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THE SUPERPOWERS' COMPETITION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

The history of superpowers' competition in the Global South is a complex and multifaceted topic involving the economic, political, and military interests of powerful nations in the developing world. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive overview of how superpowers have competed for influence in the Global South from the colonial era to the present day. The paper begins by examining the economic, cultural, and political aspects of different types of colonialism in the example of the US, USSR, and China. This focus shows how their motives have evolved over time. It then looks at the ways in which superpowers have competed for influence through trade, aid, and military interventions in the post-colonial era. This research article also will analyze the impact of these activities on various aspects of the development of the Global South countries during and after the Cold War. The paper concludes by summarizing the overall effects of the superpower activities in the developing world and suggests directions for future research.

Keywords: *Global South, Stability, competition, development, military interventions, economic globalization*

Introduction

The competition between superpowers for influence and power in the Global South has been a persistent and essential aspect of international politics throughout history. The major powers' pursuit of economic, political, and military interests has had far-reaching consequences for countries in the region, influencing the course of their development and stability. The impact

of superpower competition in the Global South has been shaped by a range of factors, including shifting global power dynamics, changing economic conditions, and evolving political circumstances.

From the colonial era, which refers to the period of time when European powers established colonies and empires in much of the world—including Africa, Asia, and the Americas, from the late 15th century to the mid-20th century—the pursuit of economic, political, and strategic interests by these powers had drastic consequences for the countries they colonized, shaping the course of their development and stability. The colonial era ended with the wave of decolonization that took place in the aftermath of World War II, as many colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean sought independence from their European rulers. The Cold War, which lasted from the end of World War II in 1945 to the early 1990s, marked a new era in global politics and shaped the development and stability of many countries in the Global South, such as the United States and the Soviet Union competed for influence and power in the region. From when European powers carved up much of the world into empires, this approach was not deterred during the Cold War. The United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a struggle for global dominance. This power struggle has continued well into the present, even after the USSR's dissolution in 1991. Further, this event gave rise to new powers such as China and India in transforming the international landscape as well as redefining the term - superpower. Therefore, the competition for influence in the Global South has continued to play a central role in shaping the world order.

This study aims to examine the impact of superpower competition in the Global South on the development and stability of countries in the region from the colonial era to the present day. To achieve this goal, a qualitative research design is employed in this study, as it allows for the examination of complex phenomena and provides a nuanced understanding of the experiences of the countries in the Global South.

The study uses a mix of secondary sources, including academic articles and books, to gather data on the economic, political, and military interests of superpowers in the Global South, as well as the development and stability of countries in the region. The data will be collected through a systematic review of the literature using databases such as JSTOR, Google Scholar, and academic libraries. The data will be analyzed using thematic analysis and will be triangulated to ensure accuracy and validity.

The collected data will be analyzed using thematic analysis, which involves identifying and categorizing patterns and themes in the data. This method will allow us to identify the key factors that have influenced the competition between superpowers in the Global South and the consequences of this competition for the development and stability of countries in the region. The analysis will also consider the historical context, including the colonial era, the Cold War, and the post-Cold War period, to understand the evolution of superpower competition in the Global South over time. The findings will be compared to previous studies on the topic to identify any gaps in the literature and to highlight the contribution of this study to the field.

In a comprehensive review of existing academic literature on the topic—drawing on a range of disciplinary perspectives and theoretical frameworks—this paper will shed light on the complexities of superpower competition in the Global South and examine their motivations, strategies, and consequences of their actions for the countries of the region. Our analysis will span several historical periods, including the colonial era, the Cold War, and the post-Cold War era, to provide a rich and nuanced picture of the evolution of superpower competition in the Global South. In doing so, this paper hopes to contribute to our understanding of the dynamics of international politics and to provide insights into the ways in which the pursuit of power and influence by superpowers can shape the course of development and stability in the Global South.

The sources used in this research have been briefly summarized in this section with the goal of a more profound review for the expanded version of this research study in the future. Summarizing the most noteworthy aspects of each book and article, the authors of the sources have studied various aspects of the competition between superpowers in the Global South, its impact on the development and stability of countries in the region, and how it has evolved over time.

