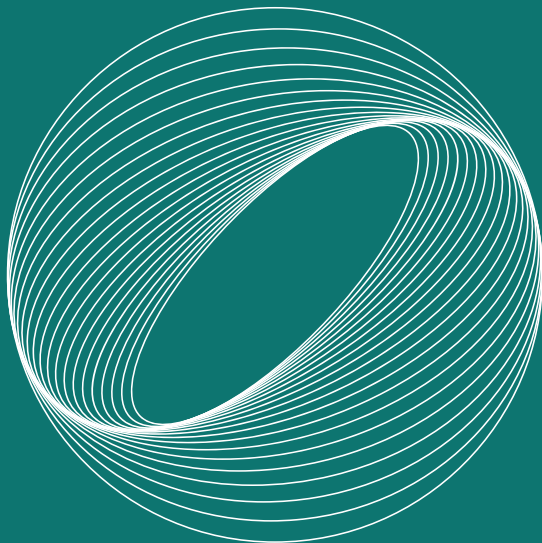




Institute of
International
Studies

DEPT. OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT



FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW #73

16 JUNE – 30 JUNE 2024

STUDENT ENCAMPMENTS ON CAMPUS: A NON-VIOLENT PROTEST FOR PALESTINE

With a devastating situation happening from Gaza to Rafah, the world is no longer silent. Silent protests, boycotts, and other actions have been conducted by movements all around the world in honor of the Palestinians (Al Jazeera, 2024). These movements are not only happening in countries in favor of Palestinians' independence but also in countries where the respective governments are reluctant to advocate or agree to a ceasefire agreement; sometimes, protesters are often intimidated by higher authorities. These movements are participated in by individuals spanning diverse nationalities, ages, races, working groups, and beliefs, proving that non-violent movements for Palestine can be a collective action for all.

In this case, a popular movement that has been loudly advocated is student-led protests through encampments on campuses around the world (Regan, 2024). Protest in the form of encampment makes the movement taken into account seriously as it disrupts activities on campuses and draws more attention to the motion being advocated. As a form of resistance, this method of protest is categorized as non-violent civil disobedience to form a dilemma towards campuses that support Israel's repression over Palestinians, to take a stance against genocide.

Despite the ongoing protests and encampments happening worldwide, several countries have recently started to recognize Palestine as a country—Norway, Ireland, Spain, and Slovenia. However, these recognitions do not mean that the advocacies for Palestine have stopped. Instead, it should be a “fuel” for more movements to rise, stand against oppression, and support a free Palestine. (Lamtiar N S M Nababan, HI UGM 2022).

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BRAIN DRAIN: HOW CAN THE GLOBAL SOUTH DEAL WITH IT?

Brain drain is defined as the migration of health personnel in search of a better standard of living and quality of life, access to more advanced technology, and more stable political conditions in different places (Dodani & LaPorte, 2005). The brain drain phenomenon is not new. One of the most notable cases is the exodus of highly regarded German scientists to the United States, such as Albert Einstein, Hannah Arendt, and Leo Szilard, from the 1930s to 1940s. As globalization continues, brain drain benefits the Global North while disadvantaging the Global South.

The problem of the South is clear. We lack the sufficient technology and capacity to facilitate our human capital. For example, according to the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research of Morocco, around 600 Moroccan engineers leave Morocco annually for some notable Global North like France, Canada, and Germany which have better technology and living standards than Morocco (El Morabety & El Morabety, 2022). Another study conducted by Giwa (2021) on Nigerian students in Canada showed that most Nigerian students are reluctant to return to Nigeria due to political instability, infrastructure scarcity, and lack of job security. If we don't address this seriously, we'll certainly lose more of our educated workforce and fall further behind the North.

Then, what can we do? We cannot force people to go back to the South. What we can do is to build better facilities and deal with our internal affairs. We need to work together within the South-South cooperation framework such as infrastructure or education. If we do it, not only will our workforce finally have the desire to go back, but it can also provide massive growth for our economy. (Mas Arsyarrahman Setiawan, HI UGM 2023).

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REGIONAL DILEMMA: HIGHLIGHTING BRICS+ AS THE GLOBAL SOUTH'S COMMITMENT TO CHALLENGE THE EUROPEAN UNION'S SUPER-PROTECTIONIST POLICY

Growing regional protectionism is raising concerns about the future of globalization. As an influential regional organization, the European Union (EU) has implemented a strengthened super-protectionist policy in the past decades. This has been responded to by Global South—which suffers from the EU's super-protectionist policies—through the expansion of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) that welcomed five other countries to join, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Ethiopia. The membership expansion indicates that BRICS+ can facilitate its members by establishing an international system commensurate with the capacity of developing countries to challenge the West (CGTN, 2023).

The contestation of great powers, specifically in the midst of Ukraine-Russian warfare and post-pandemic era, has encouraged the EU to tighten its trade policies. One of them is the super-protectionist policy in the agricultural field by prohibiting imports from non-EU competitors to prevent unsustainable land use (Cleppe, 2021). Definitely, EU policies get more attention and controversy from developing countries since these countries have a huge focus on the agricultural sector. Consequently, the European Union has to re-evaluate its economic model in order not to lose developing countries as their crucial partner (Carvalho, 2023). This is because BRICS+ is the 'main force' in intra-South trade and other corporations (Zhou, 2024). BRICS+ facilitates more developing countries to invest and increase internal cooperation which results in growing economic growth of member countries (Azevedo et al., 2024). Hence, this will create exclusivity for the EU to cooperate with developing countries within BRICS+ in the future that will affect upcoming trade integration.

The rise of BRICS+ is not solely aimed to create a new world order, but rather to challenge the traditional Western approach that marginalizes the Global South. Recently, Global South has used BRICS+ as a platform to foster their economic power to challenge various EU's super-protectionist policies, especially protectionist agricultural policy, that are not beneficial for Global South's economic growth. Hence, the massive expansion of BRICS is a dilemma for the EU regarding its protectionism. (Debby Salsabila, HI UGM 2023).

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