

Russia in BRICS: Initiator

- President Putin's proposal
- September 2006: a series of high-level meetings of BRIC countries in New York City
- May 2008: meeting of diplomats in Yekaterinburg
- 2010 President Medvedev: "Russia would like the cooperation between the BRIC countries to become a major factor of multilateral diplomacy and to make a substantial contribution to promoting the nascent multipolarity and development of collective leadership by the world's leading countries."

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Russia's President Medvedev called for BRICS key role in world affairs

March 29, 2012
ITAR-TASS

Russia's President Medvedev called for a key role for the BRICS nations in world affairs, and demanded faster modernization of the world financial system to reflect their growing role, following talks with BRICS nations leaders in Delhi on Thursday.



Source: AP

The BRICS nations are dissatisfied with the pace of reform of the world's financial-economic architecture which fails to take sufficient account of their role in the global economy, Medvedev said.

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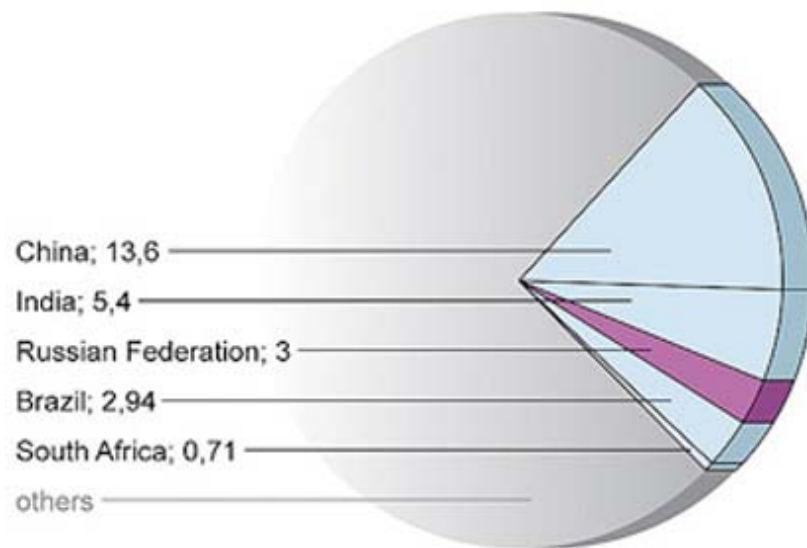


