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Elements in Indo-Pacific Security

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THE HEDGERS

*How the Global South Navigates
the Sino-American Competition*

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The Hedgers

How the Global South Navigates the Sino-American Competition

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Abstract: The extreme instability caused by the interminable war in Ukraine, Sino-American tensions, and Trump's return to power raises an essential question: How can the states of the Global South – particularly those endowed with significant resources and full of ambition – navigate this current global turbulence? Are they succumbing to the logic of bipolarity, or are they escaping from it by amplifying their hedging power, and, in the process, making the international system more multipolar?

To answer these key questions, we analyze the strategic behavior of eight states: Brazil, India, Indonesia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Vietnam. Their selection is based on eight precise metrics.

It is these eight key states that we call the Hedgers. They are among the countries of the Global South that have good opportunities to navigate – with some challenges – the troubled environment of what is increasingly difficult to call the “world order.”

Keywords: global order, Global South, hedging,
US–China competition, multipolar

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Contents

Introduction	1
1 Global Order Disruption and Hedging Agency	9
2 The Drivers of Hedging Power	20
3 India: The Hedger in Chief	35
4 Hedgers by Design: Brazil and South Africa	44
5 Hotspot Hedgers: Indonesia and Vietnam	55
6 States Are Not Born Hedgers: The Case of the Gulf Countries	66
7 Hedging under Trump	76
Conclusion	78
References	81