will ensure a generation of informed leaders equipped to navigate the complexities of the multipolar world and secure a thriving future for Africa. By seizing these opportunities and addressing the challenges with unity and foresight, Africa can emerge as a powerful and prosperous force in the 21st century. Remember, these are just recommendations, and the specific strategies will need to be tailored to the unique circumstances of each African nation. However, by embracing the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and good governance, Africa can write its own success story in the rising multipolar world order.

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