

Original Article

# Synergy and Conflict Within the Transnational Capitalist Class and its Geo-economic Significance

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**Abstract:** Following the neoliberal globalization, a Transnational Capitalist Class (TCC) has emerged. The richest class of different countries with plutocratic practices belong to this TCC. The synergy and conflicts within the TCC have geopolitical and geo-economic significance. Taking a cue from these earlier observations, this study tries to investigate empirically whether the richest 1% of different countries, as the plutocrats, belong to the TCC and have any synergy or conflict with geo-economic significance. Data on the share of the richest 1% in pre-tax national income for 107 countries and the period 1980-2022 is used from WID.world and then a correlation matrix of the fluctuations in the variable across these countries is prepared. Investigating the correlation matrix, it is found that – (1) the richest 1% of different countries may be taken as belonging to the TCC, (2) they are well-integrated into the TCC, (3) there is both strong synergy and conflict within the TCC, and (4) when the countries are divided into different blocks as per sign and strength of the correlations against the USA, the block structure revealed some geopolitical geo-economic features in line with the expectations. Despite different limitations, this study will be helpful for a country to understand the relation of its plutocrats within the TCC.

**Keywords:** Institutional Economics, Geo-Economics, Geopolitics, Plutocracy, Political Economy, Richest 1%, Transnational Capital Class.

**JEL Classification:** B52, O19, P16.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Neoliberal globalization started worldwide in the early 1980s. With the fall of the Soviet in December 1991, the reign of capitalism became unchallenged. As discussed in the literature review, consequently, a Transnational Capital Class (TCC) came into prominence. On the one hand, as agents of this TCC, the rich capitalists of different countries, nurturing the nexus of money and politics, try to command the economies of their countries in order to increase the return to capital. There arises the question of plutocracy. The trade-off between return to capital and return to labor, consequently, increases income inequality. The richest 1% of different countries, since the 1980s, have increased their income enormously, whereas the income of the other 99% has increased only meagerly. On the other hand, the transnational character of capital is bound to have an impact on geopolitics and geo-economics since there must be both cooperation and conflict within this class.

Under these premises, this explorative study ventures into some new questions: (1) Can the richest 1% across the nations be taken as belonging to this TCC? (2) If yes, then how well-integrated are they into the TCC? (3) If they are well-integrated into the TCC, then is there any conflict in the TCC? (4) If yes, then what is the geo-economic significance (if any) of cooperation and conflict within the TCC?

These questions are relevant from the perspectives of institutional economics and political economy. The government of a country, if it still truly represents the aspirations of its population rather than that of the richest class only, must identify its richest 1% in the context of the TCC and consider its geopolitical and geo-economic significance (if any) for the welfare of its people.

Combining the arguments and observations placed in the literature review, this research hypothesizes that (1) the plutocrats (the richest 1%) of different countries belong to the TCC, (2) they are well-integrated into the TCC, (3) the TCC has both cooperation and conflict within itself, and (4) the cooperation and conflicts have geo-economic significance.

The purpose of this study is to test this hypothesis on the basis of secondary data. As this is exploratory research, it is not possible to hypothesize what geo-economic significance can exist.

Before explaining the objective of this study in detail, this study adopts two words to describe two events –



1. **Synergy:** If the fluctuations in the share of the richest 1% in two countries move in the same direction, then the plutocrats of these two countries are in synergy, i.e., they belong to a single block within the TCC. In this case, their plutocratic commands increase/decrease simultaneously in their own countries.
2. **Conflict:** If the fluctuations in the share of the richest 1% in two countries move in the opposite direction, then the plutocrats of these two countries are in competition/conflict, i.e., they belong to two different blocks within the TCC. In this case, when the plutocrats in a country increase their commanding power over their own economy, the commanding power of the plutocrats in another country over its own economy falls.

It might well happen that the share of the richest 1% in the two countries has no definite relation, then this indicates two alternative scenarios – (1) the Plutocrats in the two countries have neither Synergy nor Conflict, i.e., either or both of the Plutocrats in these two countries are not yet well-integrated into the TCC, or (2) the Plutocrats in the two countries are well-integrated into the TCC but they are both in synergy and conflict, i.e., the unique relation between the plutocrats of the two countries is yet to be decided.

On the basis of this, the objective of this study primarily is to trace the existence of the TCC through the lens of the relation between the richest 1% across the countries, and if the richest 1% is found to belong to the TCC, then to find how well-integrated they are into the TCC, and what the block structure of their relation is. The block structure of countries will be such that –

1. the richest 1% (assumed to be plutocrats, in general) of one country have synergy with the richest 1% of another country in the same block and
2. the richest 1% of one country has conflicts with the richest 1% of another country in another block.

This study uses secondary data retrieved from the World Inequality Database (WID.world). WID.world provides open-source data on different measures of inequality for different countries and regions. WID.world shows, among other measures, how the share of the richest 1% in the pre-tax national income has changed over the years in different countries. Pre-tax National Income is the sum of income of labor, income of capital, and unemployment allowances (Alvaredo et al., 2018). Taking this data for the years 1980-2022 (43 years) and for 107 countries, this study examines the relation between the income-share of the richest 1% for each two of these 107 countries by forming a correlation matrix and then categorizing the countries into different blocks. The correlation matrix, not paying attention to the chronological order of the pairs of values, will place focus on the relation between the fluctuations in the share of the richest 1% across the countries irrespective of when the fluctuations occurred. The special years for different countries due to war, civil unrest, natural calamities, Corona, etc., will not be ignored.

The logical structure of the investigation, i.e., the key questions, possible findings, and their interpretations this study attempts to cover are as follows...

#### **Primary Question:**

Is there any relation between the share of the richest 1% (in pre-tax national income) in one country with the same in another country? – There are two possible answers: Yes (Case 1) and No (Case 2).

**Case 1:** If 'Yes', then the richest 1% of different countries can be considered as belonging to the TCC. But, then –

1. How well-integrated are they in the TCC?
2. Do they move in the same way?
  - a. If 'Yes', then the richest 1% in all countries belong to the TCC without any conflict among themselves.
  - b. If 'No', then there is conflict within the TCC. But, in that case, if some of them move in the same way, and some others move in different ways, then what is the block structure of the countries on the basis of their relation with each other, and is there any geopolitical geo-economic significance of this block structure?

**Case 2:** If 'No', then the richest 1% of different countries do not belong to the TCC, although the capital from which they earn most has a global character. It means there is neither synergy nor conflict among the richest 1% across different countries, or the richest 1% of the countries have both synergy and conflict with each other.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

With the advent of neoliberal globalization since the early 1980s, amongst many other changes, two things have happened which are particularly in the domain of interest of this study – (1) a Transnational Capitalist Class (TCC) has emerged as a global ruling class (Robinson & Harris, 2000), and (2) income inequality has started rising in the developed countries and in many developing countries after its gradual fall over the earlier years in the twentieth century, and this was coupled with a sharp rise in the share of the richest persons (in the present context, the richest 1%) unprecedentedly (Alvaredo et al., 2017b, 2017a; Chancel et al., 2022; Piketty, 2014).

### **A) The TCC**

Regarding the first observation, the TCC owns transnational capital “as embodied principally in the transnational corporations and private financial institutions” (Robinson & Harris, 2000, p. 22). The TCC is different from national or local capitalists because “it is involved in globalized production and manages globalized circuits of accumulation that give it an objective class existence and identity spatially and politically in the global system above any local territories and policies” (Robinson & Harris, 2000, p. 22). The TCC is class-conscious and conscious of its transnationality and pursues the ‘class project of capitalist globalization’ (Robinson & Harris, 2000). It has formed a Transnational State (TNS), which is a “network of transformed and externally-integrated nation states, together with the supranational economic and political forums” (Robinson, 2001, p. 166). Although the idea of the TNS is not without contentions (Cammack, 2009) and there are views that it is rather the ‘states’ who are playing the dominant role in shaping the geopolitical economy at the international level (Kurecic, 2015), globalization of financial capitalism, which is hegemonic, most mobile, and most de-territorialized (Robinson & Harris, 2000), has raised questions on the future of financial sovereignty of the nation states (Guoping & Hong, 2015). In this framework of global systems theory, Transnational Practices (TNP) are observed which “occur across borders and do not originate with state actors or agencies” (Sklair, 2006, p. 29). The TNP operate in three spheres – economic, political, and cultural (Sklair, 2006).

