

# Global Geopolitical Dynamics: BRICS' Collective Strategy in Facing Western Domination and Its Implications for Indonesia

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| Article Info   | ABSTRACT   |
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| <p><b>Keywords:</b><br/>BRICS,<br/>global geopolitics,<br/>Western dominance,<br/>foreign policy,<br/>Indonesia.</p>   | <p>This study aims to analyze the dynamics of global geopolitics through the collective strategy of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in facing Western domination, as well as to evaluate its implications for Indonesia from both political and economic perspectives. In the current multipolar era, BRICS seeks to strengthen its bargaining position through strategic cooperation in economics, finance, and global diplomacy. This study employs a qualitative approach using literature review methods, including the analysis of official documents, academic journals, and international news sources. The findings show that BRICS plays a strategic role in responding to Western dominance by enhancing multilateral cooperation, reforming global governance, and developing a more inclusive and alternative economic system. Initiatives such as the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB), strengthening collective defense, and advancing renewable energy development reflect member states' efforts to establish a more balanced world order. For Indonesia, BRICS presents significant opportunities in market access, infrastructure financing, and trade diversification. However, Indonesia must remain cautious of geopolitical challenges and the competition among emerging economies, and must formulate an adaptive foreign policy to fully capitalize on the benefits presented by these global shifts.</p> |
| <p>This is an open access article under the <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/">CC BY-NC</a> license</p>  | <p><b>Corresponding Author:</b><br/>Valhan Hamdiana Rachman<br/>International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences,<br/>Pasundan University<br/><a href="mailto:valhan.hamdiana@unpas.ac.id">valhan.hamdiana@unpas.ac.id</a></p>  |

## INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, the world is undergoing a profound transformation in global power dynamics. The long-standing hegemony of the United States and its Western allies, which has been firmly established since the end of the Cold War, is now facing growing challenges from various global actors (Hendrajit, 2017). This power shift is particularly significant, as it highlights the structural imbalances within the international system, economically, politically, and in terms of security, where developing nations are increasingly demanding a fairer and more equitable world order. In this context, the emergence of BRICS comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa represents a collective response to what is widely viewed as a centralized and exclusionary Western-centric global order (Witono, 2015).

Western dominance is evident in its control over key global institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the widespread use of the US dollar as the global currency, and its narrative influence in international politics through platforms like NATO and the G7 (Ashara et al., 2024). Through liberal and neoliberal approaches, this dominance has allowed the West to propagate policy frameworks that often export values not always aligned with the socio-political contexts of countries in the Global South. This inequality has sparked growing awareness among non-Western states of the need for more strategic and mutually beneficial cooperation (Dedi, 2019).

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) is increasingly emerging as a major force in the global geopolitical and economic landscape. Along with other developing countries, it is advocating for a shift toward a fairer, more multipolar world order (Salleh & Yusoff, 2017). The group is actively working to establish a more balanced global system through various collaborative platforms, including youth empowerment initiatives and a strong commitment to multilateralism particularly in expanding economic and trade cooperation to enhance its collective influence. Currently, BRICS represents approximately 40% of the world's population, contributes 25% to global GDP, and accounts for 17% of international trade. In fact, the bloc's combined GDP has now surpassed that of the G7 nations (the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, and Japan). With the inclusion of major oil-producing countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, BRICS' influence in the global energy market has grown significantly, now commanding around 40% of the global market share (Alifiyah, 2015).

The BRICS alliance has become a symbol of resistance to dependence on systems established by the West. With a population that accounts for over 40% of the global total and a significant contribution to the world's GDP, BRICS holds substantial potential to emerge as a counterbalancing force within the evolving multipolar international system (Afif et al., 2024). The bloc is working to create alternative financial infrastructure through the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB), promoting trade in local currencies, and strengthening multilateral diplomacy to advocate for reforms in the existing global order (Pamungkas et al., 2019).

However, BRICS' collective strategy faces a range of internal and external challenges. Differences in political systems, divergent national interests, and rivalries among member states—such as the ongoing tensions between India and China pose significant obstacles to fostering cohesion (Molou, 2024). Externally, pressure from Western countries in the form of economic sanctions, trade wars, and technological restrictions further hinders BRICS' efforts to expand its global influence. As a result, this study is crucial for understanding the extent to which the alliance can develop an effective joint strategy in response to mounting global geopolitical pressures (Bakti et al., 2024).

