

“BRICs”: cooperation perspectives in the international security sphere.

The imperatives of cooperation between the BRIC countries in the security sphere, which are revealed on the inter-state, regional and global level, suggest possibilities in all the range of the modern notions about security and have their own specific features. These are a *special, respectful attitude towards the international law and a special, “civilizational” perception by the BRICs of many of the current international problems*. It seems to be clear today, that the successful resolution of those problems based on the methods, which came to us from the époque of the “balances of forces” is no longer possible. The modern world is short of innovations, which can come only from those countries-civilizations, which earlier stood apart from the “big” policy, which completely discredited itself in the XXth century.

But even before the moment, when the new world actors could positively influence the tissue of the world order, their own security may be jeopardized, which would put in doubt the perspectives of their ascension. The possible threats to their security could be internal, connected with the natural problems of rapid growth, as well as external, conditioned by the ill will of others. So, the reiteration by the BRICs of their basic security rights in the economic, political, cultural, environmental and informational affairs seems to us completely natural in the present stage of their development.

By all means, the security threats for different BRICs are not equal. The security of Russia and China - nuclear powers and permanent members of the Security Council, and also of nuclear India, seem to be “guaranteed” by their very status. But this is not completely so. Today, security threats have mostly non-military character and concentrate mainly *within* the state borders. The fall of the Soviet Union - the nuclear super-power, is evidence to this.

Russia and other multi-national BRICs - China and India have similar security problems: aggressive nationalism, xenophobia, separatism and political extremism, terrorism, corruption and narcotraffic. To deal with those problems Russia and China created in 2001, together with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kirgizstan, the “Shanghai organization for cooperation” (ShOS). India also showed its interest towards ShOS, and became its observant member. In the same year of 2001 the ShOS members signed a special Anti-terrorist and anti-separatist convention. Later, they created a special Anti- terrorist committee, whose task is to supervise collective measures, such as interchange of information and experience, collective maneuvers, measures of financial control, etc.

Notwithstanding the mentioned, one often hears the opinion, that, from the point of view of the security, Brazil, a far-off country, is not of such importance for Russia as near-off China and India within the same BRICs paradigm. On our point of view this is a short-sighted position, which contradicts some important modern tendencies. First, we can't omit the existence of problems, though nowadays not very pronounced, but which can be quickly aggravated already by the 20-th of the present century. Second, we mustn't ignore the process of globalization, which not only accelerates the flows of peoples, goods and information, but also makes common the problems of seemingly distant nations. And, at last, the third. It's evident enough, that any treaties and conventions, concluded in the security sphere will never be binding in the situation, when the international law is an outcast and the international order is a fiction. From that pointy of view, the cooperation between all the BRICs, namely - between Brazil and Russia, seems to us indispensable.

In this table we try to foresee some possible directions of such cooperation.

| Spheres of security | Position of Brazil | Perspectives of cooperation with Russia |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Constitutional | High. Long-term positive tendency. | Strategic partnership |
| 2. Economy | Upper middle. Positive tendency. | Active economic cooperation |
| 3. Energy | Upper middle. Long-term positive tendency. | Joint projects, cooperation in the international markets |
| 4. Science and technology | Middle. Positive tendency | Joint projects and investigations |
| 5. Natural resources | High. | Realization of common policies |
| 6. Ecology | High. | Realization of common policies |
| 7. Agriculture and foodstuffs | High. | Cooperation in the international markets. Realization of common policies |
| 8. Information security | Lower middle. Positive tendencies. | Realization of common policies. |
| 9. Social security | Lower middle. Positive tendencies | Common aims and values. Realization of common policies |

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| 10. Military security | Lower middle. Positive tendencies. | Arms sales. Military and technical cooperation. |
| 11. “Civilizational” and cultural security | Middle. Positive tendencies | Realization of common policies. |
| 12. Humanitarian security | Middle. Positive tendencies | Establishment of common links. |
| 13. Regional and global | Middle. Positive tendencies. | Cooperation in the wide range of the most actual problems. |