The TCC is not without internal conflicts. As Robinson & Harris (2000) observed –

“Despite its [TCC] organization and coherence, the transnational bourgeoisie is not a unified group... Fierce competition among oligopolistic clusters, conflicting pressures, and differences over the tactics and strategy of maintaining class domination and addressing the crises and contradictions of global capitalism make any real internal unity in the global ruling class impossible.” (Robinson & Harris, 2000, p. 31)

Robinson & Harris (2000) further observe that “[t]he TCC has become increasingly fragmented in its globalist discourse, in its political vision, and in its ideological coherence” (Robinson & Harris, 2000, p. 42).

### **B) The Rise of the Richest 1% and Plutocracy**

Regarding the second observation, in the context of income inequality, the share of the richest 1% in the national income of different countries has increased magnanimously in this period. A major component of the income of the richest 1% across the countries has been the return on capital, which has grown faster than the national income of those countries (Piketty, 2014). Thus, the richest 1% of different countries can be taken as belonging to the TCC, which has formed a TNS and operates through TNP.

There is no reason to state that it is obvious that any person or family belonging to the richest 1% also belongs to the TCC, posing a threat to the financial sovereignty of the nation the person or family belongs to. If a person becomes richer only through personal skills, knowledge, organizational abilities, etc., used ethically in trade/job, there could hardly be any discontent among others. However, in general, as in the USA, the rich get richer, majorly not through personal skills in trade/job, but with the support of inherited initial endowments, rent-seeking, and state capture (Stiglitz, 2002). There arises the inequality-plutocracy hypothesis – “Money can buy political influence, so unequal income or wealth can translate into unequal ability to influence policy-making” – although there are alternative proposals on why the rich become richer but not through plutocracy in the USA (Kenworthy, 2022). The unequal ability to influence policy-making then translates into a stronger command of money in government policy-making in the USA (Krishna, 2011) – “This confluence of government and business interests meant that government would be more responsive to the few citizens with the most resources, subverting the democratic process in favor of a modern plutocracy” (Piper, 2023, p. 16) – he who pays the piper calls the tune (Barkan, 2013). If plutocracy is considered synonymous with extractive political institutions, then the “... synergistic relationship between extractive economic and political institutions introduces a strong feedback loop: political institutions enable the elites controlling political power to choose economic institutions with few constraints or opposing forces” (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012, p. 81). At the global level, ‘global plutocrats’ have appeared, mostly from the rich nations (Milanovic, 2016).

Combining the arguments placed above, it can be inferred that an increase in the share of the richest 1% in national income is indicative of rising plutocracy in the country, where the plutocrats belong to the TCC and through framing and participation in the TNP, they try to dominate (but not replace) the nation-state by the TNS. The existence of the states as political entities is not threatened since it is the states that are the “basic building blocks of the international system”, and it is the states “which provide the framework that can be exploited by transnational interests” (Anderson, 1998, p. 107).

### **C) Geopolitics and Geo-economics**

The term ‘Geo-economics’ was coined first by Luttwak (1990) for describing “... the admixture of the logic of conflict with the methods of commerce—or, as Clausewitz would have written, the logic of war in the grammar of commerce” (Luttwak, 1990, p. 19) in the context of world politics.

Buzan & Lawson (2014), citing Luttwak (1990), explain that Geopolitics is the “zero-sum territorial competition in a military-political mode of relations among states”, whereas Geo-economics is the “zero-sum developmental competition in an economic-political mode of relations among states where Great Power war is largely ruled out”. Hard Geopolitics means “intentional war is legitimate and expected”, whereas Soft Geopolitics means “intentional Great Power war is marginalized, but territorial competition and military balancing/hedging remain”. On the other hand, Hard Geo-economics means “a zero-sum competition for profit within a largely political-economic modality”, and Soft Geo-economics means “a mix of zero-sum and positive-sum relations within a largely political-economic modality” (Buzan & Lawson, 2014, p. 86). Buzan & Lawson (2014) predict that “[t]he more likely scenario lies in the zone of soft geo-economics in which capitalist powers both compete and cooperate with each other” (Buzan & Lawson, 2014, p. 89). This reiterates the observation by Robinson and Harris (2002) that unity in the global ruling class is impossible.

Shahzad (2022) explains geoeconomics in different terms – “Economics is an activity that creates movement of goods, increases productivity, and brings prosperity. When it becomes a means to gain power and control upon ‘others’, in addition to these gains, it turns into geo-economics” (Shahzad, 2022, p. 21). Discussing the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, she comments that “... war will still be resorted to, when powerful states find that other means are not bending global trade flows to their own interests” (Shahzad, 2022, p. 38); this indicates that the practice of hard or soft geopolitics might not have been dispensed with yet.

### III. DATA & METHODOLOGY

The period 1980-2022 has been selected for two reasons – (1) the nature of income inequality has changed since the year 1980 at the global level, and (2) 2022 is the latest year for which data is available in the WID.world. For these 43 years, and for each of the 107 countries, the variable that has been chosen is the Equal-Split Adult Income-Share of the richest 1% in the pre-tax national income. ‘Equal-split’ means that the couples divide their total income equally among themselves. WID.world also provides an alternative measure – ‘individualistic’ – where couples do not share their income with each other (Alvaredo et al., 2018). Assuming that in the richest 1% of families in any country – (1) the within-couple bargaining power is mostly irrelevant because there is hardly any hindrance for the non-working spouse to avail resources wished, and (2) the number of earning females is much higher than the ‘other 99%’ – this study has adopted the equal-split measure. The term ‘Adult’ means people having acquired at least the age of 20 years. (Alvaredo et al., 2018)

The process of selection of the 107 countries is described below.

Worldometer.info is a website “run by an international team of developers, researchers, and volunteers”, and the data is “published by a small and independent digital media company based in the United States” (Worldometers.info, 2024). Of the 195 sovereign countries listed by Worldometer, two countries are dropped – Micronesia and Holy See (data was not found in WID.world), and one country is added – Taiwan (although its status is disputed). So, the initial total of countries is 194. Data for these 194 countries is retrieved from the WID.world.

To check the relation of the share of the richest 1% in these countries, a correlation (Pearson’s) matrix will be prepared. Before preparing the matrix, the following refinements on the available data are further incorporated.

It is first observed that 34 countries have not had a unique series for 43 years, i.e., at least one other country of these 34 countries has the same series as another of them. These countries are dropped from the present study altogether. For the remaining 160 countries, it is observed that in some cases, the series of a country has the same values in two or more consecutive years. Under the assumption that the values were actually missing and have been replaced by the latest available value, for each of such cases, the first value is retained, and the other values are deleted. However, the values for 1980 are all retained. This deletion will lead to have different number of pairs of values for different pairs of countries – since now, not all countries have 43 values for the 43 years under this study. However, a shortage of values will make the correlations less reliable; on the other hand, seeking too many values will result in dropping too many countries. Therefore, in the next step, those countries are selected which have at least 60% of 43 (i.e. 26) unique values. The figure 60% has been chosen arbitrarily to balance between the reliability of the correlation coefficients and the number of countries incorporated in the analysis. The series of 53 countries failed to fulfill this data requirement. So, finally, 107 countries are selected for preparation of the correlation matrix as listed in Table 1.

