

Emerging countries: don't forget the "BNP"!

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Executive Summary

This paper proposes the creation of a new acronym "BNP" to name three forgotten emerging countries: Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Pakistan, whose potential growth is huge. Their perspectives of economic development seem gigantic and widely underestimated by the Westerners.

Issues

Acronyms are at present fashionable among Anglo-Saxon leaders to indicate groups of countries sharing the same economic characteristics. The "BRIC" and the "PIGS" (with a certain pejorative character) are among the most well-known. If the second, consecutive to the current financial crisis of Europe, appears of circumstance, the first one was used since 10 years ago. Reflection of its success, it comes moreover, on the occasion of its ten years, to be questioned by the influential American sociologist Jack A. Goldstone, who, in an article of the magazine Foreign Policy dated December 2nd,

2011, proposes the adoption of a new acronym: the "TIMBI". It is thus advisable to question the logic of the list of the emergent powers of XXI century by the Americans.

The "BRIC", for "Brazil, Russia, India and China", is a term invented in 2001 in a note by Jim O' Neill, economist to Goldman Sachs, to indicate four new economic major powers of the planet to the horizon 2050, following a rather simple logic. They include the both States the most populated of the planet (more than a billion inhabitants each), China and India, considered as the future main suppliers of manufactured goods, as well as the most vast first and fifth countries of the planet, Russia (the former second resurgent superpower), and Brazil (the most populated country of Latin America), considered as two main suppliers of raw materials in the future. This list rests essentially on questionable demographic and geographical criteria and thus disputed.

Accordingly, other proposals appear. The latest, the "TIMBI", for "Turkey, India, Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia", which already have its entry on the electronic encyclopedia Wikipedia, is based on more rigorous criteria, whose main one is the evolution of the manpower, his inventor Jack A. Goldstone being a renowned quality researcher. Among the big countries of the planet, that is populated and having a relatively important GNP, which includes, according to the author, four "BRIC" more Turkey, Mexico and Indonesia, it is possible to distinguish two types. The first one corresponds to both States, China and Russia, whose manpower is going to stagnate in a near future, what should, according to its argumentation, reduce their perspectives of economic growth, requiring to push aside them from the list of

Keywords

BNP, BRIC, demography, emerging countries, growth, TIMBI

Quotables

- "This (BRIC) list rests essentially on questionable demographic and geographical criteria and thus disputed."

- Finally, the name of the "TIMBI" rests again widely on demographic criteria, testifying of the importance of this factor underestimated by the economists, who are interested in the goods more than in the people.

- Yet, among the most populated countries of the planet, three of them are missing, that we suggest naming "BNP", for "Bangladesh, Nigeria and Pakistan"

- "these States are, for statistical reasons, potentially the "champions" of the economic growth of XXI century, if they manage to surmount their internal problems.

Abstract

BRIC is the most famous acronym to design emerging powers. It is now disputed by researchers, whose the American sociologist, Jack A. Goldstone, that proposes a new one : TIMBI. Nevertheless, they both rest on demographic criteria. So, it is notable that they forget three countries among the most populated of the planet: Bangladesh, Nigeria and Pakistan, that we can name "BNP". Indeed, these countries have a significant growth potential due to their low GNP. They could be the winning trio of the 2050's.

emerging powers, as far as they are managed by authoritarian regimes. The second type consists of the other countries, which are characterized all by a high potential of growth of the manpower at means-term, element considered favourable to their economic growth, as far as they have democratic regimes.

However, this argumentation can be the object of two major criticisms. The first one is the presence of Turkey, much less populated than other countries, which seems to be included especially for geopolitical reasons, the United States considering it as an indispensable geostrategically, blocking the Russian influence in this region of the world. The second criticism, more important, concerns the not taking in consideration by the author of productivity gains, which, in Russia as in China, for different reasons, could progress potentially considerably, given the low current respective productivity of the manpower, compared with Western Europe standard or with the United States. Finally, the name of the "TIMBI" rests again widely on demographic criteria, testifying of the importance of this factor underestimated by the economists, who are interested in the goods more than in the people.

Yet, among the most populated countries of the planet, three of them are missing, that we suggest naming "BNP", for " Bangladesh, Nigeria and Pakistan ". These last ones count more than 150 million inhabitants, or more than Russia or Japan, and should exceed in population at means-term Brazil (this is already the case for Pakistan according to preliminary results of the 2011 census). Their absence of the diverse lists of emergent powers is not due to a forgetting, but is simply linked to their poverty, with a low standard of living and a global GNP, between the fortieth and the sixtieth world place, which seems ridiculous with regard to their size. "BNP" concentrate important internal problems, whether it is of political order (Pakistan and Nigeria) or of natural order (Bangladesh). However, their current situation, a level of departure of the very low GNP, leads to the hypothesis that these States are, for statistical reasons, potentially the "champions" of the economic growth of XXI century, if they manage to surmount their internal problems. Nigeria, with its important wealth in natural resources and its favourable localization in the heart of the future fourth world centre of population of the Gulf of Guinea, could quickly become the leader of sub-Saharan Africa. Pakistan should benefit from its situation of natural outlet of internal China on Indian Ocean and from its nearness of the main Indian pole of expansion (the western coast from Gujarat to Kerala). Bangladesh, a priori the worse off, by mastering its natural frame, could be transformed into the "Netherlands" of the South Asia, heading the second economic centre of the region, its capital, Dacca, overriding Calcutta, the least dynamic of the main Indian metropolises.

After all, the use of the demographic criterion invites us not to forget "BNP", which are potentially the winning trio of 2050s. Their perspectives of economic development seem gigantic and widely underestimated by the Westerners.

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