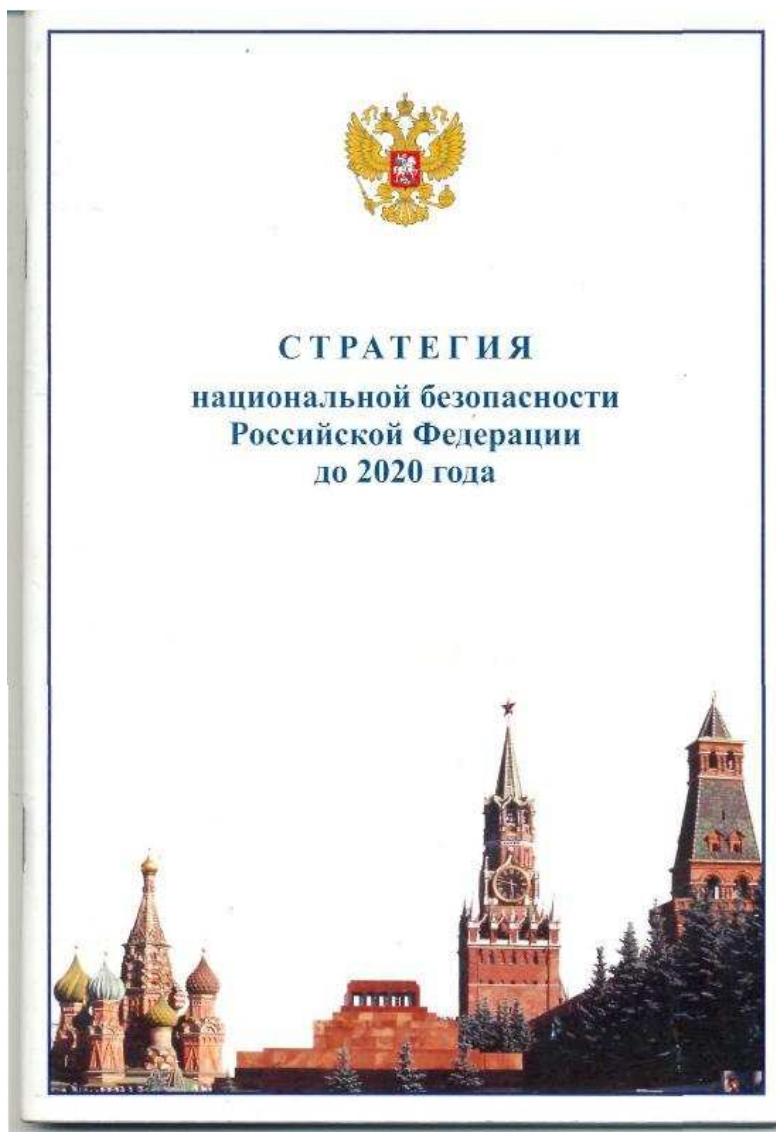
Clearly, this table doesn’t pretend to be any exhaustive, but some things can draw attention. First of all, as we see, many things in the security positioning of Russia and Brazil do coincide, and this opens a wide specter of cooperation between the two countries. Besides, the position of Brazil in 10 points from the main 13, which are usually included in the notion of “wide” or “complex” security, can already be qualified as “high” or “upper middle”. Mindful of the results of the development of this country during the last 10 years and the policies of its leaders, based on the broad national basis, one can expect in the period from 5 to 15 years, the sharp upraise in the significance of the rest of the security points. And in this case the coincidence of its security needs with Russia’s will become even deeper.

The most important, on our point of view, is the use of common approaches to such problems of the global policy as multilateral diplomacy and the role of the international law, restructuring of the international organizations, including the ONU, struggle against terrorism, illegal drugs and piracy, nuclear non-proliferation, human rights, non-discrimination in the international trade and many

other things. On such issues we always mark the “proximity or coincidence” of our positions in all our diplomatic documents.

But, sooner or later, the closest attention, on our point of view, must be paid to the new directions of the security strategy. *We mean the natural resources, ecological and energetic security, which is directly connected with the problem of climatic changes.* And, consequently, soon there`ll appear a new necessity to cooperate in the sphere of the *information security*.

