


Chapter 3

China – Global South: Current Evolution of Political and Economic Relations

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ABSTRACT

Abstract Global events of recent years indicate that it is the turn of the developing world to take the lead in international relations (IR). China, which positions itself as the “largest developing country”, and “member of the Global South”, but at the same time “a responsible world power”, cannot remain on the sidelines of this trend. The chapter states the reasons for the recent advancement of the developing world (RW) to the forefront of international life, which include the combined economic growth of the South, the increase in its political significance in the balance of power on the world stage, and the growth of the South's self-esteem. In addition, the author believes it is essential to determine the interpretation of the terms “Global South”, “Third World”, and “Developing World” to come closer to a better understanding of the essence of the excellent world phenomenon that these definitions denote.

INTRODUCTION

Transformations of world politics at the present stage are closely connected with transformations in the world economy, connected with dynamic processes, occurring, first of all, in trade and economics, transport and logistics, scientific and technological, and demographic spheres. Changes, occurring in the structure of international economic relations, are manifested in crisis processes in the world economy, changes in the ratio of potentials of developed and developing countries,

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intensification of rivalry between transnational companies, as well as competitive interaction of industrial, financial and digital capitals, restructuring of transport and logistics trade routes. These processes influence foreign and domestic policies of international actors. In this regard, international researchers are increasingly turning to the study of significant economic factors, influencing the transformation of international relations and world politics at the present stage. An important theoretical and methodological basis of these studies is the geoeconomic approach.

This approach allows us to study current international processes taking into account the conjugation of such key areas for the global economy and world politics as space, territory, resources, energy, companies, production, capital, trade, finance, logistics, infrastructure, and security. The geoeconomic approach in international political studies is in demand when studying the influence of various spatial economic and political phenomena on the development of international relations, including international economic projects, economic initiatives, regional integration structures, and transregional economic and technological partnerships (Stoletov, 2024).

An important concept for the geoeconomic approach in modern international political studies is the concept of the “Global South”. The key direction of such scientific developments is the problem of interaction between the countries of the Global South, as well as building relations between the states of the Global South and the Global North at a new historical stage. A significant area of research within the framework of the geoeconomic approach is the study of international relations in the context of the modernization transition of the states of the Global South, expanding the use of technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In modern studies devoted to current issues of development of the Global South, priority attention is given to the Chinese factor, which at the turn of the mid-2000s began to occupy a fundamentally new position in the world economy and world politics. It seems possible to distinguish two possible approaches to interpreting China's interaction with the countries of the Global South in the economic sphere.

The first approach is based on China's official positioning of itself as the largest developing country that is part of the Global South and acts in its interests. This approach, promoted by the PRC at the diplomatic level, is reflected primarily in the works of Chinese researchers.

Within the framework of the second approach, prevailing among Western researchers, China is viewed as a great power with the potential to achieve global economic hegemony, competing with other centers of the world economy and striving in foreign economic policy and more broadly to maximize the promotion of its national interests (Stoletov, 2024).

Main aspects of the development Relations between the People`s Republic of China and Global South Countries

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