Fig. 6. GDP as a share of world GDP

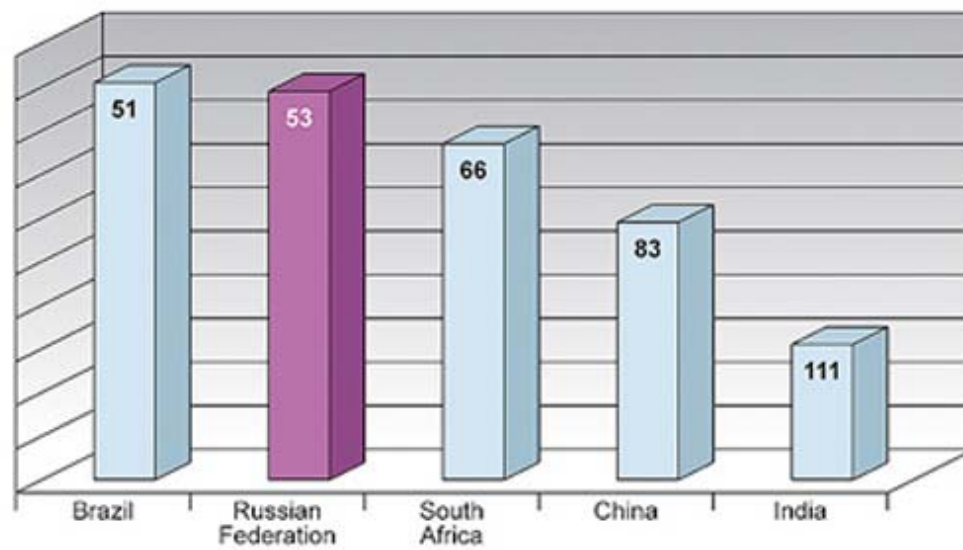
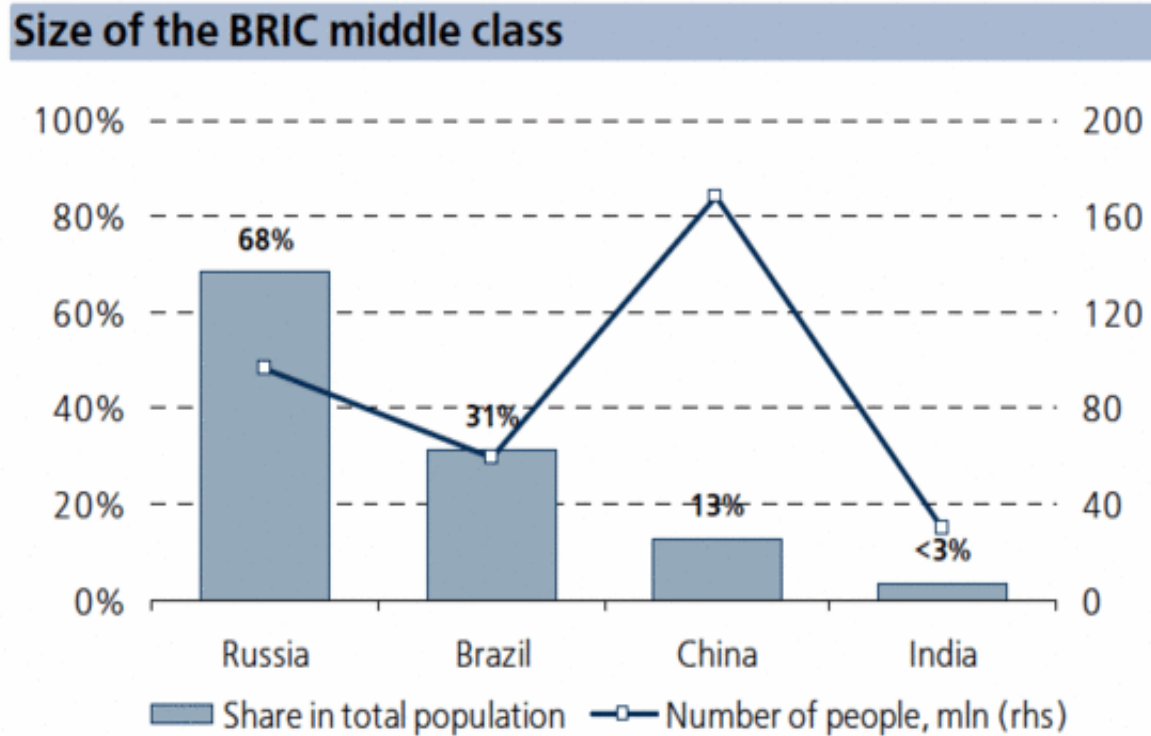


Fig. 7. GDP per capita

BRIC middle class



Note: Based on per capita PPP income of \$6,000.

Source: National statistics services

Key changes in former communist countries, particularly Russia vs. China (Colin Sparks 2010, <http://ijoc.org>)

1. From communist rule to other forms – China not
2. Institutional continuity in state, education & media – China yes
3. Personal continuity of elites – China yes
4. Privatization with theft of state property – China yes but not media
5. Economic order with corruption & political intervention – China yes
6. Unclear political outcome – China not: continuation of CP rule but with discontent

In sum, a spectrum ranging from western democracy through authoritarian regimes (Russia) to communist rule (China). Different political solutions – not uniform development suggested by transitology.

Project by the Academy of Finland

Media Systems in Flux: The Challenge of the BRICS Countries

1. Theoretical concepts of
 - a) media system
 - b) role of media and journalists in democracies
 - c) freedom and independence of media
2. Empirical mapping of
 - a) citizen participation in and through media
 - b) professional orientation of journalists
 - c) education of journalists

<http://uta.fi/cmt/tutkimus/BRICS.html>