

Tripolarity, The Future of the International Syst

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Citation: Diaz Naranj MDC. Recent Developments in Pyranopyrazole Derivatives: Synthesis, Reactions, and Potential Pharmaceutical Applications. *Int J Cur Res Sci Eng Tech* 2024; 7(3), 91-92. DOI: doi.org/10.30967/IJCRSET/ maria-del-carmen-diaz-naranj/147

Received: 30 August, 2024; **Accepted:** 25 September, 2024; **Published:** 27 September, 2024

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1. Introduction

There are numerous interpretations that arise when evaluating a world undergoing transformation. Analysts often use consolidated conceptual frameworks to grasp the situation, but this approach can be difficult to achieve a complete picture.

In the third decade of the 21st century, the international system is undergoing a restructuring towards a multipolar power distribution. For the first time, power is centred in the United States and includes medium and emerging powers seeking to stabilize this new configuration. This transition is characterized by the diminution of the unipolar coalition led by the United States, sparked by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the events of September 11, 2001.

In the realm of international relations, a system is defined as a collection of interconnected components that make up a comprehensive entity, and its structure is characterized by regulations that exert an influence on the conduct of its constituents. The analysis of international relations encompasses diverse structures such as bipolar, unipolar, multipolar, and pluripolar¹.

Two dominant powers established groups in the bipolar system, requiring secondary players to join one of the blocs. During the Cold War, this system was influential, but other international actors were also on the global stage. The rivalry between the powers was aimed at preventing the opponent from having noticeable advantages. Unipolar systems were distinguished by the preeminence of one actor who absorbed the others, "as in the case of the Roman Empire" Kennedy².

Throughout the 20th century, unipolar system was evident between 1945 and 1950, and between 1991 and 2011, about Kennedy and Waltz^{2,3}. Despite the dominance of the United

States during this period, it was not feasible to eradicate the multicentric nature of the global system.

The multipolar system consists of more than three large powers with more than balanced forces in international relations. This system facilitates the prevention and evasion of conflicts by prioritizing diplomacy over military conflict. It is cited as an example of multipolarity in Europe, Kennedy and Waltz^{2,3}, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and between 1929 and 1945.

The concept of pluralipolarity is viewed from the perspective of the South, emphasizing the cultural and political diversity prevalent in regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean, where the establishment of an international system that encompasses multiple centres of power is pursued. State actors are capable of transferring their internal interests to the global arena, which can generate conflicts and force states to confront their internal contradictions.

A tripolar system is a system in which power is distributed among at least three major powers, which concentrate wealth or military and economic capabilities and possess the ability to block, hinder, or disrupt most political agreements that pose a threat to their interests.

Dr. S. K. Shah's book titled "A Tripolar World: India, China, and the United States" delves into the notion of a tripolar world dominated by India, China, and the United States⁴. As these three nations continue to expand their economic and political power, the global balance of power will shift toward a trilateral structure. This modification will have significant implications for global governance, international security, and the relations between these nations and other regions.

In his work entitled "From Unipolar the Tripolar World",

Arvind Virmani elucidates the transition from the U.S.-dominated unipolar world to a tripolar world where China and India emerge as large economic powers alongside the United States⁵. According to Virmani, global economic dominance will be split up among these three nations by the year 2040, resulting in a three-way equilibrium. He examines how this transformation will impact international relations and the global economy, highlighting the importance of cooperation and competition among these powers.

The transition to a tripolar international system has engendered uncertainty about the configuration of the new poles of power, namely the European Union, China, Russia, and Brazil. The dominance of the United States does not imply its absence, but rather its potential impact on other big players. It is expected that the United States will regain its geopolitical position through a military victory, albeit with the potential for devastating ramifications.

It is estimated that, despite the unipolarity that characterized the period after the fall of the Soviet Union, the United States will continue to be a central power in the short and medium term. The United States will maintain an international policy. It will cooperate with other nations to prevent migration to an organized multipolarity. The rivalry has been nurtured by groups such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), which was established in 2007 between the United States and India, Japan, and Australia. Under the U.S.-UK-Australia Tripartite Security Pact (Aukus), Australia will be able to acquire nuclear submarines instead of relying on a multibillion-dollar program of French technology to safeguard its interests in the Indo-Pacific and contain China's power.

The multidimensional systemic crisis between the European and American economies, as well as the growth of the Chinese economy, have been decisive in consolidating the international system's multipolarity. Someday, it is probable that the United States will remain a pivotal player in the international system, possessing a considerable capacity for global influence. However, the privileged position of unipolarity that it acquired after the dissolution of the USSR in 1991 will not be acknowledged.

The five main world economies are based on the multipolar structure of the international system. Russia, which is a member of this group, is characterized by its military power and economic potential, which derive from its new military technologies and important natural resources.

An examination of the global balance of forces in a prospective context reveals that the United States is incapable of achieving total dominance in the global system and overcoming Russia's strategic armaments, as well as China's economic-commercial sphere, and establishing a tripolar system. The most influential powers in the international dynamic will be those that can effectively manage the social and economic upheaval, as evidenced by the growing strategic rivalry between the United States, China, and Russia.

The geopolitical configuration is unprecedented in history, and none of the three major military powers, the United States, China, and Russia, is positioned to assume a hegemonic role. Despite being solely led by the United States, multilateral agreements represent an evolutionary path paved with the proactive participation of diverse nations, regardless of their size, resulting in more open-minded and increasingly inclusive forms of interaction on pertinent and unifying issues.

According to the analysis, what will be the situation in the United States? An economy that isn't up to par with the one that propelled it to prominence in the twentieth century cast doubt on its prospects. A resemblance is occurring with China, whose remarkable expansion has slowed down and will have to confront the economic repercussions of geopolitical competition.

Domestically, all three countries have a cautious prognosis. Concerns about the stability of the United States political system are raised by United States divisions, while Russia and China could soon face difficult transitions from their dominant leaders.

Currently, there exist three significant players on the global stage. As the decades go by, it is impossible to exclude the emergence of other nations. India has consistently emerged as a viable contender for this position. Japan, being the world's third-largest economy, could increase its military capacity to have a more significant geopolitical impact. The European Union possesses the potential to emerge as a more dominant player globally, owing to its economy and technology. Nonetheless, it is lacking a coherent political direction.

In the contemporary strategic military landscape, there exist three distinct actors that stand out from the rest. This situation is expected to continue for several decades, as these countries possess the necessary capabilities to maintain their ambitions and remain at the forefront of technology.

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