

Reimagining BRICS within the framework of Body Politic discourse in Political Philosophy

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Introduction

The body politic as a metaphor has served as a classical approach in political philosophy.

Plato and Aristotle used the body politic to characterize the unity within diversity in the Greek polis.

Hobbes' Leviathan also popularized the equivalence of the state's issues to the taxonomy of human sickness.

Yet the body politic metaphor has faced criticisms especially on the hierarchical understanding of the body that is characterized as a “neural” body (Gilber, 1997) or head-to-toe conception, controlled by a central organ, the brain, with the nervous system being main unit.

BRICS as Extension of Body Politic

The BRICS can be seen as an extended body politic through its expansion of both the types and sources of political influence in the international arena.

the BRICS expands the source of political power in building a parallel political power such as the New Development Bank (NDB) to balance the western-centric institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB).

This denotes a kind of 'counter institutionalization' efforts [4] because it is against the dominance of loaning system. Diversifying both the type and source of political power and influence creates "a moment of transition in the construction of a multipolar system" (Petroni, 2019: 19), thus expanding the scope of the body politic.

Conclusion

This work has shown that contemporary political arrangements of the BRICS contest the idea of the body politic. Given that the BRICS nations are “united neither by ideology, geography, or culture” (Willy, 2018), a symbiotic relationship through norms then becomes relevant because it is the energy that holds the BRICS together.

References

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