

# **The Collective West's claims to political and economic dominance are becoming a thing of the past**

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## Foreword

For decades, the ‘Collective West’<sup>1</sup> has continued to wage open and covert wars against states it views as threats to its ‘world model’. The Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS have achieved success by rejecting neocolonial policies and attempts to impose their hegemony on others.<sup>2</sup>

*“... The stability [of the capitalist West] is undermined every month, every day... The moribund [capitalist] classes are resisting not because they are stronger than we are, but because... they are becoming weaker than we are. And precisely because they are becoming weaker than we are, they sense the last days of their existence and are forced to resist with all their might and by all means... [They] do not want to leave the stage voluntarily: they will resist... for they see that the last days of their existence are coming...”*, - Josef Stalin spoke about the intensification of the struggle with the West, its resistance, competition for foreign markets and raw materials, and the growth of elements of a new revolutionary upsurge in all countries of the world.<sup>3</sup>

## **1. The SCO summit in Tianjin: The birth of a New World Order**

The twenty-fifth summit of the SCO was held from August 31 to September 1 of this year in Tianjin, China. Tianjin brought together the leaders of 10 permanent member countries (China, Russia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran, and Belarus), along with representatives of eight dialogue partner countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Egypt, Cambodia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Turkey).

The leaders of Malaysia, Mongolia, and Turkmenistan also attended, along with representatives of the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and other

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<sup>1</sup> The term ‘Collective West’ generally refers to a group of nations, primarily in Europe and North America, that share similar political, economic, and cultural values and are perceived to be aligned in their response to international issues, particularly those involving Russia or other geopolitical rivals. It's often used in a negative context to imply unity and coordinated action against Russia.

<sup>2</sup> The Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) is not a military bloc. It is an international structure that co-ordinates efforts to develop economic and energy co-operation, cultural exchange and interaction, and the fight against extremism and terrorism, as well as drug trafficking. The SCO's priority is the Asian regions. The organisation was founded in 2001 by the leaders of China, Russia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. These countries remain permanent members of the SCO, and their leaders decide on the admission of new countries. The vast majority of Asian countries are members of the SCO.

<sup>3</sup> On the Right Deviation in the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks): Speech at the Plenum of the Central Committee in the Central Control Commission of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) in April 1927 (Stenogram); [https://www.marxists.org/russkij/stalin/t12/t12\\_01.htm](https://www.marxists.org/russkij/stalin/t12/t12_01.htm) (In Russian. Accessed 18 September 2025).

regional organisations.<sup>4</sup> A significant portion of Asia was present. In total, more than 30 heads of state and international organisations took part in the event.

This event, which has long ceased to be an ordinary regional meeting and has transformed into a powerful strategic forum uniting powers critical of the West's unipolar worldview, striving to create a multipolar world order, has become the epicenter of global geopolitics. According to international observers, it is increasingly taking on the characteristics of an 'anti-G7'.<sup>5</sup>

## **Main topics and outcomes of the summit**

### ***Multilateral economic relations and resisting Washington's dictatorship***

The key topic of the summit was the strengthening of economic ties bypassing Western sanctions and the dollar system.

Today, global trade is experiencing a fundamental shift in economic power in favour of developing economies.<sup>6</sup> New consumer markets, located primarily in the Global South, are accumulating critical mass, enabling them to become self-sufficient centers of power.

Among the ten largest economies in the world in terms of purchasing power parity, five countries are members of the BRICS – Russia, China, India, Brazil and Indonesia. And of the European Union, only two countries are in the top 10 - Germany and France. The ratio of the combined GDP of these competing economies is \$65 trillion to \$10 trillion, or 6.5 to 1.

Over the past two decades, the share of developing economies in global GDP has increased from 25% to almost 50%, and their participation in global trade has risen from 20% to 35%. Thirteen of the world's twenty most populous consumer markets are located in the Global South, ten of which are in Asia. The BRICS countries represent almost half of the world population, create a third of the global economy and account for a fifth of global trade. The three largest countries in the organisation - Russia, China, and India - are the main contributors to the BRICS economy.

The United States share of global consumption remains significant but no longer dominant at just 26%, while the combined share of China and India jumped from 6.5% to 17.8% over the same period. The influence and significance of the previously attractive US consumer market, as well as that of the European Union, is in steady structural decline, and its importance is further weakened by the weight of the United States's tariffs on exporters.<sup>7</sup>

Contrary to President Trump's expectations, U.S. tariffs are not isolating the exporting countries of the Global South. On the contrary, they are forcing the SCO, the BRICS and ASEAN blocs to unite, work, and trade together, more actively defend the rules of the multilateral trading system, the core of which is the World Trade Organization (WTO), as opposed to Washington's chaotic

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<sup>4</sup> The SCO partner countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bahrain, Egypt, Cambodia, Qatar, Kuwait, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates. SCO Observer States: Afghanistan, Mongolia. At the moment, SCO is considering more than 10 applications to join as an observer or partner.

