

## **The responses of emerging Global South powers to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the consequences for international order**

This project examines the responses of five emerging powers of the Global South toward the Russian invasion of Ukraine to understand how their stances reflect their broader positioning in and against a hitherto Western-led international order. The project is based on a case study of how Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa have responded to the Russian invasion. The central hypothesis of this project is that these key emerging powers have used the Russian invasion of Ukraine to assert their strategic autonomy and to pursue their interests in securing more influential positions in the existing world order (rather than seeking to reform it). Given that these are countries with a traditional commitment to international law, to upholding national sovereignty, to non-intervention and to protection of the civilian population from international crimes, the expectation would be of alignment with the Global North in their responses. Instead, their responses suggest there is a clear division between the Global South and Global North in how challenges to the current international order are interpreted and addressed. Given the growing importance of the Global South, this division poses profound challenges to assumptions by Western powers about the international order and their leadership of it. This challenge is exemplified in how non-compliance with Western-initiated sanctions by the Global South has blunted the effectiveness of this instrument of pressure against Russia. Thus, the Global South's differing interpretations of the war in Ukraine and the existing international order must be taken into consideration, as their increasingly prominent global roles will be significant for future development of the international order, globally and regionally. Drawing on theories of international relations, the project's analysis of the responses of these key emerging powers from the Global South to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia offers the opportunity for a rigorous empirical test of whether these states are seeking fundamental reform of the current international order or are more intent on enhancing their interests and positions within it.