

Geopolitical Economy Working Group

In 2022 the imperialist core and the global south (“Western Galaxy” and the “Bandung Constellation” respectively, as called by Darwis Khudori¹) clashed in the Ukraine-Russia conflict. This is a clear and bloody appearance of what Manoranjan Mohanty called the competing processes of global restructuring and global rebalancing². In this situation, it is indispensable that geopolitical considerations form the bases of the BBH Conference, which seeks to find the way by which the legacy of Bandung Spirit can be preserved, and the imperative of the Bandung Spirit Core Values can be effectuated. The Geopolitical Economy Working Group aims at contributing to this work.

The geopolitical economy is a relatively new theoretical framework hammered out by Radhika Desai. This concept emphasizes the importance of the state in the formation of our world and managing the development of nations. States play a central role in the “uneven and combined development”³ of countries and their position in the international division of labour. Combined development means the acceleration of the development of forces of production with the help of the state either in a capitalist or a socialist way⁴.

This “materiality of nations” contradicts what the ideology of neoliberal globalization says to make people believe that no other world is possible than the present unipolar hegemonic transnational monopoly capitalism under the leadership of the United States. The states have the power to counter this hegemony and change this unequal, unjust and unsustainable world for the better. To reach this goal counter-hegemonic states must cooperate on an international level while pursuing a pro-people political course on a national level.

Therefore, our Geopolitical Economy Working Group places emphasis on a progressive nationalism (patriotism) that accepts the core values of the Bandung Spirit and takes the interests of the zillions of working people as a priority. Our working group aims to discuss all ideas and theoretical and empirical results that contribute to our understanding of what states can do for changing the world according to the Bandung Spirit.

The Geopolitical Economy Working Group invites papers that deal with the following (non-exhaustive) topics:

- The experiences and lessons of the developmental states in the Global South: socio-economic development of individual countries – comparative and case studies.
- Economic reforms and structural changes in Russia in the last decades and alternatives for its development.
- Central planning, market forces and the road to socialism in China.
- How the Ukrainian conflict affects the world – the consequences of the war and sanctions in the Global South and in Europe.
- The military, economic and social dimensions of security and its indivisibility.
- Economic, political, security and cultural cooperation in the Global South, comparison with the experiences of the Global North. The prospects for Eurasian cooperation. The experiences of the Belt and Road projects – comparative and case studies.

1 Kudhori, Darwis (2021). For the Bandung Spirit ideals of global future. *Bandung Spirit Bulletin*. No. 1 / April-July, pp 2-3

2 Mohanty, Manoranjan (2015). Bandung spirit and the new Indian regime. *Mainstream*, Vol LIII No 26, June 20, 2015. <http://www.mainstreamweekly.net/article5748.html>

3 Trotsky, Leon (1930). *The History of the Russian Revolution*. Volume One: The Overthrow of Tzarism. Chapter 1. Peculiarities of Russia’s Development. <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1930/hrr/ch01.htm>

4 Desai, Radhika (2015). Introduction: the materiality of nations in geopolitical economy. *World Review of Political Economy* 6(4):449

- BRICS as a possible engine of the change of the world. The possibilities of enlarging BRICS with Turkey or Iran.
- Declining and emerging financial markets and their effects on the geopolitical constellation (dollar, euro, ruble, renminbi etc.).
- Effects, treatment, and lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic – comparative and case studies.
- Policies to eradicate poverty: means and results – comparative and case studies.
- Possibilities and preconditions of delinking from the centre (“refusal to bow to the dominant logic of the world capitalist system” – Samir Amin).
- How the UN could be made more effective in promoting peace and sustainable development for all.

Working group coordinator

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