The works of Blum (2006) and Engerman (2011) provide a comprehensive overview of the role of the US as a superpower in the Global South and its impact on the region's development. Blum's "Rogue State" sheds light on the US foreign policies in the Global South and its consequences for the countries in the region. Engerman's "The Second World's Third

World" analyzes the political and economic interests of the superpowers in the Global South during the Cold War and its impact on the region's development.

Brazinsky's (2016) work "Showcasing the Chinese Version of Modern-tea in Africa: Tea Plantations and PRC Economic Aid to Guinea and Mali during the 1960s" provides an in-depth examination of the economic aid provided by the People's Republic of China to African countries in the 1960s and its impact on the development of the region.

Chenery (2021) explores the North-South economic relationship in her article "How the Global North is profiting from foreign aid" and argues that the Global North has profited from the foreign aid provided to the Global South. Hickel (2022) takes a similar stance in his article "Imperialist appropriation in the world economy" and argues that the Global South has been drained through an unequal exchange in the world economy.

Katsakioris (2019), in "The Lumumba University in Moscow: higher education for a Soviet–Third World alliance, 1960–91," provides a comprehensive overview of the Lumumba University in Moscow and its role in providing higher education for a Soviet-Third World alliance during the Cold War.

Lorenzini's (2019) work "Global Development: A Cold War History" provides an extensive examination of the impact of the Cold War on the development of the Global South. Trofimenko (1981), in "The Third World and the U.S.-Soviet Competition: A Soviet View,"

provides a Soviet perspective on the competition between the US and the Soviet Union for influence in the Global South.

Despite the extensive research on the impact of superpowers' competition in the Global South, there is still a gap in the literature regarding the long-term consequences of this competition and its effect on the stability of the region. The existing literature provides a fragmented picture of the events and their impact on the region, and there is a need for a more comprehensive study that brings together the various perspectives and provides a more holistic view of the subject. This paper aims to fill this gap by providing a more comprehensive examination of the competition for influence in the Global South from the colonial era to the present day and its consequences for the development and stability of the countries in the region.

In this paper, we set out to examine the history of superpower competition in the Global South to assess its impact on the development and stability of countries in the region. How have superpowers competed for influence in the Global South from the colonial era to the present day, and what have been the consequences of this competition for the development and stability of countries in the region? Superpower competition in the Global South has had a significant impact on the economic, political, and military development of countries in the region, and this impact has evolved over time.

The U.S. vs. the USSR: Shared Policies and Similar Frustrations

After the birth of newly decolonized states in the Global South, two world superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, started to take advantage of the confusion over the integration of these countries into global politics, particularly during the Cold War era. As Lorenzini (2019) highlights, "it was crucial for both superpowers to gain robust control in new societies where they could spread their ideologies of capitalism or communism through the development aid tools" (p. 4). This universal competition led to changes in their attitudes towards Global Southern countries, affecting not just political but also economic, educational, cultural, and various other areas of development.

During this period, multidirectional development aid was seen from the United States, the Soviet Union, and China. The United States has provided aid to countries in the Global South through various programs during and since the Cold War. During the Cold War, the primary goal of US aid was to counter the spread of communism and maintain its global influence (Lorenzini, 2019). One of the most significant aid programs during this period was the Marshall Plan (1948-1952), which provided economic assistance to Western European countries to rebuild after World War II and counter the spread of communism in the region (Blum, 2006). In the post-Cold War era, US aid to the Global South has continued, although the focus has shifted from containing communism to promoting democracy and free-market economics (Chenery, 2021). One of the largest aid programs in the post-Cold War period was the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), established in 2004. It provides large-scale assistance to countries that demonstrate a commitment to good governance, economic freedom, and investments in their

citizens (Katsakioris, 2019). The MCC aims to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, and the strengthening of institutions (Lorenzini, 2019).

These relationships, however, were complicated and strained by various external and domestic factors as each of these countries became more engaged with the developing world. It became evident that leaders of the Global South were dissatisfied with the presence of foreign power representatives in their countries and their unwillingness to adhere to foreign modernization strategies. Despite these frustrations, the Cold War period was a positive one for the United States, the Soviet Union, and China in terms of their relationships with the Global South. As a result, these societies underwent vital reforms such as civil rights, urban development, multicultural engagement movements, and education.