Indonesia's potential accession to BRICS requires a carefully considered strategy, particularly in maintaining a geopolitical balance between global powers. Such a move could be interpreted as a shift in Indonesia's orientation toward a bloc that is increasingly influenced by China and Russia countries that historically hold divergent views from Western powers (Arif, 2025). Therefore, it is crucial for Indonesia to thoroughly assess the

potential benefits and risks, especially in economic terms, such as increased trade volume, foreign investment flows, and opportunities for cross-sectoral economic cooperation with other BRICS member states. As one of the leading nations in ASEAN, Indonesia must also ensure that its participation in BRICS does not generate tensions or create divisions within existing regional cooperation frameworks, thus preserving regional harmony (Brook, 2011).

One of the key strategic initiatives reflecting BRICS' growing integration is the proposal to establish a multilateral digital payment platform known as the “BRICS Bridge.” This initiative aims to reduce dependency on Western-dominated financial systems and enhance economic autonomy among member countries (Putra & Santoso, 2023). In parallel, the creation of the “BRICS Energy Partnership” represents a significant step toward ensuring energy supply resilience and fostering collaboration in the development of new and renewable energy sources. China, as a dominant player in the global energy sector, is at the forefront of efforts to build high-quality partnerships that enhance productivity and establish a more stable and sustainable energy supply chain for the BRICS community as a whole (Lagutina, 2019). For Indonesia, this momentum must be leveraged through the formulation of an integrated national strategy enabling the country not only to participate passively but also to play an active and strategic role in the ongoing geopolitical and geoeconomic transformation.

The state of the art of this research lies in an in-depth analysis of the global power shift triggered by the rise of BRICS as a strategic alliance of developing countries in challenging Western dominance. This study explores how BRICS—now representing a significant share of the world’s population and global economy, while also controlling a major portion of the global energy market—is shaping a new, more inclusive and equitable multipolar world order. By highlighting BRICS' expansion through new members such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the UAE, along with its commitment to multilateralism, this research contributes to contemporary geopolitical discourse and examines its relevance to Indonesia’s national interests amid an evolving global landscape. So, the purpose of this study is to analyse the collective strategies implemented by BRICS countries in confronting Western dominance within the global system. This research also aims to identify the dynamics of the evolving global geopolitical landscape in order to evaluate the strategic implications of this shift for Indonesia’s position, particularly in terms of foreign policy formulation, strengthening international cooperation, and seizing new opportunities within an increasingly multipolar world order.

## METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach, aiming to deeply understand geopolitical phenomena through the analysis of non-numerical data. This method is chosen because it aligns with the need to explore the complex dynamics of international relations particularly the collective strategies of BRICS in confronting Western dominance. The research emphasizes a contextual understanding of global social and political realities, as well as the underlying meanings of the strategies and policies implemented by international actors.

Data were collected through a comprehensive literature review, including scholarly journals, books, official reports, international news articles, and relevant documents from global institutions (Sugiyono, 2016). For data analysis, content analysis techniques were applied to examine various sources related to BRICS' roles and strategies, along with their implications for Indonesia's position on the global stage. The analysis was conducted using an interpretive and inductive approach drawing conclusions from the available data to construct a comprehensive understanding of the ongoing global geopolitical shifts. The results of this study are expected to offer valuable insights into how Indonesia can respond to these evolving dynamics in a wise and strategic manner, in alignment with its national interests and foreign policy objectives.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### BRICS Strategy in Facing Western Domination

The BRICS countries continue to strengthen their multilateral cooperation in response to increasingly complex global challenges such as climate change, economic instability, and rising geopolitical conflicts. Through the synergy built among its members, BRICS aims to establish collaborative mechanisms that are not only reactive to global crises but also proactive in shaping long-term solutions (Alamsyah, 2023). One of their main priorities is the promotion of sustainable and equitable development, with a strong emphasis on reducing social and economic disparities among member states. This initiative is not only intended to enhance internal welfare but also to present a more inclusive and balanced global development model (Indrayani, 2020).

