

THE RISE OF ASIA

60 YEARS AFTER BELGRADE



**What Non-Alignment
in a Multipolar World
and for a Global Future?
Assessments and Perspectives
of NAM 60 Years On**

Editor: **Darwis Khudori**

Co-editors: **Dragana Mitrovic, Isaac Bazié and Isabel Cabaña Rojas**





BANDUNG SPIRIT BOOK SERIES

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Darwis Khudori

Co-editors

Dragana Mitrovic (Serbia), **Isaac Bazié** (Burkina Faso/
Canada), **Isabel Cabaña Rojas** (Chile/Japan)



AAKAR



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Acknowledgement

This book is supposed to be a tribute to the 1961 Belgrade Conference of Non-Aligned Nations for its 60th anniversary.

It took four years to prepare this book, from its initial step in 2021 to its launching in 2025. The initial step was the 5th edition of The Rise of Asia conference series that took place on February 10-12, 2021 under the theme of “The Rise of Asia 60 years after Belgrade: what non-alignment in a multipolar world and for a global future?” It was organised under a very special circumstance: The Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown. It was supposed to follow the usual rhythm initiated in 2017: the first day at the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and the two following days at the University Le Havre Normandy. In reality, it was organised fully from home. All the 35 plenary and parallel sessions took place in virtual space. No physical room was made available. The universities were closed down. All the presenters, chairs, participants, organisers, more than 300 persons in total, took part in the conference from their respective home.

The launching of the book was planned to be the 9th edition of The Rise of Asia conference series supposed to take place on March 5-7, 2025 under the theme of “The Rise of Asia 70 years after Bandung: what possibilities to build the world anew?” This time the Covid-19 Pandemic was over since two years, but the way to organise conferences has changed, no come back to fully physical presence of conference participants. A new tradition has emerged: the hybrid mode of communication, combining physical and virtual presence in the conference. Thus, the conference is to take place physically and virtually at the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (first day) and at the University of Le Havre Normandy (second and third days).

Four years! Does not it seem to be too long for preparing a book? Is it normal? Is it justifiable? Is it worthwhile? Is it useful? Is it still relevant?

I leave the public to judge. My duty was to lead, to coordinate, to push, to encourage, to remind, to warn all the contributors to this book to move on towards the concretisation of this collective project. No need to reveal here how difficult it was. At the same time, I had to find a publisher that accepted to publish a book under the label of BANDUNG SPIRIT BOOK SERIES and in a co-operative way.

The books labelled with BANDUNG SPIRIT BOOK SERIES are produced in a developing country in the framework of Bandung Spirit Community-based activities. The books are produced in a co-operative way with a publisher in charge of book production and several co-publishers that participate in financing the production by buying in advance a number of copies of the printed book. In this way, the production cost and the sale price of the book are affordable for the developing world and the co-publishers may help spreading the book to their respective networks. Moreover, in the spirit of knowledge sharing for all, the book is to be made available for an online free reading. Those who wish to have a printed copy of the book may order it directly to the publisher.

This is one of the alternatives for the developing world to get access to knowledge in an affordable way.

So many people have generously contributed to this publication, at various times and in diverse ways. It is not possible to acknowledge all of them. So I excuse myself and select only a few for their special contributions. Firstly, I am very grateful to the University Le Havre Normandy including my research laboratory GRIC (Group of Research on Identities and Cultures) that allowed the conference The Rise of Asia 2021 to take place under the Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown and to my students of Master's Degree in Exchanges with Asia who managed all the 35 online sessions successfully. The video recording of the conference is available on YouTube under the playlist of The Rise of Asia 60 years after Belgrade.

Secondly, I am so thankful to all the authors contributors to this book, especially for their collaborative spirit and patience despite the long process of preparation of this publication.

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Thank you all for your kind attention.

Darwis Khudori



Sixty years after the 1961 Belgrade Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, the bipolar geopolitical order of the world has disappeared in the past 30 years, if the count starts at the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. Yet, the Non-Aligned Movement as an alternative to bipolarism continues to operate. It is the largest grouping of states worldwide after the United Nations. 120 state members of the Movement continue to periodically organise summits

involving their heads of state or of government. How come the Movement continues to survive while the bipolarism as its *raison d'être* does not exist anymore? Is there any hidden meaning of non-alignment? Is there non-alignment on other issues than bipolarism?

On the other hand, Asia continues to rise. In 1970, Asia was the poorest continent in the world, and marginal except for its large population. By 2016, its share of the world's gross domestic product rose from less than one-tenth to three-tenths, while its income per capita surpassed that of developing countries and converged towards the world average income level. Growth in gross domestic product and gross domestic product per capita in Asia was much higher than that in the world economy, industrialized countries, and the developing world, both Africa and Latin America. Over this period, the share of Asia in world industrial production jumped from a miniscule 4 per cent to more than 40 per cent. Its share of world merchandise trade rose from one-twelfth to one-third.

The rising Asia raises questions: does Asia still need NAM? Or in other words, is NAM still relevant to Asia and other parts of the world? And what to do with NAM?

It is to answer those questions that the 5th edition of The Rise of Asia conference 2021, dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the Belgrade Conference of Non-Aligned Nations, was organised and this book published under the direction of **Darwis Khudori** (France-based Indonesian writer, architect and historian, professor of Oriental Studies at the University Le Havre Normandy).

Front Cover: Leaders of 25 participating countries in the Belgrade Conference

(Photo Credits: National Archives of Yugoslavia, now Serbia, UNESCO Memory of the World.)

Back Cover: Five initiating leaders of NAM: Nasser, Nehru, Nkrumah, Sukarno, Tito in New York 1960

(Photo Credits: National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia, UNESCO Memory of the World.)



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