It was evident that neither the USSR nor the U.S. had much impact in their influence areas when it came to education. Indeed, the establishment of the “Lumumba and UDN”¹ was to educate Third World students to serve geopolitical goals. For example, in his study Constantin Katsakioris (2019) highlights how Soviet aid helped to train professionals in areas such as medicine, engineering, and education. This was in the aftermath of controversial race relations existing in the U.S. and USSR during this decade, and reforms were taken to improve cooperation with these countries. This resulted in local political movements aimed at resolving domestic issues involving race relations in the U.S. during the Civil Rights era or the mistreatment of foreign students in the USSR, which was, unfortunately, the norm in Soviet

¹ Translation in English is “Friendship of Nations University” - by author.

Russia during that time period. The crucial one of these goals was using education as a confrontation point for the culture and economics in the Cold War for the battle between two distinct ideological approaches: capitalism and communism (Katsakioris 2019, 299).

Table 1. Enrolment of Third World students in all Soviet institutions of tertiary education and in UDN in selected years.

Regions		1961	1971	1980	1988
Sub-Saharan Africa	USSR	624	738	2,712	4,412
	UDN	161	89	173	216
	UDN as %	25.8%	12.1%	6.4%	4.9%
North Africa and Middle East ^a	USSR	760	1,030	3,500	4,703
	UDN	92	180	139	156
	UDN as %	12.1%	17.5%	4.0%	3.3%
Asia ^b	USSR	372	542	1,820	2,481
	UDN	133	97	98	90
	UDN as %	35.8%	17.9%	5.4%	3.6%
Latin America ^c	USSR	177	332	1,127	1,460
	UDN	161	199	222	157
	UDN as %	91.0%	60.0%	19.7%	10.8%
Total	USSR	1,933	2,642	9,159	13,056
	UDN	547	565	632	619
	UDN as %	28.3%	21.4%	6.9%	4.7%

^aCyprus, Iran, Sudan, and Turkey are included, Israel and Mauritania are not.

^bJapan is not included; South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are included only in 1961 and 1971, Afghanistan until 1988.

^cWithout Cuba.

Source: extracted from Constantin Katsakioris (2019, p.298)

As could be seen from Table 1 - which illustrates the enrollment dynamics of the Third World students to UDN from 1961-1988 - the ratio of students choosing to study at UDN was decreasing in comparison to those choosing to study in other USSR higher educational Universities such as Moscow State University, Kyiv State University and others (Katsakioris, 2019, 296). According to Katsakioris, it was due to the 1973 economic crisis, which resulted in increasing tuition fees for international students in the US and the UK. As a particular case,

Nigeria can be shown since it canceled the scholarships paid to Nigerian students abroad, especially in the US after the late-1970s oil price plummeted. This provided a ground for the USSR to attract more international students from the Global South during that period. In fact, the “USSR doubled the number of scholarships for students coming from African and Arab countries, from 1979 to 1989, becoming a top donor of educational aid.” (Katsakioris, 2019, 297).

Nevertheless, these developments were late and did not serve the premier purpose of the USSR, which was attracting students to UDN. In the 1980s, UDN was no longer the primary destination for Third World students as recruitment of students throughout the USSR gained momentum. There were many regular schools throughout the 1980s where the majority of students studied, such as Kharkiv and Kyiv state universities and medical and technical institutes, which emerged as essential training centers for third-world students (Katsakioris, 2019, 297).

Besides education, cultural integration, and civil rights activism, hegemonic powers began developing their other policy focuses toward Global South countries. Despite having different ideologies and political views, they shared much in common compared to the Global South until the 1970s. Neither East nor West was eager to work with the other for the Global South, as Lorenzini (2019) notes (p. 143). They both formulated distinct approaches to dealing with the "Third World."