<sup>5</sup> Lorenzo Lamperti. Challenge to the US and G7, this is how Xi Jinping and Putin try to design a new world order. *La Stampa*, 01 September 2025.

<sup>6</sup> David Dodwell. Why Global South holds winning trade cards despite Trump's bluster. *South China Morning Post*, 29 August 2025.

<sup>7</sup> According to the World Bank, the volume of final consumption of the American market until recently amounted to 18.6 trillion dollars, far ahead of China - 10.2 trillion and India - 2.4 trillion.

unilateralism and protectionism in trade relations, and redirect their exports to other, more friendly, stable, and predictable markets in the developing world.

This illustrates a general trend: new trade axes are forming, bypassing Washington. According to the Financial Times, in Tianjin, Russia, China and India “*challenged the West*”.<sup>8</sup>

At the summit, it was noted that the SCO, the BRICS and ASEAN blocs can and should agree on joint actions against American pressure expressed in the tariff war unleashed by the United States.

### ***A new system of global governance***

Another important outcome of the summit is the new, more effective and functional system of global governance proposed by Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Following the declaration adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, in October 2024, the need for a significant increase in the participation of countries of the Global South and the Global East in global governance mechanisms, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the WTO, was emphasized. This proposal by the SCO and the BRICS, does not dictate over the rest of the world, is not an alliance against any country, regional or international organization, but a new vision of the system of international relations. This is especially true when individual countries of the collective West do not give up their desire for dictatorship in international affairs.

The five main principles of the proposed system are: (1) sovereign equality, (2) adherence to the principles of international law, (3) a course towards multipolarity of power centers, (4) advocacy of a people-oriented approach, (5) focus on real actions.

### ***Reforming the global financial system***

The United States financial and payments hegemony is its primary instrument of global power, based on its convenience for the international community. A real change to the global reserve currency would mean a change to the entire global trading system. Abandoning the dollar for trade and reserve accumulation would require countries that wish to do so to undertake a significant transformation of their economic model.

One of the key topics of discussion at the summit was the complete de-dollarisation of Eurasia. Measures to protect national financial systems in the context of the crisis of old financial institutions controlled by the West were discussed, taking into account that the transition to settlements in national currencies in the SCO association will not be enough.

All SCO and BRICS participants and partners are well aware of the challenges associated with the dominant pressure of the global reserve currency and are prepared to work toward a parallel system. This isn't about replacing the dollar with some other universal currency, but rather about creating a different type of relationship based on a variety of trade and financial exchange options. This could range from various methods of bilateral relations to various multilateral agreements and other possibilities.

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<sup>8</sup> Joe Leahy, Kathrin Hill. Xi Jinping outlines China's ambition to reshape world order in showpiece summit. *Financial Times*, 01 September 2025.

The SCO and the BRICS are not encroaching on the US dollar, but are drawing conclusions from Washington's misguided policies. Nevertheless, the process of de-dollarisation of the international financial system is inevitable in the foreseeable future.

The summit decided to establish a Development Bank of the SCO. Such a bank is necessary to strengthen support for member states' co-operation in security and economic matters, simplify project financing and financial transactions between participating countries, and mitigate sanctions pressure from the collective West.

It was announced that Russia, along with China, advocates for reform of the IMF and the World Bank. According to President Putin, *“the new financial system must be built on the principles of openness and fairness, ensure equal and non-discriminatory access to its instruments for all countries without exception, and reflect the real position of [SCO] member countries in the global economy. It is important to prevent the use of the financial sector for neo-colonialist purposes that run counter to the fundamental interests of the global majority”*.<sup>9</sup>

### ***Eurasian security***

At the summit, special attention was paid to the issue of security. The demand for a new security architecture in Eurasia has recently been caused by many years of ignoring Russia's interests in this extremely important area by the United States and its allies. Naturally, for the SCO member countries, seeking to strengthen their sovereignty, security issues have become of paramount importance.

The military and political pressure exerted by Washington and Brussels has come into conflict with the interests of most Eurasian countries, leading to an exacerbation of interstate tensions and a growing potential for conflict. This potential could have dire consequences for international peace and requires an adequate response, including eliminating the legal vacuum in Eurasian security that poses risks to the interests of Eurasian states.

The summit emphasized that the formation of an equal and indivisible security architecture in Eurasia must occur through close co-operation among the SCO member states. This work is an important component of building a more equitable multipolar and multicentric world order based on international law with the United Nations playing a central coordinating role. The socio-economic foundation of such a world order should be the Greater Eurasian Partnership, which envisions the unification of national development strategies and regional integration initiatives, as well as strengthened co-operation between the SCO, the BRICS, the CIS, ASEAN, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), and other international and regional associations.