Moreover, BRICS advocates for fairer and more democratic global governance, particularly in matters of international security. The group rejects the application of double standards in the enforcement of international law and is committed to fostering cooperation based on the principles of equality and mutual respect (Gah, 2014). In the context of global institutional reform, BRICS has consistently called for the restructuring of key institutions such as the United Nations to better reflect the interests and voices of developing countries. Rather than perpetuating new forms of dependency, BRICS emphasizes the need to empower developing nations as independent and innovative producers, not merely as consumer markets for developed economies. This stance reflects a broader effort to reorient global discourse toward a more progressive, proportional, and just direction one in which both developed and developing countries actively contribute to global advancement through equitable partnerships (Elia & Marselina, 2023).

In response to the longstanding dominance of Western countries in shaping the global economic and geopolitical order, BRICS has undertaken a series of strategic initiatives to promote mutually beneficial economic cooperation among its members. By adopting a shared development framework, BRICS aims to establish a more balanced pattern of economic relations one that is not disproportionately influenced by the interests of any single power (Djati, 2024). This collaboration includes the use of local currencies in intra-BRICS trade, the facilitation of cross-border investments, and the advancement of infrastructure projects to support deeper regional economic integration. Such measures not

only strengthen the internal economic positions of member states but also present an alternative model for other developing countries seeking to reduce their dependence on a Western-dominated global economic system (Matondang, 2018).

In addition to economic cooperation, BRICS member states have implemented various strategies to challenge Western dominance more broadly extending their collaboration into the realms of security and defense.

### **Economic Strategy**

#### **a. Strengthening Trade, Investment, and Infrastructure Cooperation**

Through this approach, BRICS aims to build a mutually beneficial and supportive economic ecosystem among its members, while simultaneously reducing dependence on Western markets and financial institutions. This cooperation is realized through increased trade volume between BRICS countries using local currencies, direct investment in strategic sectors such as energy, technology, and manufacturing, as well as the development of cross-border infrastructure projects to enhance regional connectivity. In doing so, BRICS not only creates an alternative economic force but also reinforces the foundation for a fairer and more balanced global economic order.

#### **b. Leveraging Strategic Resources from Member Countries**

One of the key strategies adopted by BRICS is the optimal utilization of each member country's strategic resources to support economic growth and reduce reliance on Western powers. The BRICS countries are endowed with abundant natural resources including energy, minerals, and industrial raw materials that are vital commodities in the global economy. By effectively harnessing these resources, BRICS can build a more stable and self-sufficient supply chain, while also promoting cooperation in the sustainable management and use of natural assets. This strategy is intended to reduce the dominance of developed countries in global resource markets and ensure that developing nations can derive greater economic benefit from the resources they possess.

#### **c. Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**

Another strategy employed by BRICS in resisting Western dominance is the support for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) within each member country. SMEs play a crucial role in the economy not only as job creators, but also as drivers of innovation and contributors to domestic economic resilience. By providing greater access to financing, capacity building programs, and international markets, BRICS aims to strengthen this sector as part of a broader effort to reduce dependence on large multinational corporations, which are often dominated by developed countries. Furthermore, enhanced support for SMEs is expected to improve the global competitiveness of BRICS economies, expand export opportunities, and strengthen economic resilience amid global market uncertainties.

#### **d. Advancing Renewable Energy Development**

Renewable energy development is one of the key strategies adopted by BRICS to reduce reliance on fossil fuel sources, which are often controlled by Western countries. With significant potential in renewable sectors such as solar, wind, hydro, and biomass, BRICS members are committed to investing in cleaner, more environmentally friendly energy technologies. In addition to mitigating the negative impacts of climate change, the

expansion of renewable energy aims to ensure long-term energy sustainability and reduce dependence on energy imports from developed nations. By strengthening domestic renewable energy capacities, BRICS not only enhances its energy independence but also contributes to the global goals of sustainable development.

### **Security Strategy**

#### **a. Strengthening Food Security**

As part of its broader security strategy, BRICS places strong emphasis on enhancing food security through more intensive cooperation in the agricultural and food distribution sectors. Food security has become a critical issue in light of global economic instability, climate change, and reliance on food imports from major global producers. With their diverse natural resources, BRICS countries are working to boost domestic food production, mitigate the risks of hunger, and improve distribution systems to ensure stronger food resilience for all segments of society. Collaboration among members includes the sharing of agricultural technologies, farmer extension services, and the development of logistical infrastructure strategic steps to ensure fair and equitable food access across the BRICS region.

