Week 1:

What multipolarity really means...

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Initial questions

1. Is the world multipolar? If so, since when?
2. What does multipolarity really mean?
3. Are poles really equal?
4. Where and how to recognize poles?
   - *Security council?*
   - *G20?*
   - *IMF?*
   - *WTO?*
5. Could Europe be considered as a pole?
   
   *In trade certainly yes, but in foreign policy probably not...*
The central issues

1. Is multipolarity weakening or strengthening Europe?

2. Is it an asset or a liability for Europe?
Hypotheses

1. The world is becoming more and more multipolar but the content and the implications of this long-term process have to be qualified.

*i.e.:* economic multipolarity does not entail strategic multipolarity and vice-versa
Hypotheses

2. For Europe, multipolarity is a very mixed bag...

• **Multipolarity as a source of opportunities**: place for more compromises.
• **Multipolarity as a source of confrontation or stalemate**:
  - Climate change: Copenhagen
  - WTO: Doha round
  - Security Council: Arab spring
Definitions of multipolarity

1st definition:

A multipolar system is a system in which power is distributed at least among 3 significant poles concentrating wealth and/or military capabilities and able to block or disrupt major political arrangements threatening their major interests.
Definitions of multipolarity

2nd definition:

A pole is an actor capable of producing order or generating disorder
Definitions of multipolarity

3rd definition:

Within a multipolar world, a pole could be defined as **an actor which has influence on global outcomes beyond its own borders.**
Definitions of multipolarity

4th definition: Poles are very often regional powers with a global outreach.

ie: India, China, Brazil versus Japan
Metrics of multipolarity

1. Distribution of wealth

Figure 0.6. Share of the global economy in purchasing power parity terms, 1990-2030

Note: These data apply Maddison's long-term growth projections to his historical PPP-based estimates for 29 OECD member countries and 129 non-member economies. Dotted lines indicate projections.

Source: Author's calculations based on Maddison (2007) and Maddison (2010).

StatLink: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932288071
2. Shares in world trade (in %)

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Regional shares in world merchandise exports, 1996 and 2006
3. Strategic multipolarity

Military expenditure - % of GDP - 2012

Source: SIPRI 2012 Yearbook
4. Representation at the G20
4. Representation at the G20

The Americas:
• Canada
• United States

Latin America:
• Argentina
• Brazil
• Mexico

Europe:
• Germany
• Italy
• France
• Russia
• EU
• UK

Asia:
• China
• Indonesia
• Japan
• India
• Republic of Korea

Middle East:
• Saudi Arabia
• Turkey

Africa:
• South Africa
5. Voting shares at the IMF - 2010

- EU 27: 29.40%
- USA: 16.75%
- Japan: 6.23%
- China: 6.07%
- Russia: 2.60%
- Brazil: 2.50%
- Rest of the world: 34.25%

- India: 6.23%
6. Production of public bads

Greenhouse gas emissions - 2010

- China: 35.10%
- USA: 24.50%
- India: 16.39%
- Russia: 9.48%
- Japan: 6.10%
- EU 27: 5.04%
- Rest of the world: 3.39%
7. Membership of the Security Council

5 permanent members with veto power:
China, France, Russia, UK, USA

10 non-permanent members:
Azerbaijan, Colombia, Germany, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Pakistan, Portugal, South Africa, Togo.