Socio-economic, energy and food stability are important components of Eurasian security. To address this challenge, the SCO member countries need to develop new, must develop new, more equitable relations that would allow them to fully realize their economic potential.

We should expect active development of co-operation in the creation of global transport corridors – primarily the North-South and the Northern Sea Route, raw materials highways (e.g.,

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<sup>9</sup> Vladimir Rifov. Friendship, Gas and UN Reform. What Putin Said to the Chinese Press Before the Trip. *Arguments and Facts*, 30 August 2025; <https://aif.ru/politics/russia/druzhba-gaz-i-reforma-on-cto-putin-skazal-presse-kitaya-pered-poezdkoy?ysclid=mezsacv61m395786281> (In Russian. Accessed 21 September 2025).

the new 'Far East Route' gas pipeline from Russia to China, the launch of which is planned for 2027),<sup>10</sup> the development of border territories, the implementation of joint projects in bordering countries, as well as in the field of high technology and electronics.

Major investment projects are also being studied and planned, which will provide better transport connectivity in Eurasia and will contribute to the formation of a 'Greater Eurasian Trade and Economic Space'. Among them is the construction of a railway linking Afghanistan, India, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.<sup>11</sup> Another example is that China intends to present large-scale initiatives within the framework of the 'One Belt, One Road' project aimed at developing digital and transport corridors, primarily in Central Asia.

Relations between the SCO and the BRICS countries differ from the usual kind of military-political alliance, as it is built in the countries of the collective West. The SCO and the BRICS countries transcend this model of state-to-state relations, adhering to the approach of non-interference, non-confrontation and non-aggression against third parties.<sup>12</sup>

Given the global political crisis, the SCO and the BRICS countries will be forced to pay greater attention to their security, transforming them from purely political and economic blocs into military-economic-political alliances. Although the SCO and the BRICS blocs currently lack a clear military-political structure (for example, unlike NATO, they lack a military co-ordination center or centers), they are already de facto in opposition to the continental NATO bloc.<sup>13</sup> It is possible that the SCO and the BRICS member states will soon experience an increased demand for modern and reliable weapons, which Russia and China can guarantee to their partner countries.

### ***United Nations reform***

Eurasian security is impossible without reforming the key international institutions. The SCO member states are well aware of this.

Before his visit to China, Russian President Vladimir Putin gave a lengthy written interview to the Xinhua news agency. He noted that Russia and China are in favour of reforming the United Nations so that this organization fully restores its authority and aligns to modern realities. He proposed making the United Nations Security Council more democratic by including states from Asia, Africa, and Latin America as members.<sup>14</sup>

### **Conclusions:**

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<sup>10</sup> Vladislav Tulin. Putin: Russia and China are effectively co-operating on LNG projects in the Arctic. *Arguments and Facts*, 30 August 2025; <https://aif.ru/money/putin-rf-i-kr-effektivno-sotrudnichayut-po-spg-proektam-v-zapolyare> (In Russian. Accessed 21 September 2025).

<sup>11</sup> Russia can build a railway in Afghanistan. *Kommersant*, 06 September 2025; <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/8022312> (in Russian. Accessed 21 September 2025).

<sup>12</sup> Wang Yi, Lavrov highlight ASEAN-centered, open and inclusive regional co-operation architecture. *Global Times*, July 26, 2024.

<sup>13</sup> In 2025, several joint military exercises of the BRICS and the SCO member countries were held. For example, on August 1-5 - the exercises of China and Russia in the Sea of Japan 'Maritime Interaction 2025'. August 8-9 - China-Russia-Mongolia trilateral exercise 'Border Defense Co-operation 2025' in the border city of Manzhouli, Inner Mongolia. September 12-16 - exercises of Belarus and Russia 'West-2025' in Belarus. September 15-28 - joint military exercises of Laos and Russia 'Laros-2025'. All exercises were anti-terrorist and defensive in nature and were not directed against other countries.

<sup>14</sup> Full text of Xinhua's interview with Putin. *Xinhua*, 30 August 2025; <https://english.news.cn/20250830/db2fc32491a7448cb2249adbbb9adde9/c.html> (Accessed 27 September 2025).

- The SCO Summit was the next stage in the consolidation of the Global South and the Global East and the creation of the foundation for a multipolar and monocentric world.
- The BRICS and SCO associations have begun to form an architecture of an equal and indivisible security concept in Eurasia.

## 2. Eastern Economic Forum 2025

The Eastern Economic Forum is a leading platform for the development of the economy of the Far East and the expansion of international co-operation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Tenth Eastern Economic Forum (EEF-2025) was held from September 3-6, 2025, in Vladivostok, Russia. Representatives from over 70 countries and territories participated in the forum. The forum's main theme was 'The Far East: Co-operation for Peace and Prosperity'. This slogan underscores the country's commitment to developing the Far East and strengthening its role in the global economy through international co-operation and the harmonisation of economic processes.