**Table 1:** List of 107 countries taken in the present study (arranged alphabetically)

| SN | Country    |
|----|------------|
| 1  | Albania    |
| 2  | Algeria    |
| 3  | Armenia    |
| 4  | Australia  |
| 5  | Austria    |
| 6  | Azerbaijan |

| SN | Country                |
|----|------------------------|
| 7  | Bangladesh             |
| 8  | Belarus                |
| 9  | Belgium                |
| 10 | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 11 | Botswana               |
| 12 | Bulgaria               |

| SN | Country       |
|----|---------------|
| 13 | Burkina Faso  |
| 14 | Burundi       |
| 15 | Canada        |
| 16 | China         |
| 17 | Cote d’Ivoire |
| 18 | Croatia       |

| SN | Country           |
|----|-------------------|
| 19 | Cuba              |
| 20 | Cyprus            |
| 21 | Czech Republic    |
| 22 | Denmark           |
| 23 | Egypt             |
| 24 | Equatorial Guinea |
| 25 | Eritrea           |
| 26 | Estonia           |
| 27 | Ethiopia          |
| 28 | Finland           |
| 29 | France            |
| 30 | Georgia           |
| 31 | Germany           |
| 32 | Ghana             |
| 33 | Greece            |
| 34 | Guinea            |
| 35 | Guinea-Bissau     |
| 36 | Hungary           |
| 37 | Iceland           |
| 38 | India             |
| 39 | Indonesia         |
| 40 | Iran              |
| 41 | Ireland           |
| 42 | Israel            |
| 43 | Italy             |
| 44 | Japan             |
| 45 | Jordan            |
| 46 | Kazakhstan        |
| 47 | Kenya             |
| 48 | Korea             |
| 49 | Kyrgyzstan        |

| SN | Country            |
|----|--------------------|
| 50 | Lao PDR            |
| 51 | Latvia             |
| 52 | Lesotho            |
| 53 | Libya              |
| 54 | Lithuania          |
| 55 | Luxembourg         |
| 56 | Madagascar         |
| 57 | Malaysia           |
| 58 | Mali               |
| 59 | Mauritania         |
| 60 | Moldova            |
| 61 | Mongolia           |
| 62 | Montenegro         |
| 63 | Morocco            |
| 64 | Nepal              |
| 65 | Netherlands        |
| 66 | New Zealand        |
| 67 | Niger              |
| 68 | Nigeria            |
| 69 | North Korea        |
| 70 | North Macedonia    |
| 71 | Norway             |
| 72 | Pakistan           |
| 73 | Papua New Guinea   |
| 74 | Peru               |
| 75 | Philippines        |
| 76 | Poland             |
| 77 | Portugal           |
| 78 | Romania            |
| 79 | Russian Federation |
| 80 | Rwanda             |

| SN  | Country        |
|-----|----------------|
| 81  | Saudi Arabia   |
| 82  | Senegal        |
| 83  | Serbia         |
| 84  | Sierra Leone   |
| 85  | Singapore      |
| 86  | Slovakia       |
| 87  | Slovenia       |
| 88  | South Africa   |
| 89  | Spain          |
| 90  | Sri Lanka      |
| 91  | Swaziland      |
| 92  | Sweden         |
| 93  | Switzerland    |
| 94  | Taiwan         |
| 95  | Tanzania       |
| 96  | Thailand       |
| 97  | Tunisia        |
| 98  | Turkey         |
| 99  | Turkmenistan   |
| 100 | Uganda         |
| 101 | Ukraine        |
| 102 | United Kingdom |
| 103 | Uruguay        |
| 104 | USA            |
| 105 | Venezuela      |
| 106 | Viet Nam       |
| 107 | Zambia         |

Now, to judge the strength of the correlations, the rule undertaken in this study is presented in Table 2. The two values, 0.75 and 0.4, have been selected partly arbitrarily, partly following conventions, and partly with the aim that the number of countries in all the three categories of strength should be moderate—these two values have been selected after the correlation matrix was formed and analysis was carried out to some extent.

**Table 2: Classifying the strength of correlation (r: Pearson's Correlation Coefficient)**

| Value of r             | Strength                      |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| $0.75 \leq  r  \leq 1$ | Strong                        |
| $0.40 \leq  r  < 0.75$ | Moderate                      |
| $0 \leq  r  < 0.40$    | Weak or No Correlation (W/NC) |

The 'r' being positive means that the richest 1% of the two corresponding countries move in synergy. The 'r' being negative means that the richest 1% of the two corresponding countries are in conflict. The 'r' being closer to zero means that either the richest 1% in the two corresponding countries are neither in synergy nor in competition, or they are in the gray area of both synergy and competition (there might be competing classes within the richest 1% within a country).

Now, to answer the primary question (are they related?), out of the  $^{107}C_2 = 5,671$  correlation coefficients, the percentage distribution of strong, moderate, and weak or no correlations will be checked. In the absence of any previous work of a similar nature, it is difficult to fix, in the present context, any threshold level exceeding which the percentage of strong and moderate correlations in the correlation matrix will prove that there exists a relation between the share of the richest 1% of one country with another, in general. So, if only a few such correlations are found, the study will be moved ahead to Case 1 ('Yes'). If, contrary to the expectation, no strong nor moderate correlations are found, the study will end up in Case 2 ('No'), and it will be concluded that the richest 1% across the countries do not belong to the TCC.

Now, if relations exist (Case 1), then, to answer the question no. 1 (how well integrated they are in the TCC), two exercises will be undertaken –

1. For each of the 107 countries, the other 106 countries will be arranged in descending order of the correlation coefficient (this will not be reported), and then, to understand the degree of integrity of the countries in the TCC, the number of strong, moderate, and weak or no correlations in six ranks – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 106<sup>th</sup>, 105<sup>th</sup>, and 104<sup>th</sup> and their percentage distribution will be reported. On the positive side, lower correlations will mean weaker or no correlation, whereas on

the negative side, lower correlations will mean stronger correlations. Here, the arrangement is not on the basis of the absolute value of the correlation coefficient.

2. Additionally, for each of the 107 countries, the number of correlations according to sign and strength will be reported.

Then, to answer the question no. 2 (do they move in the same way?), the study will revert back to the distribution of correlation coefficients prepared to answer the primary question, where the correlations will be classified by strength and sign. If both positive and negative signs are well-populated in the strong and moderate strength categories, then the answer will be – ‘No’. If the answer is ‘Yes’, then there might not be any need to form the block structure. If it is found that they all do not move in the same way, the question no. 2(b) will be taken up.

To answer the question no. 2(b) – what the block structure is, and if there is any geopolitical geo-economic significance of this block structure – two exercises will be undertaken –

1. Blocks of countries will be reported. For forming the blocks, the countries will first be arranged on the basis of their correlation with the USA. USA is being selected as the Nodal Country for two reasons – (1) it has all 43 unique values for the 43 years, and (2) in the post-Soviet unipolar world, USA is generally considered as the unique pole. Then, the remaining 106 countries will be grouped on the basis of two criteria – (1) sign of the correlation coefficient (Positive, Negative), and (2) strength of the correlation Coefficient (Strong, Moderate, W/NC). Thus, there will be, hypothetically, six blocks of countries. Although the positive and negative blocks will show synergy and conflict, dividing them further according to strength will show the continuum from synergy to conflict.
2. It will also be reported for each of the 107 countries – (A) which three countries have the highest correlation – having rank 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, and (B) which three countries have the lowest correlation – having rank 106<sup>th</sup>, 105<sup>th</sup>, and 104<sup>th</sup>. The corresponding correlation coefficients will also be reported. This second exercise will be undertaken as an aid for explaining the block structure derived in the previous exercise.

After the formation of the blocks, the blocks will partially and manually be investigated to check if any geo-economic significance is visible in this block structure. If it is found that the block structure has no geo-economic significance, then, it will be concluded that the synergy or conflicts among the richest 1% across the countries are not guided by geo-economic interests; although, they belong to the TCC and are well-integrated in it.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the analyses will be carried out step by step, following the logical structure of the investigation described in the introduction.

##### A) Investigating the primary question – whether there is any relation

After deriving the correlation matrix (not reported here), Table 3 is prepared. Table 3 gives the number of correlations of different strengths and signs as found in the correlation matrix.

**Table 3: Distribution of correlation coefficients according to their strength and sign**

| Strength of r | Sign of r           | POSITIVE | NEGATIVE | Grand Total |
|---------------|---------------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| STRONG        | No. of Correlations | 486      | 323      | 809         |
|               | % of Column Total   | 15.58    | 12.66    | 14.27       |
|               | % of Row Total      | 60.07    | 39.93    | 100.00      |
| MODERATE      | No. of Correlations | 1137     | 855      | 1992        |
|               | % of Column Total   | 36.45    | 33.50    | 35.13       |
|               | % of Row Total      | 57.08    | 42.92    | 100.00      |
| W/NC          | No. of Correlations | 1496     | 1374     | 2870        |
|               | % of Column Total   | 47.96    | 53.84    | 50.61       |
|               | % of Row Total      | 52.13    | 47.87    | 100.00      |
| Grand Total   | No. of Correlations | 3119     | 2552     | 5671        |
|               | % of Row Total      | 55.00    | 45.00    | 100         |

As observed from Table 3, 14.27% of all the 5,671 correlation coefficients are strong, of which 60.07% are positive and 39.93% are negative. 35.13% are moderately strong correlations, of which 57.08% are positive and 42.92% are negative.