The U.S. mainly focused on the mutually beneficial approach toward the Global South. However, it also saw Third World countries as a competitive field where U.S. military-political superiority was able to annex Global South societies into its sphere of influence ideologically. As Tromfimenko (1981) describes, the US policy shifted to neocolonialism, where military-political activities - which could easily be classified as aggressive - were replaced by the ideological takeover of the developing countries (p.1027-1028). Thus, in a way, the Global South was reconquered even though the colonial era ended. Briefly revising the history of American aid to Third World countries, the following points could be worth mentioning in a generalized way: Peace Corps, special credits, around 30 million U.S. Dollars increase in private and totaled up to 200 U.S. Dollars financial and military investments to mentioned countries since the end of the WWII until the 1980s (Trofimenko 1981, 1023). By doing so, the U.S. aimed to replace the European colonialists' hegemony in the Global South with its own so-called "neocolonialism" since its presence involved military interventions in some countries.

America was focusing its military involvement in the Global South on security and defense to deal with possible uprisings, which in turn could lead to the destabilization in the newly established states, and concomitantly helping the U.S. protect itself from other superpowers like China and the USSR. Several examples are illustrative of this, such as the U.S. support of non-communist dictatorships in South Vietnam (Dien), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Mobutu), and Paraguay (Stroessner). This same principle also applies to the Soviet Union, as a hegemon, and its support of Arab dictatorships that chose to cultivate their own

regimes and governments to be more in line with Stalinism than Khrushchev's de-Stalinization principles (totalitarian regimes such as the Baath Party in Iraq). However, in the context of the military presence, the U.S. failed.

It would appear that the same scenario did not work very well for the USSR, as former satellites such as China, Argentina, Chile, Cuba, and East Germany rejected the Soviet directive to spread their own delegative policies throughout the South. Although the USSR had a sizeable military presence, it was unable to maintain its rule. In dealing with the developing world and its societies, even fellow Communist countries ignored the Soviet dictatorship. A particularly interesting example is Engerman's discussion of the Fidel Castro regime and its satellites disregarding the role the Soviet Union was to assume in socialist world relations with newly independent developing countries (Engerman, 2011, 193). He also provides historical evidence to support the abovementioned argument, such as Angola's bid for independence in 1975. In the case of revolutionary leftist movements, Cuba acted as a direct supporter despite the USSR's interference and insistence that satellite states must emulate their socialist system. Unlike unsuccessful revolutions in establishing long-lasting socialist models, such as Grenada, South Africa, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, directly supported by the Cuban regime, could be shown as a successful case. Because after the revolution, they succeeded in forming a socialist government (Engerman, 2011, 193). This also could serve as an example of the USSR's decreasing reputation as a superpower over the support of its allies when a small

country like Cuba took charge of advancing socialist revolutions. Cuba did it in a way that made the USSR take a backseat role and support it with logistical and technical assistance.

In another example, Engerman (2011) highlights the complicated relationship between the USSR and North Vietnam by stating Vietnamese war cooperation between the two communist states as an exchange agreement “for 4-5% of the influence given by North Vietnam, Vietnamese journalist states that Soviets promised the 75-80% of the total assistance to North Vietnam” in 1968 (p. 194). As can be seen from this example, the USSR was not being genuine in its aid for the development of Global South countries since the proportion of this agreement was highly unequal. The Vietnamese regime was so dissatisfied with Soviet aid that it would instead work with East Germany or China to obtain military supplies. Vietnam knew that East Germany would do this with more fairgrounds. Because, just like North Vietnam, they needed international recognition to legitimize their government.

On the other hand, it also could understand that China would be a better politico-strategic partner due to their different patterns in offering development assistance. In the case of Indonesia, the USSR's reputation as a bad partner is evident. Because the USSR was not respectful of the territorial integrity principle, USSR's help to Indonesia led to harmful consequences relating to Malaysia's sovereign borders (Engerman, 2011, 195).

In the past, former colonial powers, such as France under de Gaulle, imposed severe measures on President Sékou Touré's government to punish former colonies. This resulted in

Guinea having to sustain severe economic hardships in the first years of its sovereignty (Brazinsky, 2016, 4). Many U.S. policymakers indeed expressed outrage towards their French allies. Still, they maintained a united front by not condemning France internationally while simultaneously trying to establish diplomatic relations with a left-leaning Guinean government in an effort to resolve the crisis to attract a liberal model. Due to this, anti-American and Soviet sentiments became part of Guinean democratization. While trying to dictate in the Global South, the USSR and the U.S. faced almost similar trends. In contrast to U.S. and USSR development, Chinese foreign aid policy was not characterized by similar conditions.