In 2025, the forum was held under the sign of polarisation of the Global South and the Global East with the collective West.

### Main topics and outcomes of the forum

Over the ten years of its existence, the forum has become a key platform for building long-term partnerships with leading Asian countries, and has also established the foundation for the implementation of major projects in Russia.

The forum focused on strengthening international and economic co-operation between countries in the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>15</sup>

### *Is it possible to restore economic partnership between Russia and the United States?*

*"The West can no longer enjoy Russia's trust in the areas of security, trade and economic relations, or financial mechanisms that were created within the framework of globalisation and advertised as intended for the benefit of the entire world, but which have now overnight turned into an instrument of blackmail, pressure, racketeering, and outright theft"* - Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, 03 September 2025.

The most mutually beneficial option for both Russia and the United States may be as follows.

It is critical for Russia to achieve technological sovereignty in key economic sectors. To achieve this, Russia must obtain industrial capacity from the United States, primarily in heavy industry, machine tool manufacturing, the automotive industry, microelectronics, and civil aircraft manufacturing, as well as equipment for the development and processing of raw materials, oil and gas, technology for the development of the Arctic region, and other sectors and areas that shape the country's economic potential. These industrial capacities, along with complete production

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<sup>15</sup> More than 300 trade agreements worth almost \$70 billion were concluded at the forum (only those agreements whose amount was not a trade secret were taken into account).

cycles and component supply chains, must be located within Russia, as was organised in the Soviet Union during the first five-year plans, rather than dependent on supplies from abroad.

What are the benefits for the United States, and what can they get in return? By providing Russia with its industrial capacity and technology, the United States gains the opportunity to develop its national industrial potential to ensure the United States economic growth. This occurs through the supply of natural resources and energy sources (e.g., nuclear fuel) from Russia to the United States on favorable terms, by opening the Russian market to American technologies and products, and by participating in large-scale joint strategic projects, such as the development of the Arctic region. At the same time, Donald Trump is achieving the goals he set out in his presidential campaign: strengthening the dominant role of the large technological-industrial sector in the United States economy, national capital and 'technological lobbies' in this country, and having received it, achieving financial, economic, and political preferences in the interests of the USA, but not in the interests of global forces (globalists) – planetary communities that have financial leadership in the world.

An important condition is that Russia should receive exclusively the United States industrial capabilities and technologies for its raw materials, energy carriers, market and other benefits, and not US dollars, since the latter are, as world practice has shown, an instrument for enslaving national economies and their subordination to old global governance organisations, primarily those associated with the United Nations, the Bretton Woods Institutions (e.g. IMF, World Bank, WTO) and other world monetary and financial systems.

#### *Joint projects in the Arctic and Alaska*

Russia and the United States have begun discussing possible co-operation in the Arctic and Alaska. This was announced by President Vladimir Putin following talks with American leader Donald Trump held in Anchorage, Alaska on August 15, 2025.<sup>16</sup> Basically, these projects, in which the European and Asian partners of the Russian company Novatek are already taking part, relate to the production and processing of natural liquified gas.

The interest in the Arctic region is no coincidence, as climate change opens up new transport routes along the Siberian coast and access to Russian natural resources. In addition, Russia has unique technologies for working in the Arctic that no one else has. Russia has the world's most powerful icebreaker fleet, including nuclear-powered vessels of the Arktika project. The newly built Arktika-class nuclear icebreakers, such as the *Arktika* and the *Sibir*, are among the most powerful in the world. They are capable of ploughing through ice up to 2.8 metres thick, and operating all year round. By the end of 2025, Moscow plans to increase their number to more than 20 units, while the United States has only three operating icebreakers with more understated capabilities.

The High North and the Northern Sea Route are an artery of influence, as this route shortens the journey from Asia to Europe by 40%, making it strategically important. NATO countries understand this well, declaring that this region is becoming key to NATO's security, as Russia

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<sup>16</sup> Putin: Russia and the United States are discussing the possibility of co-operation in the Arctic and Alaska. *Vedomosti*, 22 August 2025; <https://www.vedomosti.ru/politics/news/2025/08/22/1133654-rossiya-i-ssha-obsuzhdayut> (In Russian. Accessed 23 September 2025).

transforms the Arctic into its zone of strategic control. NATO fears new risks of military confrontation with Russia, believing that if Russia has constructed new military bases and upgraded existing ones in Franz Josef Land and Novaya Zemlya, two remote archipelagos in the Arctic Ocean, and deployed advanced nuclear-powered submarines of the Borei and Yasen classes in its Northern Fleet, then NATO's northern flank will become vulnerable. *“The High North has always been important to the security of the entire [Nato] alliance. This is one of the regions where Russia can move out and towards the West”*.<sup>17</sup>

### ***The future of the United States depends on an alliance with Russia***

The head of the White House seeks to reach a political, trade and economic agreement with Russia in order to prevent its rapprochement with China. This, most likely, is the real reason for President Donald Trump's desire to negotiate with Moscow and make it his partner. If President Donald Trump fails to take control of Russia as his ‘junior ally’, he will have no chance of making America great again and achieving the U.S. leadership that Trump hopes he will have.