#### **b. Resilience Against Emerging Threats such as Cybercrime and Narcotics**

Non-traditional security threats such as cybercrime and drug trafficking have also become key priorities in BRICS' security strategy. Member states are working together to enhance resilience against cyberattacks that could disrupt economic stability, governance systems, and critical infrastructure. This includes intelligence sharing, strengthening cybersecurity frameworks, and capacity-building efforts to confront sophisticated technological threats. Additionally, BRICS is intensifying its collective efforts to combat the spread of narcotics by improving cross-border surveillance, sharing intelligence, and supporting rehabilitation programs for drug abuse victims. Through these measures, BRICS aims to foster a safer and more stable environment, both in cyberspace and in addressing transnational crime.

### **Other Strategies**

#### **a. Establishing a New Development Bank (NDB) to Reduce Dependence on Western Financial Institutions**

One of the strategic steps undertaken by BRICS to reduce dependence on Western financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank is the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB). The NDB aims to finance infrastructure projects and sustainable development initiatives within BRICS member countries, as well as other developing nations. By offering an alternative financing model that is free from the political conditions often attached to loans from Western financial institutions, the NDB strengthens the economic sovereignty of BRICS members, increases access to development capital, and supports a more multipolar and inclusive global financial system.

#### **b. Establishing a Pool of Conditional Currency Reserves to Reduce Dependence on the Dollar in Intra-BRICS Transactions**

As part of its strategy to strengthen financial stability, BRICS has created a Pool of Conditional Currency Reserves, a collective foreign exchange reserve designed to help

member countries face short-term liquidity pressures amid global economic turbulence. This mechanism allows BRICS nations to assist each other with financing in local currencies, reducing the reliance on the US dollar, which has long been a dominant tool in the international financial system. This initiative also supports BRICS' de-dollarization goals and encourages the use of local currencies in trade transactions among member countries, contributing to a more balanced and independent monetary system.

c. Strengthening Defense Cooperation

In the realm of security and defense, BRICS has also begun to take initiatives to strengthen defense cooperation in response to global threats and the dominance of Western military power. Although it has not formed a formal military alliance like NATO, this cooperation includes intelligence sharing, joint military training, enhancing cyber defense capabilities, and engaging in strategic dialogues on regional and global security threats. By building trust and solidarity in the defense sector, BRICS aims to create a security framework that is more multipolar, balanced, and free from the dominance of any single power.

**Shift in Global Geopolitics Due to BRICS and Its Influence on Indonesia**

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) has the potential to become a balancing force in global geopolitics by strengthening intra-member cooperation and promoting inclusive multilateralism. This coalition offers an alternative to the dominance of Western countries by establishing a more equitable financial, trade, and diplomatic system, particularly for developing nations. Initiatives such as the establishment of the New Development Bank, the use of local currencies in transactions, and cooperation in energy and food sectors demonstrate BRICS' commitment to strengthening collective autonomy and creating power centers outside the traditional Western-dominated axis. Furthermore, BRICS' active role in international forums confirms that the group is not only regional in nature but also has significant global influence in shaping the world's political, economic, and environmental agendas.

However, the diversity of political, economic, and ideological backgrounds among BRICS member states also holds the potential for conflict and inconsistency in responding to global issues. For example, national interests and foreign policy orientations may hinder consensus in addressing international conflicts, climate change, or human rights issues. Additionally, leadership competition within the group, particularly between China and India, can contribute to complex internal dynamics. If not well-managed, these differences may reduce the effectiveness of BRICS as a strategic alliance and obscure its vision as a collective alternative force. Therefore, BRICS must continue to strengthen its foundation of solidarity, constructive dialogue, and adaptive cooperation mechanisms in order to maintain its role at the center of global geopolitical changes, fostering a more balanced and fair international order.

The impact of BRICS on global geopolitics includes the expansion of multilateralism, which refers to the alliance's efforts to create a more inclusive global governance system, one not solely centered around the dominance of Western powers such as the United States and the European Union. BRICS advocates for the involvement of many countries in

global decision-making through a collective approach that emphasizes equality, mutual respect for sovereignty, and mutually beneficial cooperation. In practice, BRICS is expanding cooperation across various sectors, such as national security through strategic dialogues and intelligence sharing; economic development through financing infrastructure projects and investments between members; and cultural exchange by promoting education, the arts, and cultural heritage among countries. Moreover, BRICS is also active in humanitarian projects, including disaster response, healthcare aid, and efforts to combat poverty. All of these initiatives demonstrate that BRICS not only seeks to form a new axis of power but also aims to expand the global dialogue space in a fairer and more representative manner, reflecting the interests of developing nations in a balanced way.