The primary question of this study was whether there is any relation between the share of the richest 1% (in pre-tax national income) in one country with the same in another country. Since strong and moderately strong correlations are almost half of all the correlations, the answer is – yes – in tune with the expectation. This proves that – the richest 1% across countries are interrelated in the context of their share in the national income of their own countries; i.e., **the richest 1% of different countries can be taken as belonging to the TCC, and hence their commands over their own countries through extractive powers are also interrelated.**

The first query in Case 1 of the logical structure of the investigation is taken up in the next section.

**B) Investigating the question no. 1 – how well integrated the countries are in the TCC**

**Table 4: Distribution of 107 countries according to the strength and sign of correlation at the three highest and lowest ranks**

| Strength    | Sign                | Positive |        |        | Negative |          |          |
|-------------|---------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|----------|----------|
|             | Rank                | Rank 1   | Rank 2 | Rank 3 | Rank 106 | Rank 105 | Rank 104 |
| Strong      | Number of Countries | 84       | 71     | 65     | 75       | 67       | 58       |
|             | % of Column Total   | 78.50    | 66.36  | 60.75  | 70.09    | 62.62    | 54.21    |
| Moderate    | Number of Countries | 23       | 36     | 41     | 32       | 40       | 44       |
|             | % of Column Total   | 21.50    | 33.64  | 38.32  | 29.91    | 37.38    | 41.12    |
| W/NC        | Number of Countries | 0        | 0      | 1      | 0        | 0        | 5        |
|             | % of Column Total   | 0.00     | 0.00   | 0.93   | 0.00     | 0.00     | 4.67     |
| Grand Total |                     | 107      | 107    | 107    | 107      | 107      | 107      |

Table 5A represents, for each of the 107 countries, how many strong, moderate, and weak or no correlations are there, for both positive and negative correlations. The list is arranged first, in descending order of the number of correlations found in the Positive-Strong category, then in descending order of the number of correlations found in the Positive-Moderate category, and then in descending order of the number of correlations found in the Positive-W/NC category. In Table 5B, the same has been done but in descending order of the number of correlations found in the respective strength categories for the negative sign. (Note: Bosnia and Herzegovina have been abbreviated as B&H, Strong as STR, and Moderate as MOD.)

**Table 5A: List of 107 countries with the number of correlations for each sign and strength (arranged in descending order of the number of correlations in the strength category on the positive side)**

| Rank | Country            | POSITIVE |     |      |       | NEGATIVE |     |      |       | Total |     |      | GT  |
|------|--------------------|----------|-----|------|-------|----------|-----|------|-------|-------|-----|------|-----|
|      |                    | STR      | MOD | W/NC | Total | STR      | MOD | W/NC | Total | STR   | MOD | W/NC |     |
| 1    | India              | 36       | 15  | 15   | 66    | 16       | 11  | 13   | 40    | 52    | 26  | 28   | 106 |
| 2    | Australia          | 35       | 14  | 18   | 67    | 14       | 10  | 15   | 39    | 49    | 24  | 33   | 106 |
| 3    | Russian Federation | 32       | 19  | 17   | 68    | 7        | 17  | 14   | 38    | 39    | 36  | 31   | 106 |
| 4    | South Africa       | 31       | 22  | 15   | 68    | 12       | 13  | 13   | 38    | 43    | 35  | 28   | 106 |
| 5    | Rwanda             | 30       | 21  | 21   | 72    | 5        | 17  | 12   | 34    | 35    | 38  | 33   | 106 |
| 6    | Hungary            | 30       | 21  | 16   | 67    | 12       | 12  | 15   | 39    | 42    | 33  | 31   | 106 |
| 7    | Poland             | 29       | 22  | 13   | 64    | 11       | 14  | 17   | 42    | 40    | 36  | 30   | 106 |
| 8    | China              | 29       | 19  | 15   | 63    | 11       | 12  | 20   | 43    | 40    | 31  | 35   | 106 |
| 9    | Taiwan             | 26       | 23  | 17   | 66    | 13       | 14  | 13   | 40    | 39    | 37  | 30   | 106 |
| 10   | Slovakia           | 26       | 22  | 17   | 65    | 12       | 14  | 15   | 41    | 38    | 36  | 32   | 106 |
| 11   | United Kingdom     | 25       | 28  | 17   | 70    | 10       | 13  | 13   | 36    | 35    | 41  | 30   | 106 |
| 12   | USA                | 25       | 24  | 16   | 65    | 11       | 13  | 17   | 41    | 36    | 37  | 33   | 106 |
| 13   | B&H                | 25       | 24  | 15   | 64    | 10       | 16  | 16   | 42    | 35    | 40  | 31   | 106 |
| 14   | Canada             | 23       | 27  | 19   | 69    | 4        | 15  | 18   | 37    | 27    | 42  | 37   | 106 |
| 15   | France             | 23       | 27  | 17   | 67    | 5        | 16  | 18   | 39    | 28    | 43  | 35   | 106 |
| 16   | Croatia            | 23       | 27  | 14   | 64    | 12       | 17  | 13   | 42    | 35    | 44  | 27   | 106 |
| 17   | Tanzania           | 21       | 20  | 22   | 63    | 13       | 20  | 10   | 43    | 34    | 40  | 32   | 106 |
| 18   | Czech Republic     | 20       | 27  | 27   | 74    | 2        | 11  | 19   | 32    | 22    | 38  | 46   | 106 |
| 19   | Norway             | 19       | 29  | 22   | 70    | 7        | 15  | 14   | 36    | 26    | 44  | 36   | 106 |
| 20   | Sri Lanka          | 19       | 27  | 22   | 68    | 8        | 17  | 13   | 38    | 27    | 44  | 35   | 106 |
| 21   | Portugal           | 18       | 31  | 19   | 68    | 2        | 14  | 22   | 38    | 20    | 45  | 41   | 106 |
| 22   | Singapore          | 18       | 31  | 18   | 67    | 7        | 17  | 15   | 39    | 25    | 48  | 33   | 106 |
| 23   | Bangladesh         | 16       | 34  | 22   | 72    | 4        | 16  | 14   | 34    | 20    | 50  | 36   | 106 |
| 24   | Italy              | 16       | 30  | 18   | 64    | 6        | 17  | 19   | 42    | 22    | 47  | 37   | 106 |
| 25   | Latvia             | 14       | 30  | 24   | 68    | 3        | 18  | 17   | 38    | 17    | 48  | 41   | 106 |
| 26   | Romania            | 14       | 27  | 25   | 66    | 5        | 17  | 18   | 40    | 19    | 44  | 43   | 106 |
| 27   | Zambia             | 14       | 24  | 20   | 58    | 11       | 19  | 18   | 48    | 25    | 43  | 38   | 106 |
| 28   | Lesotho            | 14       | 14  | 10   | 38    | 30       | 18  | 20   | 68    | 44    | 32  | 30   | 106 |
| 29   | Netherlands        | 13       | 37  | 17   | 67    | 2        | 17  | 20   | 39    | 15    | 54  | 37   | 106 |
| 30   | North Korea        | 13       | 31  | 18   | 62    | 10       | 17  | 17   | 44    | 23    | 48  | 35   | 106 |
| 31   | Serbia             | 12       | 34  | 23   | 69    | 2        | 20  | 15   | 37    | 14    | 54  | 38   | 106 |
| 32   | Iran               | 12       | 17  | 14   | 43    | 21       | 24  | 18   | 63    | 33    | 41  | 32   | 106 |
| 33   | Montenegro         | 11       | 31  | 28   | 70    | 4        | 20  | 12   | 36    | 15    | 51  | 40   | 106 |
| 34   | Germany            | 11       | 31  | 22   | 64    | 8        | 18  | 16   | 42    | 19    | 49  | 38   | 106 |
| 35   | Denmark            | 11       | 26  | 25   | 62    | 5        | 16  | 23   | 44    | 16    | 42  | 48   | 106 |
| 36   | Papua New Guinea   | 11       | 20  | 15   | 46    | 14       | 23  | 23   | 60    | 25    | 43  | 38   | 106 |
| 37   | Burkina Faso       | 11       | 16  | 24   | 51    | 14       | 20  | 21   | 55    | 25    | 36  | 45   | 106 |
| 38   | Mali               | 11       | 14  | 20   | 45    | 21       | 22  | 18   | 61    | 32    | 36  | 38   | 106 |