Until recently, the United States was the core of the global capitalist system, and now it is losing its influence in the world. The United States had great power, thanks to which there was a dollar system that controlled the world. Thanks to this system, the United States pumped out the raw materials of other countries and prospered. Now this system is losing its force.<sup>18</sup>

President Trump can only maintain the leading role of the United States in the world and dollar supremacy in the global financial system in an alliance with Russia, since today China, a uncompromising competitor of the United States, also claims global leadership. If this alliance with Russia does not happen, the United States will gradually slide into economic chaos. The question arises, will Russia agree to such an alliance and if so, how can it be expressed?

The rhetoric of the USA President Donald Trump, who makes diametrically opposed statements, is constantly changing, apparently due to the desire to sit on several chairs at once in order to maintain the balance of power in the US government. Namely: to please opponents-democrats, supporters of a tough policy towards Russia; to find a compromise in their Republican Party, which is ununited and heterogeneous, because it has a strong ‘war party’; insisting on supporting the conflict in Ukraine, as well as pleasing its main opponents, the ‘globalists’ - planetary communities, large multinational corporations and financial donors to the American economy, which have a significant influence on US domestic and foreign policy.<sup>19</sup>

### ***What should Russian be wary of?***

In restoring its economic partnership with the United States, Russia should in no way give its partners in the SCO and the BRICS associations a reason to doubt that Russia has cooled off on their joint political, trade and other co-operation. Otherwise, it will be perceived by Russia's allies, and especially China, India and North Korea, that Russia is not a sovereign country and that for the sake of short-term economic benefits with the United States, it is ready to sacrifice friends who

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<sup>17</sup> Sam Kiley. How Russia is preparing for conflict in Nato’s new Arctic battleground. *The Independent*, 15 August 2025.

<sup>18</sup> The US national debt is \$37 trillion, and every day it increases by \$4 billion.

<sup>19</sup> More details about a holistic system ‘globalism’ and ‘globalists’ are given in my article: Alexander Kouzminov. The Decline of the Western World and the Construction of a Pan-American World. *Globalbridge*, 14 February 2025; <https://globalbridge.ch/der-niedergang-des-westens-und-die-konstruktion-einer-panamerikanischen-welt/>

were with Russia in a difficult time for it. Russia's loss of status as a reliable ally would have serious political and reputational consequences.

### ***Is it possible to restore economic co-operation between Russia and Europe?***

For years, the European Union believed that economic development, with its 450 million consumers, carried geopolitical weight. This illusion was shattered with the rise of Donald Trump. Former Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi called on EU members to come to their senses and remove the blinders: “*The EU has shamefully accepted tariffs imposed on Europeans by its 'long-time ally' Washington... and the increase in military spending by EU countries does not reflect Europe's interests*”.<sup>20</sup>

Cynically hiding behind political preferences and other benefits (e.g., support for the conflict in Ukraine, rejection of cheap Russian energy resources, a ban on working with the Russian banking system, anti-Russian sanctions, etc.), the European Union is clearing its market for American products, while losing energy security and destroying existing trade ties with Russia. This is done so that the United States does not impose high import duties on European goods.

For its part, the United States is putting pressure on Europe, forcing it to buy American hydrocarbons and abandon all Russian energy carriers - any supplies of gas, oil and nuclear fuel. In fact, the political elite of Europe, under pressure from the United States, removes an unnecessary competitor so that the United States can sell more of its hydrocarbons on the European market. The European Union naively believes that by doing so it will harm the Russian economy. It is mistaken! The loss of the European energy market does not threaten the Russian economy - Russia will redirect its export flow to Asian markets, India, China and other SCO countries, providing them with privileged duties and market prices.

Until very recently, the West feared a rapprochement between Germany and Russia. By blowing up Nord Stream, the West avoided this, depriving Germany of the right to become an energy hub. Now, the West's main threat is the Russia-China political and economic axis.

Every joint success of the SCO and the BRICS associations causes hysteria and panic in the collective West. The West is especially frightened by the active union between Russia and China. This union was not least caused by the economic war unleashed by Trump against China, and this war is double-edged. If the commodity and financial flows of China and America are now broken, then the United States will find itself without consumer goods, which are mainly exported from China. In turn, China will face a colossal crisis of overproduction – China will have nowhere to supply the goods it produces.