Destined to the same fate: China's entrance into the Superpower race

Chinese development aid can be categorized as a more practical alternative to U.S. and Soviet internationalism. At the start of its power, the China was financially unable to provide as much economic aid and militaristic support as the U.S. and USSR to the Global South. Unlike its rivals, regardless of one's ideological stands, they provided reasonable economic assistance to those in need.

This approach highly differed from the political views and actions of Mao's China. Since China failed to execute cultural revolution adjustments with respect to domestic reform, which also covered the economic sphere, it resulted in boosting its cooperation with other superpowers

and the Global South. In this context, the closer cooperation between the US and China - even in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, where they were actively exchanging their intelligence reports at the expense of the USSR - angered USSR leaders. In this way, China attempted to show its different approach as a rising superpower.

Engermann draws attention to the division between them as he uses the terminology of the 'second world' to refer to those powers in relation to the Third World countries when describing the Chinese approach towards their Global Southern allies (Engerman 2011, 191). According to him, China criticized the Soviet policies of Khrushchev as 'losing its original Stalinist approaches'; starting from 1957, introducing a new approach to the activities in the Third World for all actors more consistent with Stalinism (Engerman 2011, 191). China has achieved the reshaping of the competition since the 1960s, which resulted in the Vietnamese conflict (Engerman 2011, 192). China's new philosophy on development aid drew America and the USSR in, in order to intervene, which tarnished their prestige in the region through tremendous military involvement. This served China well in the sense that it was able to show its different and friendly diplomacy to the developing world.

Chinese criticism was not limited to the USSR's differing political ideology, as mentioned above, but also included the idea that the USSR was as imperialistic as the US. It saw the development aid plans of both as one-sided, unequal, and self-serving. Thus, China criticized both superpowers for taking advantage of the countries they were 'helping' with the creation of workplaces or agriculture. It was trying to distinguish itself from them by establishing "Tea

Plantations” (almost 49 plantations) in Guinea and Mali, claiming “no ulterior motives” for doing so.

China, as the new rising superpower, was of course trying to gain a reputation by accusing its competitors of ‘imposing their values and their ideologies in the political views of the countries they are helping’ being against Chinese values. Therefore, it was ‘showing off’ that China is helping without imposing any values or expecting benefits for itself (Brazinsky 2016, 20). However, China’s approach ended up failing, just like other approaches from the other superpowers.

Impacts for the Global South

Despite the U.S., USSR, and China’s evolution to better promote their global development agendas, stagnation, and regression were still apparent in their relations with the newly independent developing countries during the 1950s and 1960s. For economic assistance, both U.S. and Soviet internationalism relied heavily on a state-centric approach. In both cases, the state promotes large-scale development projects aimed at improving the quality of life of ordinary citizens in these societies, as in the case of the large dams built in Egypt by the USSR or the construction of infrastructure projects by U.S. alphabet agencies like the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The U.S. and USSR established expansive projects in sub-Saharan Africa,

thinking the same successful results would take hold there as in Europe during its post-WWII reconstruction.

The failure to understand the key differences between traditional European and African post-colonial cultures is a critical error. In Africa and the Orient, large-scale development projects had not yet been adopted by societies. Unlike the US and USSR, China understood this inherently. As a result of the Chinese model, these developing countries are not at risk of becoming perpetually dependent on foreign assistance. Chinese development workers and policymakers anticipated that these countries would eventually achieve self-sufficiency. By providing enhanced training and hands-on fieldwork where the Chinese and Global South workforces responded together in a collective manner, Chinese technicians and aid workers prepared citizens of developing countries to assume this responsibility. Leaders of the developing world greatly appreciated a diplomatic manner such as this since such behavior was absent from their interactions with the United States and the Soviet Union. By implementing small-scale development projects, this approach gradually bolstered the country's traditional institutions to enable them to handle new tasks and skills on their own. As Brazinsky (2016) suggests, for a short time, farmers in developing countries were able to maintain their tea plantations in good standing despite the lack of Chinese supervision. Yet, when China made good on its promise to turn over the project entirely, it failed without China's continued presence. When China returned to these countries to expand its economic control once it became more established as a rising

power, Chinese officials were completely shocked to see the mal condition of its tea plantation initiatives in Africa.