| Rank | Country           | POSITIVE |     |      |       | NEGATIVE |     |      |       | Total |     |      | GT  |
|------|-------------------|----------|-----|------|-------|----------|-----|------|-------|-------|-----|------|-----|
|      |                   | STR      | MOD | W/NC | Total | STR      | MOD | W/NC | Total | STR   | MOD | W/NC |     |
| 39   | Tunisia           | 11       | 14  | 18   | 43    | 16       | 28  | 19   | 63    | 27    | 42  | 37   | 106 |
| 40   | Senegal           | 11       | 14  | 15   | 40    | 25       | 21  | 20   | 66    | 36    | 35  | 35   | 106 |
| 41   | Moldova           | 10       | 34  | 19   | 63    | 6        | 12  | 25   | 43    | 16    | 46  | 44   | 106 |
| 42   | Bulgaria          | 10       | 33  | 22   | 65    | 4        | 10  | 27   | 41    | 14    | 43  | 49   | 106 |
| 43   | Swaziland         | 10       | 13  | 17   | 40    | 22       | 22  | 22   | 66    | 32    | 35  | 39   | 106 |
| 44   | Lithuania         | 9        | 32  | 21   | 62    | 5        | 19  | 20   | 44    | 14    | 51  | 41   | 106 |
| 45   | Malaysia          | 9        | 18  | 15   | 42    | 7        | 33  | 24   | 64    | 16    | 51  | 39   | 106 |
| 46   | Sierra Leone      | 9        | 16  | 17   | 42    | 28       | 21  | 15   | 64    | 37    | 37  | 32   | 106 |
| 47   | Egypt             | 8        | 40  | 19   | 67    | 4        | 14  | 21   | 39    | 12    | 54  | 40   | 106 |
| 48   | Mongolia          | 8        | 29  | 27   | 64    | 7        | 17  | 18   | 42    | 15    | 46  | 45   | 106 |
| 49   | Algeria           | 8        | 15  | 13   | 36    | 33       | 19  | 18   | 70    | 41    | 34  | 31   | 106 |
| 50   | Finland           | 7        | 44  | 21   | 72    | 1        | 10  | 23   | 34    | 8     | 54  | 44   | 106 |
| 51   | Ghana             | 7        | 31  | 26   | 64    | 8        | 17  | 17   | 42    | 15    | 48  | 43   | 106 |
| 52   | Guinea            | 7        | 22  | 21   | 50    | 4        | 26  | 26   | 56    | 11    | 48  | 47   | 106 |
| 53   | Eritrea           | 7        | 16  | 15   | 38    | 16       | 29  | 23   | 68    | 23    | 45  | 38   | 106 |
| 54   | Kazakhstan        | 6        | 33  | 33   | 72    | 1        | 18  | 15   | 34    | 7     | 51  | 48   | 106 |
| 55   | Turkey            | 6        | 16  | 16   | 38    | 19       | 29  | 20   | 68    | 25    | 45  | 36   | 106 |
| 56   | Ireland           | 5        | 38  | 30   | 73    | 0        | 10  | 23   | 33    | 5     | 48  | 53   | 106 |
| 57   | Japan             | 5        | 25  | 32   | 62    | 5        | 14  | 25   | 44    | 10    | 39  | 57   | 106 |
| 58   | Philippines       | 5        | 17  | 28   | 50    | 3        | 19  | 34   | 56    | 8     | 36  | 62   | 106 |
| 59   | Korea             | 4        | 22  | 33   | 59    | 5        | 23  | 19   | 47    | 9     | 45  | 52   | 106 |
| 60   | Slovenia          | 3        | 34  | 34   | 71    | 2        | 11  | 22   | 35    | 5     | 45  | 56   | 106 |
| 61   | New Zealand       | 3        | 33  | 29   | 65    | 0        | 9   | 32   | 41    | 3     | 42  | 61   | 106 |
| 62   | Nigeria           | 3        | 25  | 33   | 61    | 0        | 12  | 33   | 45    | 3     | 37  | 66   | 106 |
| 63   | Cuba              | 3        | 24  | 31   | 58    | 1        | 19  | 28   | 48    | 4     | 43  | 59   | 106 |
| 64   | Guinea-Bissau     | 3        | 18  | 15   | 36    | 19       | 30  | 21   | 70    | 22    | 48  | 36   | 106 |
| 65   | Libya             | 3        | 16  | 24   | 43    | 10       | 33  | 20   | 63    | 13    | 49  | 44   | 106 |
| 66   | Israel            | 2        | 37  | 32   | 71    | 4        | 8   | 23   | 35    | 6     | 45  | 55   | 106 |
| 67   | Ethiopia          | 2        | 22  | 21   | 45    | 2        | 39  | 20   | 61    | 4     | 61  | 41   | 106 |
| 68   | Ukraine           | 2        | 18  | 20   | 40    | 0        | 34  | 32   | 66    | 2     | 52  | 52   | 106 |
| 69   | Burundi           | 2        | 16  | 41   | 59    | 1        | 11  | 35   | 47    | 3     | 27  | 76   | 106 |
| 70   | Nepal             | 2        | 15  | 60   | 77    | 0        | 6   | 23   | 29    | 2     | 21  | 83   | 106 |
| 71   | Madagascar        | 2        | 13  | 17   | 32    | 1        | 40  | 33   | 74    | 3     | 53  | 50   | 106 |
| 72   | Pakistan          | 1        | 40  | 34   | 75    | 0        | 11  | 20   | 31    | 1     | 51  | 54   | 106 |
| 73   | Sweden            | 1        | 38  | 28   | 67    | 1        | 14  | 24   | 39    | 2     | 52  | 52   | 106 |
| 74   | Estonia           | 1        | 34  | 37   | 72    | 0        | 2   | 32   | 34    | 1     | 36  | 69   | 106 |
| 75   | Turkmenistan      | 1        | 26  | 31   | 58    | 2        | 25  | 21   | 48    | 3     | 51  | 52   | 106 |
| 76   | Uruguay           | 1        | 25  | 37   | 63    | 0        | 13  | 30   | 43    | 1     | 38  | 67   | 106 |
| 77   | Niger             | 1        | 24  | 39   | 64    | 0        | 10  | 32   | 42    | 1     | 34  | 71   | 106 |
| 78   | Equatorial Guinea | 1        | 21  | 18   | 40    | 3        | 37  | 26   | 66    | 4     | 58  | 44   | 106 |
| 79   | Mauritania        | 1        | 19  | 20   | 40    | 0        | 42  | 24   | 66    | 1     | 61  | 44   | 106 |
| 80   | Kenya             | 1        | 18  | 19   | 38    | 8        | 32  | 28   | 68    | 9     | 50  | 47   | 106 |
| 81   | Thailand          | 1        | 16  | 26   | 43    | 2        | 31  | 30   | 63    | 3     | 47  | 56   | 106 |
| 82   | Greece            | 1        | 15  | 58   | 74    | 0        | 6   | 26   | 32    | 1     | 21  | 84   | 106 |
| 83   | Botswana          | 1        | 13  | 39   | 53    | 0        | 9   | 44   | 53    | 1     | 22  | 83   | 106 |
| 84   | Belarus           | 1        | 11  | 47   | 59    | 0        | 8   | 39   | 47    | 1     | 19  | 86   | 106 |
| 85   | North Macedonia   | 0        | 23  | 47   | 70    | 0        | 7   | 29   | 36    | 0     | 30  | 76   | 106 |
| 86   | Armenia           | 0        | 23  | 25   | 48    | 0        | 27  | 31   | 58    | 0     | 50  | 56   | 106 |
| 87   | Luxembourg        | 0        | 18  | 46   | 64    | 0        | 4   | 38   | 42    | 0     | 22  | 84   | 106 |
| 88   | Iceland           | 0        | 16  | 52   | 68    | 0        | 2   | 36   | 38    | 0     | 18  | 88   | 106 |
| 89   | Venezuela         | 0        | 16  | 51   | 67    | 0        | 6   | 33   | 39    | 0     | 22  | 84   | 106 |
| 90   | Cote d'Ivoire     | 0        | 15  | 49   | 64    | 0        | 11  | 31   | 42    | 0     | 26  | 80   | 106 |
| 91   | Lao PDR           | 0        | 13  | 64   | 77    | 0        | 2   | 27   | 29    | 0     | 15  | 91   | 106 |
| 92   | Jordan            | 0        | 13  | 38   | 51    | 2        | 16  | 37   | 55    | 2     | 29  | 75   | 106 |
| 93   | Morocco           | 0        | 12  | 25   | 37    | 1        | 15  | 53   | 69    | 1     | 27  | 78   | 106 |
| 94   | Peru              | 0        | 11  | 68   | 79    | 0        | 2   | 25   | 27    | 0     | 13  | 93   | 106 |
| 95   | Belgium           | 0        | 10  | 56   | 66    | 0        | 3   | 37   | 40    | 0     | 13  | 93   | 106 |
| 96   | Uganda            | 0        | 10  | 50   | 60    | 0        | 3   | 43   | 46    | 0     | 13  | 93   | 106 |
| 97   | Azerbaijan        | 0        | 10  | 37   | 47    | 0        | 9   | 50   | 59    | 0     | 19  | 87   | 106 |
| 98   | Saudi Arabia      | 0        | 10  | 26   | 36    | 3        | 26  | 41   | 70    | 3     | 36  | 67   | 106 |
| 99   | Austria           | 0        | 8   | 49   | 57    | 0        | 4   | 45   | 49    | 0     | 12  | 94   | 106 |
| 100  | Georgia           | 0        | 8   | 44   | 52    | 0        | 8   | 46   | 54    | 0     | 16  | 90   | 106 |
| 101  | Kyrgyzstan        | 0        | 6   | 39   | 45    | 1        | 8   | 52   | 61    | 1     | 14  | 91   | 106 |
| 102  | Spain             | 0        | 6   | 35   | 41    | 0        | 11  | 54   | 65    | 0     | 17  | 89   | 106 |

