

# Review of: "how to think and frame third worldism with illustration from Iran-South Africa diplomatic relations"

Matthieu Grandpierron

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The topic and the case-studies chosen are very interesting and creates curiosity for the reader. Indeed, there is very few attempts to conceptualise *third worldism* and also very few studies focusing on Iran and South Africa. Therefore the paper could be very interesting and I encourage the author to continue in this attempt.

There are however some issues with the paper:

1. I am not sure Iran and South Africa can be put on a same footing given the cultural and civilizational status and history of Iran. There should be more thoughts done in this respect if the author wants to brand them as two examples of "south countries".
2. the concept of third worldism would gain from being more developed and conceptualized (e.g.: criteria, characteristics) as to demonstrate that Iran and South Africa are good case studies.
3. There is no mention at all of the data used by the author, nor about the analytical and interpretative frameworks. This is an important downside as the paper is entitled "diplomatic relations". One would expect public discourses, conference presses, agreements signed between the two countries to be extensively studied.
4. the author uses the word "alliance", I am not sure it is the right word. Alliance supposes a formal treaty to be signed by the two countries.
5. The author writes "aiming at bridging the gap between the emerging powers and the rest of the developing world". It is not clear at all if that is what the author believes or if it is the real objective of the countries studied (and that can be proved through the study of official documents)
6. It is not clear how the period 2006-2019 is studied: what are the key events, key development? How is the evolution of the relation?
7. The structure of the paper should be redone to enable a clearer and stronger comparison of the two countries.

Therefore, I do not recommend the publication of this paper in this current state. But I highly encourage the author to precise and keep conceptualizing.