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42% of the world's Catholics live in Latin America, but that region has only 16% of the cardinals who will elect the new Pope. Africa has about 12% of Catholics and 9.4% of the College of Cardinals. Asian Catholics represent about 10% of the total and include 9.4% of the cardinals. But Europe, with 27% of the world's Catholics, has 53% of the cardinals. And the U.S. and Canada, where there is barely 7% of all Catholics, has 12% of the cardinals.

It's like a reflection of the distribution of power in the global economy. Obviously, religion is not the IMF or an international forum. Starting with the fact that, by its very nature, is not a religion whose governing bodies have to represent their faithful. But the figures, which come from here and here, reveal the change that the world is experiencing. Europeans—and, in a sense, Americans also increasingly paint-less. But we do not realize. In fact, the thing is that whites are the ones who paint increasingly less. In the U.S., for example, if not for Latin American immigrants, the number of Catholics would be much lower. But all American cardinals are of Irish, Italian and Portuguese. Not one is Hispanic.

In these statistics IMF sees GDP of Brazil, India and China are higher (in the case of India and China, outrageously higher) than those of France and Italy.

In this table the votes of each country in the IMF (the last column), we see that, however, France has more power in the IMF than China. And Italy, India and Brazil only.

With such a power structure, it is not surprising that the same harsh conditions imposed Fund to emerging countries in the 1998-1999 crisis austerity censure now that Germany is catching us. And that's why I feel emerging as a kick. For them it is a case of racism, because there is the same demand sacrifices of white skinned people to toast skinned individuals, after all, are former colonies (in the case of Brazil that may not be correct, since that country's elite is white as milk and people with melanin in the skin have an assured future as footballers or singers, is something that also happens to one of the few countries that are not part of the IMF: the monarchy Communist Castro in Cuba).

We are not the center of the planet

The breakdown of GDP, or Catholics, makes clear that, even if the Europeans do not want to see it, we are no longer the center of the planet. Kishore Mahbubani, one of Asia's most influential intellectuals, sometimes begins his lectures in the United States saying, "Are you prepared to be number two?" Mahbubani's theory is that world domination by the West in the last two centuries is a historical aberration. That is true. East has always been richer and more populous than West. But it is also true that in today's world are very small distances. 2000 years ago, China and Rome could coexist without affecting each other. Today, the decline of the West and Asia's recovery presents challenges for everyone.

On the one hand, being number two is not easy. Not when one has become accustomed to a paternalistic look who now will be number one. Let the former colonies to which Europeans were sending missionaries we send missionaries to us now is not going to be easy to digest. The same happens in economics. And while we've all said this week that Warren Buffett buying Heinz ketchup company, the fact is that 50% of the company will be controlled by 3G, the background is Brazilian and Burger King.

Above, paternalism with which we have tried to involve the world's poor as not imagine. The 'wretched of the earth "as Franz Fanon called them, are not" the noble savage "that

Westerners like to think, a little to the Rudyard Kipling, who wrote of "sullen and unhappy people, half child, half demons" to refer to the inhabitants of the colonies. But neither is easy to be number one. And least when one considers (as China) that is the rightful place for little more than historical design. Indeed, countries poor are as rational (or not) as the rich. But his values, in many cases, are different. And that is obvious when they have power. China has been ready to go to war against Japan for a few islets not anyone care nothing (is false the oil interests in the dispute).