| Rank            | Country     | POSITIVE |      |      |       | NEGATIVE |      |      |       | Total |      |      | GT    |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|------|------|-------|----------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|
|                 |             | STR      | MOD  | W/NC | Total | STR      | MOD  | W/NC | Total | STR   | MOD  | W/NC |       |
| 103             | Albania     | 0        | 5    | 48   | 53    | 0        | 2    | 51   | 53    | 0     | 7    | 99   | 106   |
| 104             | Indonesia   | 0        | 4    | 48   | 52    | 0        | 10   | 44   | 54    | 0     | 14   | 92   | 106   |
| 105             | Viet Nam    | 0        | 3    | 40   | 43    | 0        | 3    | 60   | 63    | 0     | 6    | 100  | 106   |
| 106             | Cyprus      | 0        | 3    | 27   | 30    | 0        | 5    | 71   | 76    | 0     | 8    | 98   | 106   |
| 107             | Switzerland | 0        | 2    | 63   | 65    | 0        | 3    | 38   | 41    | 0     | 5    | 101  | 106   |
| Grand Total     |             | 972      | 2274 | 2992 | 6238  | 646      | 1710 | 2748 | 5104  | 1618  | 3984 | 5740 | 11342 |
| Grand Total ÷ 2 |             | 486      | 1137 | 1496 | 3119  | 323      | 855  | 1374 | 2552  | 809   | 1992 | 2870 | 5671  |

**Table 5B: List of 107 countries with the number of correlations for each sign and strength (arranged in descending order of the number of correlations in the strength category on the negative side)**

| Rank | Country            | POSITIVE |     |      |       | NEGATIVE |     |      |       | Total |     |      | GT  |
|------|--------------------|----------|-----|------|-------|----------|-----|------|-------|-------|-----|------|-----|
|      |                    | STR      | MOD | W/NC | Total | STR      | MOD | W/NC | Total | STR   | MOD | W/NC |     |
| 1    | Algeria            | 8        | 15  | 13   | 36    | 33       | 19  | 18   | 70    | 41    | 34  | 31   | 106 |
| 2    | Lesotho            | 14       | 14  | 10   | 38    | 30       | 18  | 20   | 68    | 44    | 32  | 30   | 106 |
| 3    | Sierra Leone       | 9        | 16  | 17   | 42    | 28       | 21  | 15   | 64    | 37    | 37  | 32   | 106 |
| 4    | Senegal            | 11       | 14  | 15   | 40    | 25       | 21  | 20   | 66    | 36    | 35  | 35   | 106 |
| 5    | Swaziland          | 10       | 13  | 17   | 40    | 22       | 22  | 22   | 66    | 32    | 35  | 39   | 106 |
| 6    | Iran               | 12       | 17  | 14   | 43    | 21       | 24  | 18   | 63    | 33    | 41  | 32   | 106 |
| 7    | Mali               | 11       | 14  | 20   | 45    | 21       | 22  | 18   | 61    | 32    | 36  | 38   | 106 |
| 8    | Guinea-Bissau      | 3        | 18  | 15   | 36    | 19       | 30  | 21   | 70    | 22    | 48  | 36   | 106 |
| 9    | Turkey             | 6        | 16  | 16   | 38    | 19       | 29  | 20   | 68    | 25    | 45  | 36   | 106 |
| 10   | Eritrea            | 7        | 16  | 15   | 38    | 16       | 29  | 23   | 68    | 23    | 45  | 38   | 106 |
| 11   | Tunisia            | 11       | 14  | 18   | 43    | 16       | 28  | 19   | 63    | 27    | 42  | 37   | 106 |
| 12   | India              | 36       | 15  | 15   | 66    | 16       | 11  | 13   | 40    | 52    | 26  | 28   | 106 |
| 13   | Papua New Guinea   | 11       | 20  | 15   | 46    | 14       | 23  | 23   | 60    | 25    | 43  | 38   | 106 |
| 14   | Burkina Faso       | 11       | 16  | 24   | 51    | 14       | 20  | 21   | 55    | 25    | 36  | 45   | 106 |
| 15   | Australia          | 35       | 14  | 18   | 67    | 14       | 10  | 15   | 39    | 49    | 24  | 33   | 106 |
| 16   | Tanzania           | 21       | 20  | 22   | 63    | 13       | 20  | 10   | 43    | 34    | 40  | 32   | 106 |
| 17   | Taiwan             | 26       | 23  | 17   | 66    | 13       | 14  | 13   | 40    | 39    | 37  | 30   | 106 |
| 18   | Croatia            | 23       | 27  | 14   | 64    | 12       | 17  | 13   | 42    | 35    | 44  | 27   | 106 |
| 19   | Slovakia           | 26       | 22  | 17   | 65    | 12       | 14  | 15   | 41    | 38    | 36  | 32   | 106 |
| 20   | South Africa       | 31       | 22  | 15   | 68    | 12       | 13  | 13   | 38    | 43    | 35  | 28   | 106 |
| 21   | Hungary            | 30       | 21  | 16   | 67    | 12       | 12  | 15   | 39    | 42    | 33  | 31   | 106 |
| 22   | Zambia             | 14       | 24  | 20   | 58    | 11       | 19  | 18   | 48    | 25    | 43  | 38   | 106 |
| 23   | Poland             | 29       | 22  | 13   | 64    | 11       | 14  | 17   | 42    | 40    | 36  | 30   | 106 |
| 24   | USA                | 25       | 24  | 16   | 65    | 11       | 13  | 17   | 41    | 36    | 37  | 33   | 106 |
| 25   | China              | 29       | 19  | 15   | 63    | 11       | 12  | 20   | 43    | 40    | 31  | 35   | 106 |
| 26   | Libya              | 3        | 16  | 24   | 43    | 10       | 33  | 20   | 63    | 13    | 49  | 44   | 106 |
| 27   | North Korea        | 13       | 31  | 18   | 62    | 10       | 17  | 17   | 44    | 23    | 48  | 35   | 106 |
| 28   | B&H                | 25       | 24  | 15   | 64    | 10       | 16  | 16   | 42    | 35    | 40  | 31   | 106 |
| 29   | United Kingdom     | 25       | 28  | 17   | 70    | 10       | 13  | 13   | 36    | 35    | 41  | 30   | 106 |
| 30   | Kenya              | 1        | 18  | 19   | 38    | 8        | 32  | 28   | 68    | 9     | 50  | 47   | 106 |
| 31   | Germany            | 11       | 31  | 22   | 64    | 8        | 18  | 16   | 42    | 19    | 49  | 38   | 106 |
| 32   | Ghana              | 7        | 31  | 26   | 64    | 8        | 17  | 17   | 42    | 15    | 48  | 43   | 106 |
| 33   | Sri Lanka          | 19       | 27  | 22   | 68    | 8        | 17  | 13   | 38    | 27    | 44  | 35   | 106 |
| 34   | Malaysia           | 9        | 18  | 15   | 42    | 7        | 33  | 24   | 64    | 16    | 51  | 39   | 106 |
| 35   | Mongolia           | 8        | 29  | 27   | 64    | 7        | 17  | 18   | 42    | 15    | 46  | 45   | 106 |
| 36   | Singapore          | 18       | 31  | 18   | 67    | 7        | 17  | 15   | 39    | 25    | 48  | 33   | 106 |
| 37   | Russian Federation | 32       | 19  | 17   | 68    | 7        | 17  | 14   | 38    | 39    | 36  | 31   | 106 |
| 38   | Norway             | 19       | 29  | 22   | 70    | 7        | 15  | 14   | 36    | 26    | 44  | 36   | 106 |
| 39   | Italy              | 16       | 30  | 18   | 64    | 6        | 17  | 19   | 42    | 22    | 47  | 37   | 106 |
| 40   | Moldova            | 10       | 34  | 19   | 63    | 6        | 12  | 25   | 43    | 16    | 46  | 44   | 106 |
| 41   | Korea              | 4        | 22  | 33   | 59    | 5        | 23  | 19   | 47    | 9     | 45  | 52   | 106 |
| 42   | Lithuania          | 9        | 32  | 21   | 62    | 5        | 19  | 20   | 44    | 14    | 51  | 41   | 106 |
| 43   | Romania            | 14       | 27  | 25   | 66    | 5        | 17  | 18   | 40    | 19    | 44  | 43   | 106 |
| 44   | Rwanda             | 30       | 21  | 21   | 72    | 5        | 17  | 12   | 34    | 35    | 38  | 33   | 106 |
| 45   | Denmark            | 11       | 26  | 25   | 62    | 5        | 16  | 23   | 44    | 16    | 42  | 48   | 106 |
| 46   | France             | 23       | 27  | 17   | 67    | 5        | 16  | 18   | 39    | 28    | 43  | 35   | 106 |
| 47   | Japan              | 5        | 25  | 32   | 62    | 5        | 14  | 25   | 44    | 10    | 39  | 57   | 106 |
| 48   | Guinea             | 7        | 22  | 21   | 50    | 4        | 26  | 26   | 56    | 11    | 48  | 47   | 106 |
| 49   | Montenegro         | 11       | 31  | 28   | 70    | 4        | 20  | 12   | 36    | 15    | 51  | 40   | 106 |
| 50   | Bangladesh         | 16       | 34  | 22   | 72    | 4        | 16  | 14   | 34    | 20    | 50  | 36   | 106 |
| 51   | Canada             | 23       | 27  | 19   | 69    | 4        | 15  | 18   | 37    | 27    | 42  | 37   | 106 |
| 52   | Egypt              | 8        | 40  | 19   | 67    | 4        | 14  | 21   | 39    | 12    | 54  | 40   | 106 |

