



Another Chip in the Strategic Brick of the U.S. Wall
(5/7/23)

Our influence in the Middle East and Asia continues to wane and our response is less than sterling. We seem to be neither anticipatory nor reactive. China pulled the rug out from under us last month by bringing the Saudis and Iranians to the diplomatic table.

Russia and the Saudis have been coordinating OPEC+ oil policy which seems to place U.S. interest in the second tier of priorities. Last month, the Saudis also joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization whose members, you guessed it, include Russia, China and India.

And now Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Algeria, Bahrain, and Iran have asked to join BRIC. BRIC includes Brazil, Russia, India and China. **Are you getting the picture?** BRIC represents about 40% of the world's population, and in 3 years could easily surpass the economic output of the U.S.-led G7.

The U.S. dollar will be the least of our worries. We seem to be sitting at the table wanting to play go fish while the Russians and Iranians are deep into their chess match.