Another impact is the shift in the global paradigm triggered by the strengthening of BRICS' potential role, which could lead to a new wave of ideological disputes, similar to the dynamics during the Cold War. By challenging the dominance of Western countries, particularly the United States and its allies, BRICS has introduced a multipolar order that could cause geopolitical tensions between the old and new power blocks. This situation mirrors the concept of Thucydides' Trap, where the rise of a moderate power (BRICS) begins to threaten the position of a dominant power (the West), thereby increasing the risk of open conflict and strategic competition. The differences in political systems, economic values, and global interests between these blocks could deepen ideological polarization, form new alliances, and significantly alter the international diplomatic landscape. If not managed wisely through constructive dialogue and cooperation, this shift could lead to greater global instability.

The next impact is the inconsistency in responding to global challenges, as reflected in BRICS' reaction to major issues like the Russia-Ukraine war. Although the group adheres to the principles of non-intervention and respect for state sovereignty, some BRICS members have refrained from explicitly condemning Russia's invasion, while others have taken a more cautious or even neutral stance. This has led to the impression that BRICS lacks a solid collective position when facing global conflicts, raising questions about its effectiveness as an alternative global power. This inconsistency also highlights that the national interests of each member state still outweigh the group's commitment to collective action in upholding international norms and rules, making it difficult for BRICS to act as a unified voice on global strategic issues.

The final impact of BRICS on global geopolitics is the strengthening of internal relations between BRICS members, which serves as a concrete step toward solidifying the foundation of their cooperation. BRICS seeks to increase trading volume between member countries, expand cross-border investments, and accelerate joint infrastructure projects. Initiatives such as the use of local currencies in transactions, the simplification of investment regulations, and the establishment of joint economic zones are tangible forms of the group's commitment to reducing dependence on a global financial system dominated by the West. Additionally, this approach aims to strengthen the collective economic power of BRICS, creating a more independent, stable, and sustainable trade ecosystem, which ultimately supports the group's long-term vision of establishing a multipolar global order.

Then What Does This Mean for Indonesia?, Indonesia officially joined BRICS on January 6, 2025, marking a strategic step to expand its influence in the global economy and diversify its strategic partnerships. Becoming a new member is no easy task, as Indonesia must be able to capitalize on opportunities, manage risks, and navigate the political dynamics and emerging economies within the BRICS framework. Below are some of the positive and negative influences that Indonesia may face as a member of BRICS.

#### 1. Greater Market Potential

The opportunities in the BRICS region, which includes over 3 billion people, present a significant economic prospect for Indonesia. With its large population and rapid economic growth, BRICS countries are emerging as potential markets for Indonesia's flagship commodities such as palm oil, coal, rubber, coffee, and textiles and furniture products. The high demand from countries like China and India allows Indonesia to expand its exports and strengthen its trade balance. Additionally, the more flexible trade approach within the BRICS framework provides Indonesia with the opportunity to negotiate mutually beneficial trade agreements without the pressure of domination by larger countries, which often occurs in agreements with the West.

The presence of the New Development Bank (NDB) as an alternative financial institution within BRICS also opens new avenues for Indonesia to fund strategic infrastructure projects, such as transportation development, renewable energy, and industrial sectors. Funding from the NDB tends to have more flexible conditions and is tailored to the developmental needs of emerging economies, compared to Western financial institutions, which often prioritize structural reforms. By joining and building closer partnerships with BRICS and the NDB, Indonesia can accelerate the development of national projects with long-term benefits while strengthening its strategic position in an increasingly multipolar global geopolitical landscape.

#### 2. Diversification of Trading Partners

Building wider and more varied trade connections through partnerships with BRICS countries is an important strategy for Indonesia in strengthening its national economic resilience. For example, collaboration with India can be maximized to enhance the textile sector through technology transfer and improving the export standards of textile materials, while also fostering collaboration in the rapidly developing information technology (IT) sector in both countries. India, as a global technology hub, can become a strategic partner for Indonesia in driving digital transformation and developing a thriving startup ecosystem.

