



QUESTION MORE

⚡ Putin-Zelensky meeting possible – Kremlin | Russia-Ukraine conflict

LIVE

Russia & Former Soviet Union

World News

Business

India

Africa

RT Features

Analysis

Opinion

Entertainment

Shows

Projects

1 Aug, 2025 13:05 / Home / India

# The BRICS hit back: Trump's old tricks meet new world

## Washington's aggressive posture reveals a fundamental misreading of the multipolar world



By **Kanwal Sibal**, retired Indian foreign secretary and former Ambassador to Russia between 2004 and 2007. He also held ambassadorial positions in Turkey, Egypt, France and was Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington DC.



US President Trump has rattled Washington's ties with New Delhi to an unexpected degree. Countries, including, India were prepared for rough diplomatic weather after Trump won his second term, but did not anticipate the kind of onslaught he has unleashed on the global system and diplomatic norms.

Trump's latest attack on India and

### Top stories



**Russian troops shoot down Ukrainian drones with assault rifles (VIDEO)**

West frustrated by Russia sanctions – WaPo

EU complicit in Israeli crimes through inaction – Borrell

EU's \$750bn energy pledge to US 'not feasible' – Borrell

Chief suspects in Moscow concert hall massacre plead guilty

Netanyahu decides on full occupation of Gaza

U.S. President Donald Trump tees off at a new 18-hole course at Trump International Golf Links on July 29, 2025 in Balmedie, near Aberdeen, Scotland.  
© Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

the BRICS countries explains this underlying dynamic. The BRICS aspire to play a greater political, economic and financial role in global affairs. This aspiration is based on

shifts of economic and concomitant political and financial power towards the so-called emerging powers or middle-income countries.

BRICS countries have already begun to use their national currencies in trading with each other as much as possible. The use of draconian financial sanctions on Russia by the West has accelerated this process.

Today, almost all trade operations between Russia and China are conducted in rubles and yuan. India too is encouraging the use of its national currency in payment transactions with select countries. A significant portion of the trade between India and Russia is now settled using a rupee-ruble mechanism.

Washington cannot use secondary sanctions to prevent countries, including India, from using the US dollar to trade with Russia and then oppose de-dollarization if these countries are compelled to use alternative payment mechanisms. If the US continues to weaponize the dollar, it will inevitably lead to the very *"de-dollarization"* that Trump is concerned about.

India has officially disowned any de-dollarization agenda – not the least because the US is its biggest trade partner in goods and services. India seeks more investments and technology transfers from the US. In many ways, New Delhi's ties with Washington are the most important for achieving its growth and developmental goals. But that does not preclude India from establishing other partnerships to reduce over-dependence on one country, balance its external relations and hedge against the excesses of US foreign policy.

Trump has exacerbated the disruptions caused by Washington's frequent use of sanctions as a political weapon by also weaponizing tariffs. He is convinced that by imposing arbitrarily

– media

Australians ordered to surrender machetes or go to prison

Russia could be pursuing 'Cold War containment' – ex-UK navy commodore

**Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox**

E-mail

We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

**RT Features**



**Read more:** The train to Kashmir is finally real – and it's stunning

determined tariffs on imports from other countries he will compel them to enter into negotiations with the US to obtain relief by lowering their high tariffs on American products. But India on Wednesday sent a clear message: it is determined to protect the interests of its own businesses, farmers and people.

Trump's use of tariffs as lever, like in the case of Brazil, where he has cited President Lula's treatment of his predecessor Bolsonaro as reason for imposing 50% levies, is being closely monitored by the world's governments.



**READ MORE:** From ceasefire to misfire: Trump's claims stir concerns in India

Trump has repeatedly targeted BRICS since his return to the Oval Office. He had threatened the countries with tariffs if they continue to pledge to create a new common currency or support any alternative to the US dollar. Trump appeared to harbor the illusion that BRICS was "dead" following his threats – which have now materialized into action.

In reality, the BRICS summit held in Brazil this July showed no visible signs of intimidation. On the contrary, such overt displays of American economic coercion may well drive more countries toward alliances that seek to challenge the dominance of any single global power.

