

Abstract

In the wake of what some perceive to be the emergence of a multipolar post-hegemonic world, many questions have risen about the role liberalism will play in the future of the world order.

The rise of autocratic countries like China and the actions of Russia have led some to believe that the future of the liberal order is in danger or even doomed. Through a qualitative content analysis of speeches and statements, this paper seeks to define the preferences of two potential future poles – India and Russia – regarding the nature of the future world order. This thesis explores the roles of strategic narratives and how they can assist us in determining the preferences of an actor. My findings suggest that both states indicate support for maintaining a future order based on norms and cooperation. Dedication to liberal norms does not seem to differ significantly between democratic India and autocratic Russia. The greatest difference is in their narration of Western states. Their desire to amend the order is better characterized as reform rather than revision.

Based on theories of liberal institutionalism, the explanatory principle is not that either state is morally committed to a liberal system, but rather they are self-interested in maintaining an order which is largely liberal. The liberal order may not be doomed after all.