

The Global South Beyond the West Vs the Rest

Abstract

Tracing the origins of the idea of a Third World or Global South and its relationship with the Global North or the West, Dr. Amitav Acharya argues that contrary to much conventional understanding, the Global South has been more of a facilitator than a disruptor of world order building. As the nature and policies of the postcolonial nations evolve, terms such as the West and the Rest (Global South) are increasingly obsolete. Patterns of interdependence, conflict and cooperation in the emerging world order cut across these categories. Instead of persisting with concepts of Global North, Global South and Global East, the emerging world order is a Global Multiplex, a decentered and pluralistic world order that offers new possibilities of both conflict and cooperation.