One should pay attention to the passage of the newest Russian document - “The Strategy of the national security of Russian Federation until 2020”.



It says: “The pivotal point of the world policy for the long-term period will be concentrated around the possession of the world sources of energy. The “information wars” will become more current together with the aggravation of the world demographic and ecological situations. In such situations one can’t exclude the use of military force”. This passage is in complete coherence with the “Document on the National Defense policy of Brazil” of 2005, where the risks in the ecological and the environmental security are understood in the terms of “future disputes for the world stocks of fresh water, vast ocean areas, energy sources and the cosmic space”. Among the most vulnerable areas Brazilian Amazonia (almost 52% of the territory) is specially mentioned as a region, possessing the unique bio-diversity, mineral and hydro-energy richness, but, at the same time, having the smallest human density for 1 km². Seven Amazonian states have the density of their population up to 3,35 persons, among them the biggest – Amazonas, only 1,79 persons for a km².

“Brazil will be watchful to the unconditional reaffirmation of its sovereignty upon the Brazilian Amazon region. It will repudiate, by means of actions of development and defense, any attempt of external imposition on its decisions regarding the preservation, development and defense of the Amazon region. It will not allow organizations or individuals to serve as instruments for alien interests political or economic – willing to weaken the Brazilian sovereignty. It is Brazil that takes care of the Brazilian Amazon region, at the service of mankind and at its own service” – such is the position contained in the newest document, dated by December 2008. And later: “This will require – especially from the Ground Force – that the conventional force develop some of the attributes assigned to non-conventional forces. The Armed Forces with such attributes will be the only ones capable of operating in the vast spectrum of circumstances that the future might bring”.



The concretization of the threat, contained in the Brazilian document, helps to understand the significance of the depopulation also for the vast regions of Russia in Siberia, the Polar regions and the Far East. There Russia possesses about 98% of its general known reserves of oil, 68% of coal, 95% of gas and 89% of

fresh water (in the lake Baikal and the Siberian rivers). Here one should mention the fact, that namely Brazil and Russia occupy the 1st and the 2nd places in the world as for the deposits of the fresh water, which, according to some scientists, will soon become even the greater deficit than oil and gas. The population density in those Russian regions of Siberia oscillates from 1 to 10 and in many cases it's not more than 1 person for a km², which approximates them with the most depopulated areas of Brazilian Amazonia.



Siberian River Yenisei going to the Glacial Ocean

To illustrate a possible threat, which soon can await both our countries, we could cite the book by the American authors F. Hill and K. Gaddy (“Siberian Curse” Brookings, 2003), whose advice, given to Russia, “to tighten up”, though not yet geographically, but in the sense of its “economical limits”, is characteristic enough. The authors advocate there for a greater share of economic sovereignty for the transnational corporations, leaving for Russia a vague right of a political “supervision” over those regions. Though it’s quite clear to anybody that no political sovereignty can subsist without an economic one.

On our point of view, *the character of the global positioning of such countries as Russia, Brazil, China, India and some others in the coming century will depend not so much on the level of their democratic development or even their marked success in the process of liquidation of social and economic inequalities, but on their capability or incapability to effectively control its own territory. Much will depend on the elaboration by them of their proper long-term strategies of national development in the energy and the ecological spheres.*

Other area of cooperation between the four countries, already mentioned in their basic national security documents, is the security of the outer space. One shouldn’t forget, that the control over the outer space nowadays *simultaneously means the control over climate, territories, natural resources, energy reserves, oceanic areas and fresh water.* So one could agree with some authors who foresee the possibility of renovation of the inter-state conflicts of the past with a view to enhance or “redistribute” the control over cosmic, oceanic and polar territories in the present times. Same can be said about the enhancement of the future struggles for the control of information.

International practice shows, that any potential threat to the international order acquires its sinister parameters only when ignored for a long time by the international community. This is fully adaptable to the problem of the international terrorism, drastically aggravated nowadays. One of the most principal tasks for the BRIC countries, taking into account their possibility of renovated perception of the international realities, will be, accordingly, to prevent the “maturing” of the new

generation of global threats, which could throw the mankind back to the period of inter-state wars, capable of complete annihilation of it.