Meanwhile, collaboration with Russia can focus on procuring defense and military technology at relatively more affordable prices compared to products from Western countries. Diversifying trade and technology connections in this way will help Indonesia reduce dependence on a single strategic partner, creating long-term economic stability. Moreover, Indonesian businesses will benefit from having more options to explore markets, technology partners, and funding resources. Thus, this diversification not only expands economic opportunities but also strengthens national independence in the face of the constantly changing global geopolitical dynamics.

### 3. Strength in Diplomacy

BRICS serves as a strategic platform for developing countries to advocate for a fairer and more balanced global economic order. In this forum, member countries are committed to pushing for reforms in international financial institutions like the IMF and the World Bank, which have long been criticized for favoring the interests of Western countries. If Indonesia becomes a BRICS member, it will have a larger platform to support significant changes in the global financial system, particularly in terms of fairer distribution and capturing more proportional and inclusive decisions for developing countries. This will strengthen Indonesia's bargaining position and ability to advocate for national interests in international forums.

As the third-largest democracy in the world, Indonesia also holds a strategic position in offering an alternative perspective in global policies shaped by BRICS. This role can act as a balance between authoritarian and democratic approaches, fostering more moderate, inclusive, and adaptive economic policies that consider the socio-political conditions of various countries. Indonesia's presence in BRICS could also increase its diplomatic influence on the international stage, not only in economic matters but also in promoting better global governance that is fair and transparent. This would further solidify Indonesia's position as an important actor in the shifting global geopolitics, moving from unipolarity to multipolarity.

### 4. Geopolitical Instability

Geopolitical instability poses a challenge that Indonesia must carefully consider when forming a closer strategic relationship with BRICS. For the United States and its allies, BRICS is often viewed as an alliance challenging the dominance and global order, that they have long established, particularly in economic and political influence. This situation could lead to diplomatic tensions, which may, in turn, affect Indonesia's bilateral relations with Western countries. As Indonesia strengthens its ties with BRICS, there is a risk that Western countries may respond by reducing economic cooperation, exerting political pressure, or imposing trade barriers. Therefore, Indonesia must adopt a balanced diplomatic approach to maintain strong relations with all major global powers while simultaneously optimizing its national interests.

### 5. Competition Challenges

Competition is another important consideration for Indonesia as it explores closer partnerships with BRICS. Several BRICS member countries, such as India, Brazil, and South Africa, have similar economic structures to Indonesia, especially in sectors like commodity exports (coal, oil, and agricultural products). This similarity has the potential to create direct competition in accessing global markets and attracting foreign investment. For instance, if BRICS countries compete to export the same commodities to markets like China or Europe, Indonesia must find ways to add value, improve production efficiency, or offer superior product quality. While BRICS presents collaborative opportunities, Indonesia must also develop adaptive and competitive economic strategies to avoid simply being a passive participant and to play a significant role in the competition between developing countries.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis presented above, it can be concluded that BRICS represents a strategic platform for developing countries to collectively challenge Western dominance and advocate for a more inclusive, equitable, and multipolar global order. Through its collective strategies in the fields of economics, security, and sustainable development, BRICS seeks to construct an international system that is no longer centered around developed nations but instead accommodates the emergence of new centers of power. Initiatives such as the establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB), the promotion of renewable energy, defense cooperation, and the call for global governance reform all reflect BRICS' commitment to creating a more balanced and just distribution of global influence. However, despite its potential, BRICS faces significant internal challenges, such as inconsistent responses to global issues and ideological divergences among its members, which may limit its effectiveness as a unified strategic bloc. For Indonesia, deeper engagement or prospective membership in BRICS offers both significant opportunities and critical challenges. On one hand, BRICS provides expanded market access, alternative development financing, and a stronger diplomatic voice in global forums. Indonesia could also serve as a geopolitical balancer by contributing a democratic and moderate perspective within the alliance. On the other hand, Indonesia must navigate potential risks, including geopolitical tensions with Western partners, economic competition with other BRICS members, and the complexity of shifting global political alignments. Therefore, Indonesia must adopt a flexible, strategic, and well-calibrated foreign policy to leverage the opportunities offered by BRICS while preserving its strategic autonomy and sustaining balanced relations with all major global actors.

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