| Rank            | Country           | POSITIVE |      |      |       | NEGATIVE |      |      |       | Total |      |      | GT    |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------|------|------|-------|----------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|
|                 |                   | STR      | MOD  | W/NC | Total | STR      | MOD  | W/NC | Total | STR   | MOD  | W/NC |       |
| 53              | Bulgaria          | 10       | 33   | 22   | 65    | 4        | 10   | 27   | 41    | 14    | 43   | 49   | 106   |
| 54              | Israel            | 2        | 37   | 32   | 71    | 4        | 8    | 23   | 35    | 6     | 45   | 55   | 106   |
| 55              | Equatorial Guinea | 1        | 21   | 18   | 40    | 3        | 37   | 26   | 66    | 4     | 58   | 44   | 106   |
| 56              | Saudi Arabia      | 0        | 10   | 26   | 36    | 3        | 26   | 41   | 70    | 3     | 36   | 67   | 106   |
| 57              | Philippines       | 5        | 17   | 28   | 50    | 3        | 19   | 34   | 56    | 8     | 36   | 62   | 106   |
| 58              | Latvia            | 14       | 30   | 24   | 68    | 3        | 18   | 17   | 38    | 17    | 48   | 41   | 106   |
| 59              | Ethiopia          | 2        | 22   | 21   | 45    | 2        | 39   | 20   | 61    | 4     | 61   | 41   | 106   |
| 60              | Thailand          | 1        | 16   | 26   | 43    | 2        | 31   | 30   | 63    | 3     | 47   | 56   | 106   |
| 61              | Turkmenistan      | 1        | 26   | 31   | 58    | 2        | 25   | 21   | 48    | 3     | 51   | 52   | 106   |
| 62              | Serbia            | 12       | 34   | 23   | 69    | 2        | 20   | 15   | 37    | 14    | 54   | 38   | 106   |
| 63              | Netherlands       | 13       | 37   | 17   | 67    | 2        | 17   | 20   | 39    | 15    | 54   | 37   | 106   |
| 64              | Jordan            | 0        | 13   | 38   | 51    | 2        | 16   | 37   | 55    | 2     | 29   | 75   | 106   |
| 65              | Portugal          | 18       | 31   | 19   | 68    | 2        | 14   | 22   | 38    | 20    | 45   | 41   | 106   |
| 66              | Slovenia          | 3        | 34   | 34   | 71    | 2        | 11   | 22   | 35    | 5     | 45   | 56   | 106   |
| 67              | Czech Republic    | 20       | 27   | 27   | 74    | 2        | 11   | 19   | 32    | 22    | 38   | 46   | 106   |
| 68              | Madagascar        | 2        | 13   | 17   | 32    | 1        | 40   | 33   | 74    | 3     | 53   | 50   | 106   |
| 69              | Cuba              | 3        | 24   | 31   | 58    | 1        | 19   | 28   | 48    | 4     | 43   | 59   | 106   |
| 70              | Kazakhstan        | 6        | 33   | 33   | 72    | 1        | 18   | 15   | 34    | 7     | 51   | 48   | 106   |
| 71              | Morocco           | 0        | 12   | 25   | 37    | 1        | 15   | 53   | 69    | 1     | 27   | 78   | 106   |
| 72              | Sweden            | 1        | 38   | 28   | 67    | 1        | 14   | 24   | 39    | 2     | 52   | 52   | 106   |
| 73              | Burundi           | 2        | 16   | 41   | 59    | 1        | 11   | 35   | 47    | 3     | 27   | 76   | 106   |
| 74              | Finland           | 7        | 44   | 21   | 72    | 1        | 10   | 23   | 34    | 8     | 54   | 44   | 106   |
| 75              | Kyrgyzstan        | 0        | 6    | 39   | 45    | 1        | 8    | 52   | 61    | 1     | 14   | 91   | 106   |
| 76              | Mauritania        | 1        | 19   | 20   | 40    | 0        | 42   | 24   | 66    | 1     | 61   | 44   | 106   |
| 77              | Ukraine           | 2        | 18   | 20   | 40    | 0        | 34   | 32   | 66    | 2     | 52   | 52   | 106   |
| 78              | Armenia           | 0        | 23   | 25   | 48    | 0        | 27   | 31   | 58    | 0     | 50   | 56   | 106   |
| 79              | Uruguay           | 1        | 25   | 37   | 63    | 0        | 13   | 30   | 43    | 1     | 38   | 67   | 106   |
| 80              | Nigeria           | 3        | 25   | 33   | 61    | 0        | 12   | 33   | 45    | 3     | 37   | 66   | 106   |
| 81              | Spain             | 0        | 6    | 35   | 41    | 0        | 11   | 54   | 65    | 0     | 17   | 89   | 106   |
| 82              | Cote d'Ivoire     | 0        | 15   | 49   | 64    | 0        | 11   | 31   | 42    | 0     | 26   | 80   | 106   |
| 83              | Pakistan          | 1        | 40   | 34   | 75    | 0        | 11   | 20   | 31    | 1     | 51   | 54   | 106   |
| 84              | Indonesia         | 0        | 4    | 48   | 52    | 0        | 10   | 44   | 54    | 0     | 14   | 92   | 106   |
| 85              | Niger             | 1        | 24   | 39   | 64    | 0        | 10   | 32   | 42    | 1     | 34   | 71   | 106   |
| 86              | Ireland           | 5        | 38   | 30   | 73    | 0        | 10   | 23   | 33    | 5     | 48   | 53   | 106   |
| 87              | Azerbaijan        | 0        | 10   | 37   | 47    | 0        | 9    | 50   | 59    | 0     | 19   | 87   | 106   |
| 88              | Botswana          | 1        | 13   | 39   | 53    | 0        | 9    | 44   | 53    | 1     | 22   | 83   | 106   |
| 89              | New Zealand       | 3        | 33   | 29   | 65    | 0        | 9    | 32   | 41    | 3     | 42   | 61   | 106   |
| 90              | Georgia           | 0        | 8    | 44   | 52    | 0        | 8    | 46   | 54    | 0     | 16   | 90   | 106   |
| 91              | Belarus           | 1        | 11   | 47   | 59    | 0        | 8    | 39   | 47    | 1     | 19   | 86   | 106   |
| 92              | North Macedonia   | 0        | 23   | 47   | 70    | 0        | 7    | 29   | 36    | 0     | 30   | 76   | 106   |
| 93              | Venezuela         | 0        | 16   | 51   | 67    | 0        | 6    | 33   | 39    | 0     | 22   | 84   | 106   |
| 94              | Greece            | 1        | 15   | 58   | 74    | 0        | 6    | 26   | 32    | 1     | 21   | 84   | 106   |
| 95              | Nepal             | 2        | 15   | 60   | 77    | 0        | 6    | 23   | 29    | 2     | 21   | 83   | 106   |
| 96              | Cyprus            | 0        | 3    | 27   | 30    | 0        | 5    | 71   | 76    | 0     | 8    | 98   | 106   |
| 97              | Austria           | 0        | 8    | 49   | 57    | 0        | 4    | 45   | 49    | 0     | 12   | 94   | 106   |
| 98              | Luxembourg        | 0        | 18   | 46   | 64    | 0        | 4    | 38   | 42    | 0     | 22   | 84   | 106   |
| 99              | Viet Nam          | 0        | 3    | 40   | 43    | 0        | 3    | 60   | 63    | 0     | 6    | 100  | 106   |
| 100             | Uganda            | 0        | 10   | 50   | 60    | 0        | 3    | 43   | 46    | 0     | 13   | 93   | 106   |
| 101             | Switzerland       | 0        | 2    | 63   | 65    | 0        | 3    | 38   | 41    | 0     | 5    | 101  | 106   |
| 102             | Belgium           | 0        | 10   | 56   | 66    | 0        | 3    | 37   | 40    | 0     | 13   | 93   | 106   |
| 103             | Albania           | 0        | 5    | 48   | 53    | 0        | 2    | 51   | 53    | 0     | 7    | 99   | 106   |
| 104             | Iceland           | 0        | 16   | 52   | 68    | 0        | 2    | 36   | 38    | 0     | 18   | 88   | 106   |
| 105             | Estonia           | 1        | 34   | 37   | 72    | 0        | 2    | 32   | 34    | 1     | 36   | 69   | 106   |
| 106             | Lao PDR           | 0        | 13   | 64   | 77    | 0        | 2    | 27   | 29    | 0     | 15   | 91   | 106   |
| 107             | Peru              | 0        | 11   | 68   | 79    | 0        | 2    | 25   | 27    | 0     | 13   | 93   | 106   |
| Grand Total     |                   | 972      | 2274 | 2992 | 6238  | 646      | 1710 | 2748 | 5104  | 1618  | 3984 | 5740 | 11342 |
| Grand Total ÷ 2 |                   | 486      | 1137 | 1496 | 3119  | 323      | 855  | 1374 | 2552  | 809   | 1992 | 2870 | 5671  |