The current European political elites are aiming for conflict with Russia - not on the battlefield, but in the economic sphere, hoping to strangle Moscow with sanctions and completely isolate it from the global economy. It's possible that such actions could lead from confrontation to uncontrolled military escalation.

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<sup>20</sup> Vernon Silver. Former ECB Chief Says ‘Illusion’ of EU as a Global Power Dashed. *Bloomberg*, 23 August 2025.

Russia does not seek to create dividing lines that have historically been erected by the West. On the contrary, Russia is interested in an honest and equal dialogue with all participants in international relations, based on mutual respect.

Since the end of the era of bitter confrontation that ended in the 1990s, Russia has repeatedly made efforts to build a 'common home' with its former geopolitical opponents. As an example, Russia proposed the creation of a single economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok, formulated by President Vladimir Putin in 2010.<sup>21</sup> However, instead, the West began to erect institutional, sanctions, and visa barriers, and continued to move NATO eastward to Russia's borders, in violation of the agreements reached. It is the Western countries that are responsible for creating new dividing lines in international relations.

Europe, as part of the collective West, in an attempt to isolate Russia, has actually isolated itself. The key countries of the Global South - Russia, China, India and Brazil - have excellent relations with one another. More and more countries want to join the BRICS and the SCO. These are precisely the reasons for the West's resentment.

Without resuming mutually beneficial co-operation with Russia, Europe's economic recovery is impossible.

### **3. The concept of building a new European security architecture**

*"The [SCO] initiative is clearly aimed at developing confidence-building measures in the area of stability and security, primarily in our common Eurasian region – measures that would guarantee conditions for sustainable growth for everyone equally, regardless of political and economic system, affiliation with a particular religion or confession, or cultural background", - Vladimir Putin.*<sup>22</sup>

Europe was deprived of the opportunity to continue to rule the world, as it had done for the previous five centuries. This is one of the reasons why Europeans are so exasperated and deeply aware that they can no longer live at the expense of the rest of the world. After the end of World War II, Europe became accustomed to the peace that the United States provided for it, paying for the security of the European continent. Europe paid almost nothing for its defense, which the United States provided. It was convenient for Europe to live under the military protectorate of the United States, on which Europe consciously became dependent. European military budgets were minimal to fund social and other civilian services. Now Europe is paying the price for this 'defensive comfort' and the price will be long and unpleasant.

Europe understands that for the next decade at least, it will not be able to ensure its own security and economic well-being without the help and support of the United States. Now in Europe, many of its political leaders are diligently destroying political, economic and cultural ties with Russia. The entire collective West believes that Russia can be defeated through military assistance to

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<sup>21</sup> Vladimir Putin: Plädoyer für Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft - Von Lissabon bis Wladiwostok. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 25 November 2010.

<sup>22</sup> Statement by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin at the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO Member States, Astana, Kazakhstan, 4 July 2024; <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/74464> (In Russian. Accessed 18 September 2025).

Ukraine and sanctions, the opening of new military fronts in the Baltic States, Moldova, the Caucasus and Central Asia, so the dominant political elite of Europe does not see the point in restoring economic and political relations with Russia at the moment. But they underestimated the capabilities of the Russian economy and Russian diplomacy in working with the countries of the Global South, the Global East, Latin America and other regions.

By strengthening their relationship, Russia and the United States, weaken unity in the Western camp and force the European political elite to come to their senses so that they, having forgotten about the causes of the two world wars and their results, do not lead the world into another war.

At the same time, the United States cannot afford to leave Europe and completely turn away from continental European politics. The United States needs Europe to promote its geopolitical interests on the Eurasian continent – the historical region of influence of the main European states. Therefore, the United States will continue to exert influence on Europe (American tariffs, energy, other trade and economic measures), but only up to a certain limit. For their part, European politicians, knowing the geopolitical appetite of the United States in Eurasia, will strongly resist the economic and political pressure of the United States.

Possible ways to implement the concept of building a new security architecture for the European continent may be as follows.

*The first option* is that political elites in European countries will change, and new national leaders will emerge who will be ready to engage in dialogue with Russia.

*The second option* is the slow restoration of ties with Russia through economic co-operation, since trade and economic co-operation restores interstate relations and enables a mutual understanding.

*The third option.* If the Kremlin can reach an agreement with President Trump, then European leaders will have to do what Trump says, because the security system in Europe depends more on the will of the United States than on the Europeans themselves.

