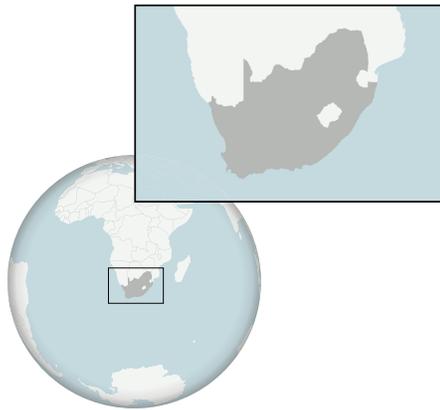


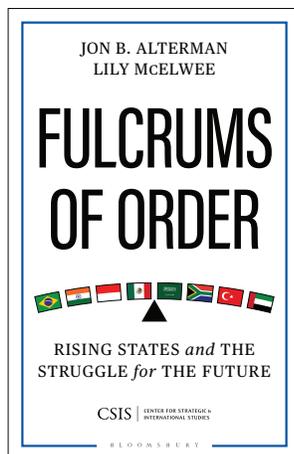
# The Weight of History and Alliances in South Africa's Geopolitical Turbulence



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## OVERVIEW

South Africa's foreign policy reflects liberation-era ideals filtered through contemporary constraints, producing a morally framed but strategically selective global posture.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Mandela's legacy established South Africa's global role, anchored in justice and sovereignty.
- The ANC remains committed to anti-imperialism and diversified partnerships.
- Apartheid's memory sustains skepticism toward Western-led structures and an affinity for longstanding non-Western partners.

## DOMESTIC CONTEXT

- Enduring racial and economic divides continue to shape external priorities.
- Redistributive initiatives generate political contestation and uneven outcomes.
- Persistent unemployment, xenophobia, and energy insecurity challenge state capacity.

## ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

- The country's large economy and diversified industrial base help make it one of the leaders of sub-Saharan Africa.
- Still, domestic economic challenges constrain the country's larger regional and global ambitions.
- South Africa remains more focused on continental integration than pursuing deep and diverse overseas ties.

## GREAT POWER NAVIGATION

- South Africa seeks to maintain autonomy and leverage above all.
- Engagement with China reflects calculated economic benefit; ties with Russia reflect enduring political sentiment.
- U.S. relations remain functional despite fluctuating trust.

## GLOBAL AMBITIONS

- South Africa seeks more equitable global governance and a greater voice for the Global South.
- The country's moral commitments coexist with strategic caution toward partners.