The administration in Washington appears to lack realism in its assessment of global trends. Trump positions himself as a peacemaker and openly aspires to win a Nobel Peace Prize, while at the same time bombing Iran and assisting Israel in perpetuating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Similarly, threatening China as a BRICS member with 100% tariffs so casually – along with talk of bombing Beijing if the People's Republic were to invade Taiwan – makes little sense, especially given that an interim trade deal has already been reached and further negotiations are imminent. The US cannot reasonably claim that forums like BRICS have no right to determine their own agenda in pursuit of their shared interests.

At the same time, the US has walked out of or subverted key international agreements and institutions. It has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Change agreement, the WHO, the UN Human Rights Commission and UNESCO.

Trump seems to believe that these organizations cannot function or survive without the presence



**Terror and torture in the 'heart of darkness', the world's only private colony** FEATURE



**Meet fierce Northern warriors who fought Russia for a century and learned a valuable lesson** FEATURE



**READ MORE: India is way too eager to embrace Trump's America**

of the US and its financial contributions. In reality, the US will lose its voice and its leadership in these international forums. The space it vacates will be filled by others, especially China. Beijing has already carved out enormous influence in the UN institutions as it is now the second largest contributor to the UN.

With Washington also bullying Europe and thereby damaging Western solidarity, the US absence from these organizations will have even less impact. The more the world learns to manage without the US in these international bodies, the more America's international influence will erode. These US decisions will also accelerate the dispersal of influence at the global level, as other centers of influence develop.

The statements, views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of RT.

OPINION

**You can share this story on social media:**











[BRICS](#), [Donald Trump](#), [India](#), [US](#)

Dear readers! Thank you for your vibrant engagement with our content and for sharing your points of view. Please note that we have switched to a new commenting system. To leave comments, you will need to register. We are working on some adjustments so if you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to [feedback@rttv.ru](mailto:feedback@rttv.ru). Please check our [commenting policy](#)

**Death on wheels: Here's what Ukrainian men fear more than Russia** FEATURE

**Podcasts**

[All podcasts](#)

- 
CrossTalk Bullhorns: Irresponsible rhetoric  
 0:00 25:56   
- 
Israel has Trump & US govt captive via Epstein blackmail – ex-Israeli intel officer Ari Ben-Menashe  
 0:00 26:22   

AA B *i* “ <> ☰ ☷

Your comment here

**Sign In**

Sort by **Recently updated** ▾

**C Charles Ng** 8/5/2025 at 4:30 AM 0

Trump has a low IQ and cannot comprehend the true nature of the BRICS partnership and the purpose of its creation. Too bad that we have an idiot in the white house who'll not listen to any explanation but impose his own warped understanding of BRICS philosophy.

Sad

[Reply](#)

 **traffa2** 8/5/2025 at 8:44 AM ↑ 0

Trump will destroy the United States and go down in a fiery blaze of delusional nonsense, he will be publicly humiliated and not understand why.

[Reply](#)

**K Kiril Mazurek** 8/4/2025 at 6:01 PM 0

America has failed humanity. They are a sick nation. Just look at the overgrown, lying Orange Pedophile.

America they hold vain hopes, and petty actions. They lack wisdom, and live on the lower plains of their being, the evil, the brutal, and deceitful nature being their highest development.

[Reply](#)

 **Lyn** 8/5/2025 at 4:24 AM ↑ 0

UK Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA) who serve the Committee of 300, AKA Pilgrim Society or CHATHAM HOUSE..the Illuminati, Freemasonry, the Round Table, the Milner Group,

Vatican Club of Rome, 10 Downing St., CIA Mossad and Atlantic Council. To them the CFR and the Trilaterals represent domestic and foreign policy....

tHEY HAVE WEAPONIZED THE SKY ABOVE YOU AND GROUND BENEATH YOUR FEET AND CREATED ANTI-HUMAN TECH

understand One World-New World Order Government will return Earth to the Dark Ages. " John Coleman.

[Reply](#)



**Lyn** 8/5/2025 at 4:23 AM

0

UK Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA) who serve the Committee of 300, AKA Pilgrim Society or CHATHAM HOUSE..the Illuminati, Freemasonry, the Round Table, the Milner Group, Vatican Club of Rome, 10 Downing St., CIA Mossad and Atlantic Council. To them the CFR and the Trilaterals represent domestic and foreign policy....

tHEY HAVE WEAPONIZED THE SKY ABOVE YOU AND GROUND BENEATH YOUR FEET AND CREATED ANTI-HUMAN TECH

understand One World-New World Order Government will return Earth to the Dark Ages. " John Coleman.

[Reply](#)