

## Abstract

The phenomenon of progressive debilitation of Multilateralism and “Westlessness” has been associated with electoral validation of both positive assertive and insecure nationalisms globally, coupled with economic re-balancing, that has translated into political re-balancing, emboldening an Asia-centric epicentre of global politics, as the hegemonic articulation of the architects of rules-based Multilateral order favouring Western line of thinking had gradually resorted to Plurilateral approaches, ranging from the Doha Development Round of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) Quota Reforms. The paradigmatic shift from Western system of Grand Alliances to myriad Minilateral and Plurilateral issue-specific partnerships and constructs has been accentuated in an increasingly polarised, fragmented Post-Pandemic era, where the breakdown of global governance accompanied with economic protectionism, populist illiberal ultranationalist aspirations, vaccine nationalism and blocking of supply chains altered global leadership footprints and saw capabilities leveraged, commitments dissolved, exiguousness of resources, logistics disrupted, and economic downturn due to material disruptions. As floundering multilateralism and its gridlock can be attributed to anathema in materialising broad-based consensus among WTO members while reducing domestic policy space, the proliferation of Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) indicate the desire of deepening trade integration among member-states, positioning trade progress at the plurilateral realm. The historic weaknesses in the reform of Bretton Woods Institutions, the rigidity and ineffectiveness of United Nations’ bodies, structural and functional shortcomings of the World Health Organisation got more pronounced as the COVID-19 Pandemic magnified the Multilateral system’s fault lines. The paper highlights the evolution and critically evaluates Multilateralism in International Relations. It anatomises the multiple facets of Plurilateralism and attempts to demonstrate how Plurilateralism provides the roadmap for future global governance.

**Keywords:** Multilateralism; Plurilateralism; Global Governance; World Trade Organisation; COVID-19.