However, their efforts were appreciated in Africa and other developing countries, which is why enthusiasm for a Sino presence in the Global South has not diminished to the same extent as it has when discussing the United States or the Soviet Union. With a full-spectrum of aid packages available to developing countries, Guinea declined to increase U.S. or Soviet involvement. Their disillusionment with Americans and Soviets and their refusal to live under hardships and low pay, similar to those often experienced by Chinese developers led to their defeat. Additionally, proxies such as Czechoslovakia would diminish the USSR's standing in the developing world, since non-aligned countries such as India under Nehru's leadership would prefer Czech tractor exports over Soviet tractor exports (Engerman, 2011, 196), since Czechoslovakia would not place trade conditions, as did the U.S. or the USSR did. When the government of Ahmed Sékou Toure found itself facing substantial economic shocks and turmoil in Guinea, he became dissatisfied with the rudimentary technologies provided by Soviet aid. Indeed he was trying to avoid becoming Africa's Cuba. Several societies have experienced IMF riots after they were dissatisfied with the heavy tax burden imposed on them by U.S.-backed multinational lenders like the IMF (Lorenzini, 2019). They were able to obtain an abundance of rice from China during a time of dire economic need, and they were able to do so with the help of interest-free loans from China. Key policymakers in both countries were greatly frustrated by all this growing anti-American and anti-Soviet animosity. As a result, despite significant

increases from the U.S., there have been moments of steadily decreasing aid since the 1980s under Reagan's presidency, and the Soviet Union stopped sending substantial aid to the global South by the 1990s before disillusionment in 1991.

The one area which received few positive outcomes is the development aid in the developing world. Some development aid skeptics maintain that it has perpetuated despotic regimes in de-colonized societies by propping up petro-states that establish oil rentier programs to repress minorities and empower monopolies in their societies. Although this is an oversimplification of the issue, there is much truth to this position.

Unfortunately, most of the global outflow of capital is redistributed within the global North through trade between rich countries. According to a 2015 economic study, “capital drain from the South to North is worth over \$10 trillion per year in Northern prices.” (Hickel, 2022, 2). This figure is enough to end abject poverty on a global scale about seventy times over. Yet, according to a similar 2021 study, “rich countries give poor countries about \$128 billion in aid each year.” (Chenery, 2021). This extractive relationship has led to poor countries making rich countries wealthier while the Global South’s wherewithal is being outstripped. So much so that “rich countries drained \$152tn from the global South since 1960.” (Hickel, J., 2022, 6). This is massively unequal and needs to be addressed collaboratively by international and local actors.

Briefly stated, the impact of US aid programs in the Global South, also known as the Third World, has been complex and multifaceted. Some of the scholars referenced in this paper,

like Lorenzini (2019), have suggested that US aid has had positive effects on the economic development, health, and infrastructure of recipient countries. Some initiatives, such as the Global Health Initiative and the Power Africa Initiative, have improved access to healthcare and energy in many countries in the region.

On the other hand, there have been criticisms of US aid programs in the Global South. Some of the scholars referenced in this paper have argued that aid from the US and other donor countries has often perpetuated dependency and weakened local economies (Trofimenko, 1981). Some aid programs have been criticized for having a focus on short-term goals, such as emergency relief, rather than promoting long-term development. In addition, some have suggested that US aid has often been used as a tool for political influence and furthering American interests rather than for genuinely supporting development in the Global South.

Overall, the impact of US aid programs in the Global South has been mixed and complex, with both positive and negative effects. Further research is needed to understand the impact of aid in the region fully and to identify ways to improve the effectiveness of aid in promoting sustainable development in the Global South.

