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Wuthering Heights

Thus, seen as a whole, the summit meetings of the last two months have shown a humanity that seems to chart a different course from the one it has had to live in the last 80 years, marked by domination, imposition, blackmail and the permanent threat posed by the Atlanticist hegemony of the United States and Europe.



The title of this article refers to an extraordinary novel written by Emily Brontë in the mid-nineteenth century and which, on many occasions, has been adapted for film and television. I saw the 1992 version directed by [Peter Kosminsky](#).

The title of the novel came to my mind when I decided to reflect on the outcome of a series of meetings held recently this year that have been a real storm for the existence and functioning of the international system.

These are the summits of the [BRICS group held in South Africa](#) in August, those of the [G-20 in India](#) and of the [G77+ China in Cuba, in](#) September. And I would add [the Far East](#)

[Economic Forum](#), held in the Russian city of Vladivostok during the same month. In less than two months, the foundations of the Atlanticist and Eurocentric international system have been shaken.

The 2023 annual meeting of the BRICS group definitively broke the media obscurantism that accompanied these sessions. It was no longer possible to hide from the world an association of 5 States to which around 40 countries of the so-called "*Global South*" wish to join before the overwhelming advance of this grouping that has been gaining strength as a counterweight to the Western financial and political order.



Right now (before the addition of six new countries on 1 January 2024), the BRICS already account for 41% of the population, 31.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) and 16% of world trade. That has allowed it to set a different agenda from the West as evidenced by its support for Russia to confront U.S. and European Union sanctions.

The great demand that exists today to join the bloc is a demonstration of the influence of this new geopolitical force that possesses the potential to challenge the Western-led system. A force that would be led by the second world power, China, which together with Russia hope to lead the international community towards a more just, equitable and participatory world.

President Xi Jinping said it when saying goodbye to his Russian counterpart at the end of his state visit to that country in March: "*Changes are taking place that we have not seen in a hundred years and it is we who are leading it together.*"

This was reiterated on Monday 18 by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the beginning of his visit to Moscow: "*We are ready to ensure together with Russia the formation of a*

multipolar world and a more just world order." These statements leave no room for doubt as to what the ultimate goal is.



Only a few days after the Johannesburg meeting, during the second week of September, the G20 summit in New Delhi was held with great success for India. Contrary to Western interests, the conclave avoided "*Ukrainizing*" the appointment. The final declaration adopted by consensus set out other issues of planetary interest such as food, climate and energy, the need to reform international financial institutions, digital transformation and macroeconomic policy.

It is worth noting the acceptance of the importance of the development objectives defined as strategic by the Global South, especially in relation to strengthening the role that developing countries must play in the global economic arena and the need for developed countries to meet the agreed financial obligations that establish the need to allocate one hundred billion dollars annually to fight climate change. The inclusion of the African Union in the G-20 as a permanent member was a historic decision.

Russia and other countries that have struggled to depoliticize the debates in this instance to have the capacity to respond to these problems faced by the majority of the world's population, managed to paralyze Western attempts to transform the event into a discussion about the situation in Ukraine. The conclave accurately established that there is a multiplicity of armed conflicts on the planet, calling for their peaceful settlement through dialogue and diplomatic efforts based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in its entirety. Once again the failure of the United States and its allies was evident.

On the other hand, during the same month the Eastern Economic Forum was held in the city of Vladivostok, located in the far east of Russia. This space is *"a key international platform for creating and strengthening ties between the Russian and global investment community, as well as for conducting a comprehensive assessment of the economic potential of the Russian Far East."*

Around 7,000 representatives from more than 50 countries participated. According to the RT portal last year, documents worth almost 34,000 million dollars were signed at the event, including agreements on infrastructure and transport projects, development of large deposits, as well as in the construction, industry and agriculture sectors.

Trade between Russia and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region grew by 13.7% last year, while during the first six months of this year it increased another 18.3%. During his speech at the conclave, President Putin clearly stated that the development of the Russian Far East is a *"strategic priority for the entire twenty-first century."* This event and the agreements signed expose a lie to the idea publicized by the transnational media of disinformation that speak of the *"isolation"* of Russia and the crisis of its economy.

Putin externalized the idea that *"a new model of cooperation"* was being born at the global level that is not based on Western patterns, explaining that these changes occur due to *"the destruction of the financial system"* by the West. This has led, according to the Russian president, to more and more countries showing their willingness to cooperate under the new model.

Finally, also during this month, the summit of the [Group 77 + China](#) was held in Cuba, a group formed by 134 countries from Asia, Africa and America. representing 80% of the world's population and two-thirds of the membership of the United Nations.



This event has been considered a meeting of the countries of the South that have been beaten and mistreated by the unjust international system hegemonized by the West. It was especially important that the meeting was held in Cuba, a country that for more than 60 years has been blocked and multi-sanctioned by the United States.

The event denounced with great persistence the policies of blockade, injustice, colonialism, impoverishment, sanctions, marginalization, exploitation and racism that these peoples have suffered in various forms.

Contrary to what the transnational media of disinformation transmit, the summit has made it clear that it is the United States, Europe and what they have called their "*international community*", which is isolated from the majority of humanity that seeks other paths and points out other paths in the route of defending the values of justice and well-being.

The event emphasized that it is necessary to build a different approach to deal with the fundamental elements of scientific, cognitive and technological development, so that, in this way, progress can be made and achieve "*added value, achieve justice and equality of conditions and eliminate once and for all, arrogance, discrimination, hegemony and wars imposed by the North*".

At the meeting, the logic established in his speech by Miguel Díaz-Canel, president of Cuba, was imposed when he said that: "*We are not poor countries but impoverished and deprived of technology and science so that we remain marginal and facilitate that the countries of the North plunder our human resources and wealth.*"

As president of the Group, Díaz-Canel called for the construction of a just and sustainable global order that allows most of these countries to emerge from the crises that have been imposed on them. To this end, it proposed to focus in a participatory and collective manner on the development of scientific resources, innovation and the strengthening of scientific and cognitive capacities to achieve sustainable development.

In his speech before the event and in a surprising way, the Secretary General of the UN, Antonio Guterres, bowed to the global clamor by affirming that it is essential to change both the international order and its institutions, created after World War II, so that *they* "*reflect current realities*".

Guterres added: "*We need global action ... to build an international system that upholds human rights and works for their interests at all levels. And that requires the G77+China to use its voice to fight for a world that works for everyone.*"

Contrary to his traditional position, Guterres said that the fundamental objective should be to build "*strong and effective multilateral institutions*", since many of them, especially the

UN Security Council and those created from the Bretton Woods agreements, "*reflect a past era*" and not the current one.

It seemed incredible, but the Portuguese diplomat firmly expressed that: "*The voice of the G77 + China will always be essential in the United Nations. And I'm counting on this group, which has long been a champion of multilateralism, to step up, use its power and fight.*"

Thus, seen as a whole, the summit meetings of the last two months have shown a humanity that seems to chart a different course from the one it has had to live in the last 80 years, marked by domination, imposition, blackmail and the permanent threat posed by the Atlanticist hegemony of the United States and Europe.

Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein for La Pluma, September 20, 2023

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