



WIKI n°9: Institutionalized Western Hegemony

While Western hegemony remains a significant factor in shaping the global balance of power, it faces increasing challenges from the rise of new powers such as China and Russia.

This shift is particularly evident in peacekeeping. Western mobilization has facilitated the transformation of traditional peacekeeping principles, broadening the criteria for interventions in Southern countries.

The establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2006 allowed Western countries to further legitimize the concept of universal human rights, necessitating closer monitoring by the international community and field experts. Furthermore, the West has largely maintained the post-World War II international human rights framework, which prioritizes individual rights over collective rights.

In practice, negotiations on human rights have been predominantly shaped by Western governments. This influence is attributed to their robust diplomatic and legal expertise, close alliances with human rights NGOs, and significant financial leverage. The latter, derived from their economic dominance, has been instrumental in funding capacity-building programs in developing countries.

Furthermore, Western states' influence on peace and security issues stems from their political power within UN agencies responsible for peacekeeping operations. Their role as drafters of Security Council resolutions (penholders) and chairs of expert groups is particularly influential.

Regarding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Western states have leveraged their technical and scientific expertise to drive the content of these goals and exert leadership on and within different international expert groups.

Consequently, these states have successfully established sustainable development as a new development paradigm and circumscribed negotiations around it within a framework that strictly separates the SDGs from any discourse on reforming international institutions.