

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55974

Title: International Collaboration in the Global South: Evidence and Implications from the Nigerian Context

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity	✓			
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Faheem Abdul Muneeb

Reviewer's Comment

This manuscript offers a broad and ambitious analysis of international collaboration in the Global South, with Nigeria positioned as a central case study. Drawing on policy documents, secondary economic data, and interpretive analysis, the paper examines South–South cooperation, triangular cooperation, and Nigeria's evolving partnerships with actors such as China, Brazil, the European Union, and BRICS-related frameworks. The topic is timely and relevant, particularly in light of shifting global power dynamics, debates on multipolarity, and renewed attention to development alternatives beyond traditional North–South models. The manuscript contributes by situating Nigeria as an active, though constrained, actor navigating opportunities and asymmetries within Global South collaboration.

Conceptual Framing and Scholarly Engagement

The manuscript demonstrates strong engagement with critical literature on the Global South, dependency theory, hegemony, and South–South cooperation. The historical grounding—from Bandung to BRICS—is well articulated, and the discussion effectively links colonial legacies to contemporary structural inequalities. The integration of theorists such as Fanon, Gramsci (implicitly), Gray and Gills, and Acharya strengthens the critical orientation of the paper. However, the conceptual framing at times becomes overly expansive, moving between international relations theory, political economy, and

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normative critique without always clearly signalling analytical transitions. Greater synthesis around a more focused central argument would enhance coherence.

Methodology and Use of Evidence

The qualitative, descriptive, and exploratory design is appropriate for the study's objectives. The use of documentary analysis and secondary data from IMF, World Bank, and policy sources is relevant and well referenced. The inclusion of GDP (PPP) projections and comparative graphs (Figures 1 and 2) adds empirical weight to the discussion of shifting global economic power. Nonetheless, the methodology section would benefit from clearer organisation and more explicit explanation of how qualitative interpretation was systematically conducted and how quantitative indicators were analytically integrated rather than illustratively used.

Analysis and Argument Development

The discussion of Nigeria's collaborations with China, Brazil, the EU, WHO, and BRICS-related initiatives is informative and demonstrates wide empirical coverage. The manuscript is particularly strong in highlighting risks of asymmetric South–South trade and the possibility of reproducing extractive patterns under new geopolitical alignments. The critical examination of hegemonic responses, including sanctions and military interventions, reflects a clear normative stance and contributes to debates on global governance reform. At the same time, parts of the analysis shift into polemical language, which may weaken academic neutrality. Tightening tone and sharpening analytical focus would strengthen the manuscript's scholarly impact.

Structure, Length, and Presentation

The manuscript is rich but excessively long and repetitive. Several arguments—particularly concerning colonial legacy, Western hegemony, and Global South resistance—are restated multiple times across sections. Significant condensation would improve readability and argumentative clarity. Language editing is required to address grammatical issues, typographical errors, and very long paragraphs. Some sections would benefit from clearer sub-structuring to guide the reader through the complex narrative.

Final Recommendation

Overall, this is a conceptually ambitious and politically relevant manuscript that engages important debates on Global South collaboration and Nigeria's strategic positioning in a changing world order. Its

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strength lies in its critical perspective and wide empirical scope. With minor revisions focusing on condensation, clearer methodological framing, tonal moderation, and editorial refinement, the manuscript will be suitable for publication.

Decision: Accepted with minor revisions.