Meanwhile, the Soviet aid programs had a mixed impact on the Global South. In some cases, Soviet aid helped to modernize the economies of recipient countries and provided them with the means to build infrastructure, such as power plants and factories. Soviet aid also helped to train professionals in areas such as medicine, engineering, and education. On the other hand,

Soviet aid often came with political strings attached, including the requirement that recipient countries adopt socialist policies and align their foreign policies with those of the Soviet Union. This could limit the recipient countries' freedom to chart their own development path and to make independent foreign policy decisions.

Overall, Soviet aid was an important factor in shaping the economic and political landscape of the Global South during and after the Cold War period. However, its impact was often limited by the political and economic conditions of the recipient countries, as well as by the political and strategic interests of the Soviet Union.

Furthermore, Chinese aid programs in the Global South and Africa had a significant impact on recipient countries. China's aid programs in these regions have been characterized by a focus on infrastructure development, including the construction of roads, railways, ports, and power plants (Brazinsky, 2016). This has helped to modernize the economies of recipient countries, which has, in turn, improved their economic competitiveness and attracted foreign investment. In addition, Chinese aid has provided valuable training and education opportunities for professionals in recipient countries, particularly in areas such as medicine, engineering, and education (Lorenzini, 2019).

However, like Soviet aid, Chinese aid also often comes with political strings attached. Chinese aid programs often require recipient countries to align their foreign policies with those of China, which can limit the recipient countries' freedom to make independent foreign policy

decisions (Hickel, 2022). This can also have a negative impact on the political and economic stability of recipient countries.

Overall, Chinese aid programs in the Global South, particularly in Africa, have been an important factor in shaping the economic and political landscape of these regions. However, its impact has been limited by the political and economic conditions of recipient countries, as well as by China's political and strategic interests. (Chenery, 2021).

Briefly, it is possible to state that the limitations to the positive effects of hegemons' aid to the Global South were more than advantages. All above mentioned examples show that developing countries were given only temporary aid with no sustainable development perspectives. They were struggling to keep up with the shown way of production or education or else military power after the Superpower is done with showing off its courtesy and leave them without providing sustainable, long-lasting solutions. Therefore, we could conclude that the overall impact on the Global South from the Superpowers' activities was, in some cases, positive in the short term and primarily negative in the long run.

Conclusion

The third World, or the Global South, was the camp for competition within the economic, cultural, and political influence of power for the world superpowers. Soviet improvement of communism and Chinese criticism of the Soviet style of communism versus the U.S. approach of

economic openness and capitalist approach. There were so many different policies imposed by the Soviet Union, America, and China, even with European participation in the Global South. It could be summarized as an East-West confrontation as well as a North-South one. Competing in the Global South has cost the USSR the weakening of its positions in East Europe, and for the U.S., it resulted in the weakening of its positions in some regions too. For China, it was initially the competition for gaining the title of the 'first world' country and the title of 'superpower', which it gained to some extent. However, it also, in the end, could not succeed with its approach to the Third World.

Some experts hold that China's development aid today is not as altruistic as before, now that it has become a more dominant actor on the international scene. No matter how this may contend, it can still be argued that China's development aid is essentially still infrastructure and economy based. It does not impose strict conditions on recipient nations to transform their societies into Sino-replicas. Nevertheless, some socialist countries like Vietnam, Cuba, Laos, and Belarus have dabbled with adopting its mixed socialist and state-capitalist economic model. This turn of events shows that China may be a force to be reckoned with, but Vietnam, Cuba, Brazil, and Venezuela have exerted significant influence in trying to promote South-South development cooperation.

In conclusion, summarizing the overall pattern of hegemonic activities in the Global South during and after the Cold War has had both positive and negative effects on the stability and development of the region. While some countries have benefited from increased investment

and access to global markets, others have suffered from political instability, economic inequality, and environmental degradation. Further research is needed to better understand the complex interplay of these factors and their impact on the stability and development of the Global South.

In terms of future research, it will be interesting to see if South-South economic cooperation expands over the years as a viable means of taking charge of the Global South's economic future. It is likely that other developing states and institutions throughout the Global South will play an active role as Russia re-emerges as an influential aid donor joining the U.S. and China. It is possible to create a global check and balance that contributes to the reduction of superpower misbehaviors by providing development assistance in waiting.

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