

Multipolarity in the contemporary world. Definitions of poles

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Abstract:

New realities take place at the beginning of XXI century in the international relations. The world changes to multipolar and new relations appear between the old and the new powers – global or regional. These powers we call poles and present the definition of a pole and the factors defining a state as a pole.

Keywords: multipolarity, poles, international relations, geopolitics, geoeconomics.

Introduction

At the beginning of XXI century the world is transformed to multipolar and new relations appear between the old and the newly formed centers of power which we call in this article “poles”.

The important role of the power states in contemporary world is out of question. The relations between the power states – poles – are complex and dynamic. These relations determine in large extent the global development and the global security. So, it is necessary and useful to track the history, the actual state and the tendencies in the relations between the poles. In this way, the problems will be discovered, the root causes will be analysed, the mutual interest for all parties and possibilities for solving issues and for establishing win-win collaboration will be easier found.

But before to start studying and analyzing the poles we need to present a clear definition of pole. This is the main purpose of the article. So, here we formulate the definition of pole and mention the poles of XXI century.

The concept pole – definition and types

The poles are the most considerable, powerful and influential states or integrations of states in the world or in a region of the world. The factors which determine a state as a pole, are demographic, geographic, economical and political.

Demographic pole is a state with population more than 50 million people. The demographic poles can be divided into three groups: global, regional and local demographic poles. **Global demographic pole** is a country with population more than 1 billion people. **Regional demographic pole** is a country with population between 100 million and 1 billion. **Local demographic pole** is a country with population between 50 million and 100 million people.

Global demographic poles are India and China.

Regional demographic poles are: EU, USA, Russia, Indonesia, Brasil, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Mexico, Japan, Ethiopia, Phillipines, Egypt.

Territorial (resource) pole is a country with territory at least 500 000 sq km. The territorial poles are global, regional and local. **Global territorial pole** is a country with territory more than 3 000 000 sq km. **Regional resource pole** is country with territory between 1 000 000 sq km and 3 000 000 sq km. **Local resource pole** is a country with territory between 500 000 sq km and 1 000 000 sq km.

Global resource poles are: Russia, Canada, USA, China, Brasil, Australia, India.

Among the regional territorial poles are: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Danemark (with Greenland), Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Colombia, Iran, Kazahstan, DR Congo, Libia, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Niger, Peru, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Chad.

Economic pole is a country with nominal GDP which is more than 500 billion USD. Again, we can introduce global, regional and local economic poles. A country is **global economic pole** if its nominal GDP is more than 3 trillion USD. A country is a **regional economic pole** if its nominal GDP is between 1 and 3 trillion USD. Local economic pole is a country with nominal GDP between 500 billion and 1 trillion USD.

According to the above definitions, global economic poles are: USA, EU, China, Japan, and Germany.

Regional economic poles are: Brasil, France, Italy, UK, Russia, Australia, Canada, India, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Spain.

Among the local economic poles are: Indonesia, Turkey, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia etc.

The nominal GDP which is used in the definition of economic poles reflects both real and financial economic power. If we need to consider only real economic power then GDP PPP may be used. In this case, to the group of global economic poles we must add Russia, India, Indonesia, Brasil, UK and France.

A country is **political pole** if it has army with more than 100 000 soldiers. We distinguish global, regional and local political poles. **Global political pole** is a country with army of more than 700 000 soldiers, having nuclear weapon, at least four military bases outside its territory and considerable influence at least in four other countries (sphere of influence). **Regional pole** is a country which has an army of between 145 000 and 700 000 soldiers, and has either military bases in at least one other country or nuclear weapon. Local political pole is a country which has an army of between 100 000 and 145 000 soldiers.

Nuclear powers according to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1970) are: USA, Russia, UK, France and China. Nuclear powers which have not ratified the treaty are: India, Pakistan, North Korea. It is supposed that nuclear power is also Israel. In the frames of NATO, USA have deployed nuclear weapons in Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Turkey.

States with army including more than 700 000 staff are: China (2 200 000), India (1 500 000), USA (1 400 000), North Korea (1 300 000), Russia (1 000 000) (Military Size by Country, 2022).

Global political powers are: China, USA, India and Russia.

Regional political powers are: Germany, France, UK, Italy, Japan, Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel, Taiwan, North Korea.

A state is a **pole** if it is global pole by at least two of the four factors – population, territory, economy, politics – and regional pole by the remaining two factors. A state is an **absolute pole** if it is global pole by all the four factors. A country is a **strong pole** if it is global pole by three of the four factors and regional pole by the fourth. A country is **weak pole** if it is global pole by one of the four factors and regional pole by at least two other factors.

A country is **regional power** if it is regional pole by at least two factors.

China is an absolute pole. Strong poles are USA, EU and India. Russia is a pole. Weak poles are Japan and Brasil.

Regional powers are: Germany, UK, France, Italy, Pakistan, Mexico, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Australia.

When only real economic power is used for defining of global economic poles, the classification changes as follows:

Absolute poles are China and India. Strong poles are: USA, EU and Russia. Weak poles are: Japan, Indonesia, Brasil.

When using real economic power to define economic poles, to the group of regional powers we should add Turkey and Nigeria.

Conclusion

It appears that several countries can be seen as poles in contemporary world and they will determine the main trends in the international relations in XXI century. In this article, we defined the term “pole”. As a second step, planned for next articles on this topic, we plan to present the poles and to analyse their development as well as their role in the contemporary world.

References

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