Possible risks:

1. Trump's vulnerability lies in his purely economic approach to resolving geopolitical issues. For example, Trump would like Europe to obtain energy resources (gas, oil) exclusively from the United States, while Russian energy resources would not flow to Europe. With this measure, he is attempting to achieve his desired goal of weakening the influence of globalists and strengthening the tech-industrial sector in the US economy, ensuring American gas and oil producers a guaranteed market in the European Union.
2. Building a new security system in Europe may depend on the success of the conservatives in the midterm elections to the US Congress in 2026. The negative consequences of Trump's economic pressure on the EU countries and on world markets will hit the interests of the United States itself, which will reduce the Republicans' chances in the midterm elections. In Europe, they are counting on the success of the Democrats to revise economic and military agreements with the United States from 2028 (tariffs, military budgets, NATO commitments, etc.) so that the Americans do not leave Europe and stay here longer.

3. The Western political elite, which is subordinate to neo-liberal globalist communities and trans-national financial and economic institutions, will continue to torpedo Trump's attempts to end the war in Ukraine, and achieve his stated strategic goal of “making America great again”.

Can Russia become a bridge between the collective West and the countries of the Global South and the Global East in order to ensure a stable position for itself, both within the country and globally?

Nowadays, it is becoming more obvious that the future world will consist of *equal centers* of power with the center-forming states - Russia, China, India and Brazil, which will provide a guarantee of protection to other countries with all their military, economic and political power. This fact is the most terrible for the collective West - to be one of the equal centers of power, and not dominant, as it was in the previous five centuries, when the West controlled the entire world, with the exception of the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and modern Russia. Having lost their former status, all the economic and social problems of the West are steadily being exposed.

#### Conclusions:

- The Global South and the Global East are changing the rules of world trade, which leads to the active formation of new trade flows that bypass the collective West.
- The European continent is becoming a subordinate economic resource for America.
- Without the resumption of mutually beneficial co-operation with Russia, Europe's economic growth is impossible.
- It is impossible to build a new European order and security architecture without the leading role of Russia and the United States.

#### **4. Transcaucasia – a new geopolitical balance of power or a conflict of interests?**

##### ***The Zangezur corridor – a corridor of peace or a region of yet another conflict?***

In August 2025, the United States took control of the Zangezur corridor<sup>23</sup> after Armenia transferred it to the United States administration for 99 years. It was dubbed the ‘Trump Peace and Prosperity Route’ or ‘Trump Bridge’. This occurred after Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed in Washington to create a major transit corridor connecting Azerbaijan with Nakhichevan via Armenia's Syunik Province.

*“This is a special transit zone that will allow Azerbaijan full access to its territory in the Nakhichevan region while fully respecting Armenia's sovereignty. Armenia is also establishing an exclusive partnership with the United States to develop this corridor”, - Donald Trump said at the signing of the agreement.*<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> The Zangezur corridor is a transport corridor project promoted by Azerbaijan with a length of about 40 km through the territory of the Syunik region of Armenia, considered as a possible means to ensure transport links between the western regions of Azerbaijan and its exclave of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

<sup>24</sup> LIVE: Trump hosts Armenia and Azerbaijan for a peace summit. *Associated Press*, 08 August 2025; <https://www.youtube.com/live/pMCAbKrrardk>

Simultaneously with the signing of the agreement in Washington, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a document on the dissolution of the Minsk Group of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), created in 1992 to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

It was assumed that the Zangezur corridor would be of greater economic importance for the Turkic-speaking countries and the states associated with the corridor:

- create conditions for increasing the importance of the East-West and North-South transport corridors;
- will lead to the launch of new transport routes;
- strengthen regional co-operation and strengthen a region with great economic potential and natural resources;
- will open up new opportunities for investing in large-scale regional projects.

Various observers commented on the Zangezur corridor, analysing the economic and political consequences of its implementation (construction of railways and roads), characterising this concept as a pan-Turkic agenda.<sup>25</sup>

Despite the seemingly mutually beneficial effect of unblocking all transport and economic links in the South Caucasus, this project has a number of serious geopolitical pitfalls.

*Firstly*, the signing of the peace treaty and agreement in Washington, in Russia's absence, symbolized the redistribution of power in the South Caucasus. For Baku, it consolidates the military and political successes of recent years. For Yerevan, it relies on the United States external guarantees, which, given regional risks, may nonetheless prove short-lived. For Moscow, it signals that Armenia and Azerbaijan are shifting their foreign policy interests to the West. For Istanbul and London, it means blocking their interests (along the Ankara-Yerevan-Baku route) in Central Asia. The construction of the Zangezur corridor is also not in Iran's interests, as Azerbaijan is connected to Nakhichevan through Iranian territory, and Tehran does not want to lose its transit status.

