



Online Journal of International Relations

The idea: a platform for international debate

The name – Multipolarica – tells it all: we are living in a multipolar world and ever more so. New powers are emerging who want to have a say in matters affecting their national interests. But we don't know much about how these new powers think and how their internal policy debates are running.

Multipolarica aims at filling that gap by providing a platform for various voices both from established and from new powers on various international issues.

The principle: upholding pluralism

It should be stressed that not only official standpoints are to be given a voice on Multipolarica, but independent and contrarian ones as well.

For, if it is claimed that the reality of a multipolar world must be accepted in the relations *between* countries, than the principle of multipolarity *within* states must also be accepted. Of course, the old word for this is good old *pluralism*.

Beyond idealism, there are some tangible analytical benefits from upholding pluralism: just remember how often international policy forecasts were foiled in the past because they were based on the erroneous assumption that countries are monolithic and not subject to – often dramatic – change.

Issues to start: EU foreign energy policy, the EU & Turkey Iran's strategic ambitions and China's Africa policy

Multipolarica wants to select a few issues and highlight these with contributions from various countries and, if the issue at hand is being debated internally, from various authors within those countries.

We would like to start with the following issues: the EU's external energy policy; the EU and Turkey; Iran's strategic ambitions; and China's Africa policy.

Organization and financial backing: small is beautiful

Multipolarica was established by the Austrian citizens Michael Friedländer, an economist and businessman and Karin Schreiner, a philosopher and consultant on intercultural affairs currently residing in Shanghai. It is funded exclusively by Michael Friedländer who has founded Akakiko, Austria's largest Asian restaurant chain, in 1994.

Multipolarica will work with its own editor and draw on the organizational and technical infrastructure of Akakiko, including a 5-person internet programming and graphic design team located in Győr, Hungary.

Vienna, July 2009