

Reconfiguration of the Global South

Africa, Latin America and the
'Asian Century'

EUROPA REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES



Edited by
Eckart Woertz

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BARCELONA
CENTRE FOR
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AFFAIRS

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK

First published 2017
by Routledge
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

and by Routledge
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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by Taylor & Francis Books

Europa Commissioning Editor: Cathy Hartley

Editorial Assistant: Eleanor Simmons

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

[CIP data]

ISBN: 978-1-85743-863-5 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-31545-765-9 (ebk)

Typeset in Times New Roman
by Taylor & Francis Books



Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

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Acknowledgement

Four of the chapters published in this volume, by Osvaldo Karef, by Igor Hernández and Diego Guerrero, by Frank Mattheis and Christina Stolte and by Carmen Grau Vila, were first published in Spanish in *Afers Internacionals*, Vol. 114, Winter 2016; Routledge extends its gratitude to CIDOB for permission to publish these pieces.

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Abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BRICS	Brazil, Russian Federation, India, People’s Republic of China, South Africa
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
GDP	Gross domestic product
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
UK	United Kingdom
US(A)	United States (of America)

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Part 1

Framing the topic

1 Introduction

Karim El Aynaoui and Eckart Woertz

Since the 1980s there has been a steady shift from West to East in the international system, first economically, then politically and culturally. Emerging markets in Asia have moved up the value chain of industrial production processes and the share of Western industrialized countries in global GDP has declined. Recently the GDP of China overtook those of the US and the EU in terms of purchasing power parity, though in current dollar terms it remains considerably smaller (see Figure 1.1). Besides the G7, the G20 has emerged as an international platform to discuss challenges of economic cooperation, albeit with mixed success. Asian nations like China and India also assert themselves in security matters and seek new avenues for investment flows and development cooperation.

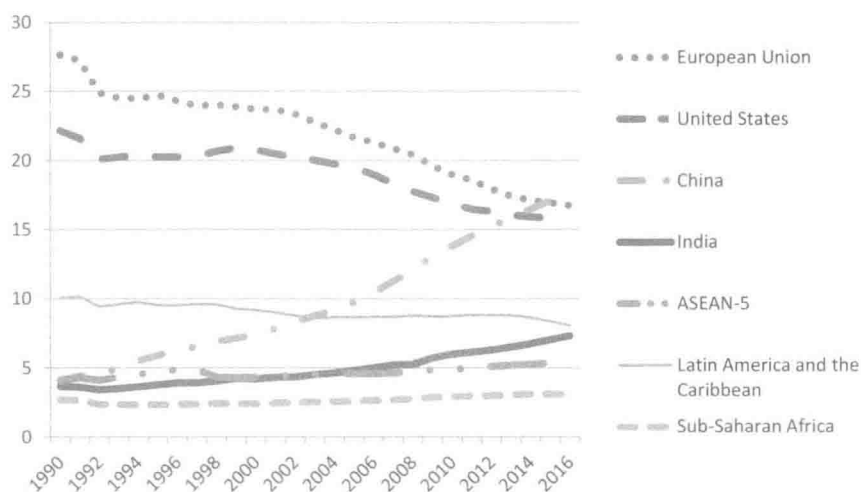


Figure 1.1 Percentage share in global GDP on a purchasing power parity basis, 1990–2016
Note: ASEAN-5 encompasses Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook Dataset, April 2016, Washington D. C. www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2016/01/weodata/index.aspx (accessed 17 April 2016).