*Secondly*, if the Zangezur corridor is created, it will have profound geopolitical implications, as an unimpeded land passage from Nakhichevan to Azerbaijan will open the gates to the Caspian Sea and Central Asia for Turkey. This, in turn, will open up new economic opportunities for Ankara in the South Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as the opportunity to strengthen ties with the Turkic peoples inhabiting these regions. Turkey is trying to take them under its control, creating a project of its Turkic world - the empire of 'Great Turan' - following the example of the European Union.<sup>26</sup> The realisation of Turkey's age-old dream of recreating the Ottoman Empire and returning Britain to Central Asia and further to the East was hindered by small scale Armenia. Namely, a tiny 42-kilometer-long isthmus of mountain road through the Syunik region of Armenia, which will connect Azerbaijan with its Nakhichevan, and which is to open according to the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace agreement signed on March 13, 2025.

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<sup>25</sup> Pan-Turkism, a national-chauvinistic bourgeois ideology according to which all peoples speaking Turkic languages, and primarily Muslim Turks, are supposedly one nation and should unite under the leadership of Turkey into a single state.

<sup>26</sup> Turkic empire of the 'Great Turan' includes Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Turkmenistan, northern Iran, the Xinjiang Uighur region of China, Mongolia, the entire Northern Caucasus, and a large part of Siberia.

Washington's seizure of the Zangezur corridor for 99 years destroyed these ambitious plans. The White House is beginning to adjust its policy towards the South Caucasus, and in particular the post-Soviet countries in Central Asia. Most likely, this policy will depend, first, on how Russian-American relations develop, which, in turn, will be determined by the conditions under which the crisis in Ukraine can be resolved and whether Russia will be ready to accept them. Second, Washington's readiness to recognize the post-Soviet space as Moscow's sphere of special interests is no less important for the development of future Russian-American relations. Such an approach will correlate with another question - whether the countries of the post-Soviet space themselves are ready to accept this fact as a given.

The 'Trump Bridge' is not only NATO's control over the nerve point and an instrument of domination in the vast region, but also the first step towards the dismantling of the Armenian state, the beginning of Iran's isolation from Russia and Europe through the only friendly Armenian border, as well as the squeezing of Russia out of Transcaucasia and the post-Soviet Turkic republics.

Serious events are now unfolding in this direction. We are talking about the energy factor, transport corridors, taking into account the interests of the West, especially in the context of the Chinese initiative 'One Belt, One Road', which is considered by Washington as a competitive project in Eurasia.

Experts predict a battle for the Zangezur corridor between the two alliances.<sup>27,28</sup> The so-called 'Little Entente', which France and Greece may join together with India and Armenia, will block this corridor in order to deprive Turkey of direct access to the Turkic world - from the Caucasus to Central Asia, and in the long term - to South Asia. On a global scale, there is the emergence of historically new players in the Transcaucasia - India and Pakistan.

Such a development could radically alter the balance of power in Eurasia, undermining the interests of India, Iran, Armenia, Russia, and, to some extent, China. Therefore, the standoff over the Zangezur corridor will take on the characteristics of a serious geopolitical rivalry. And not only that. India is actively lobbying for a global transport and communications corridor along the 'India-Iran-Armenia-Georgia-Black Sea' route, as opposed to Beijing's similar 'China-Pakistan-Iran-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Black Sea' project. Specifically with the aim of reducing the profitability of the Chinese logistics route with its hub in Gwadar, Pakistan, New Delhi has already purchased the Chabahar seaport from Iran and is building a global logistics hub around it with an investment programme worth tens of billions of dollars.

Washington's seizure of control of the Zangezur corridor is motivated and understandable: new political, diplomatic, and military alliances are being formed in Transcaucasia, and the region itself is being drawn into the 'big game'.

### Conclusions:

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<sup>27</sup> Stanislav Tarasov. The conflict between India and Pakistan moves to the Zangezur corridor. The interests of the United States and China will clash in the post-Soviet Transcaucasia. *Svobodnaya Pressa*, 01 June 2025; <https://svpressa.ru/politic/article/466745/> (In Russian. Accessed 27 September 2025).

<sup>28</sup> Green, Anna. How the War in Ukraine Intersects with the South Caucasus, Part II. *EVN Report*, 09 January 2023.

- A new NATO alliance is being formed in Transcaucasia, setting specific goals:
- forced creation of a corridor from Europe to China, which is not controlled by Russia, Iran and China;
- the creation of a new geopolitical noose that squeezes Russia on the southeastern flank.

### **General conclusions:**

1. The BRICS and SCO associations are changing the previous rules of international relations and creating the basis for a multicentric world.
2. The consumer markets of the Global South and Global East are gaining critical mass and strength, shaping a new architecture of global trade and financial ties.
3. The collective West does not tolerate any political and economic unions that are not in the zone of its direct influence, and completely denies the right of the rest of the world to build on the principle of a multipolar and multicentric system.
4. The formation of the Eurasian security architecture should be based on preventing the fragmentation of Eurasia into opposing blocs and preventing the unleashing of a large-scale armed conflict with the participation of Eurasian and extra-regional powers.
5. The formation of a more just and democratic world order and the achievement of stable peace is possible only through a global strategic balance.