Table 4 suggests that all 107 countries have at least a moderately strong positive correlation with three other countries with which they have the highest positive correlation, the only exception is Switzerland (see Table 5A). Similarly, all the 107 countries have at least a moderately strong negative correlation with three other countries with which they have the lowest negative correlation (it is strong on the negative side), but there are five exceptional countries in this case – Albania, Estonia, Iceland, Lao PDR, and Peru (See Table 5B). Ignoring these exceptions, it can be concluded that all the countries have at least

three other countries with which they have at least moderately strong positive correlation and at least three other countries with which they have at least moderately strong negative correlation.

Tables 4, 5A, and 5B, although they do not specify the list of countries for each of the signs and strengths, show together that excepting a few countries, the number of strong and moderate correlations both on positive and negative sides are high enough to integrate the countries well into the TCC.

This proves that **no country is outside the gambit of the TCC; rather they are strongly interrelated in terms of the fluctuations in the share of the richest 1% in the national income of the countries.**

Now, the study moves to question No. 2 in Case 1.

**C) Investing the question no. 2 – whether they move in the same way or not**

As evident from Table 3, there are both positive and negative correlations. Of all the correlations (5,671), 55% are positive correlations, and 45% are negative correlations. Of all the positive correlations, 52.03% are strong or moderately strong correlations, and of all the negative correlations, 46.16% are strong or moderately strong correlations. This proves that they do not move in the same way, i.e., **the richest 1% of different countries belonging to the TCC have both strong or at least moderately strong synergy and conflict** – and adding observations from section 3.2 – **at least with three other countries.**

So, the study now moves to question no. 2(b).

**D) Investigating the question no. 2(b) – the block structure and its geopolitical geo-economic significance**

Tables 6A & 6B represent the blocks of the other 106 countries on the basis of their correlation coefficient with the USA for positive and negative correlations, respectively. The two tables can be taken as representing two blocks of positive and negative correlations, but to describe the continuum from synergy to conflict, the blocks have been further subdivided based on the strength of the correlations.

**Table 6A: Three blocks of countries all having a positive correlation with the USA**

| Block Name        | STR+   |                        |       | MOD+     |             |       | WNC+ |                 |       |
|-------------------|--------|------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|-------|------|-----------------|-------|
| Strength          | Strong |                        |       | Moderate |             |       | W/NC |                 |       |
| List of Countries | SN     | Country                | r     | SN       | Country     | r     | SN   | Country         | r     |
|                   | 1      | Australia              | 0.934 | 1        | Zambia      | 0.749 | 1    | Turkmenistan    | 0.386 |
|                   | 2      | Italy                  | 0.932 | 2        | New Zealand | 0.741 | 2    | Greece          | 0.343 |
|                   | 3      | India                  | 0.930 | 3        | Singapore   | 0.710 | 3    | North Macedonia | 0.312 |
|                   | 4      | Croatia                | 0.922 | 4        | Sri Lanka   | 0.701 | 4    | Belgium         | 0.297 |
|                   | 5      | Hungary                | 0.919 | 5        | Sweden      | 0.701 | 5    | Georgia         | 0.270 |
|                   | 6      | China                  | 0.912 | 6        | Ireland     | 0.692 | 6    | Lao PDR         | 0.241 |
|                   | 7      | France                 | 0.892 | 7        | Slovenia    | 0.688 | 7    | Jordan          | 0.148 |
|                   | 8      | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 0.883 | 8        | North Korea | 0.650 | 8    | Cote d'Ivoire   | 0.132 |
|                   | 9      | Russian Federation     | 0.873 | 9        | Moldova     | 0.644 | 9    | Kyrgyzstan      | 0.118 |
|                   | 10     | Denmark                | 0.851 | 10       | Serbia      | 0.630 | 10   | Iceland         | 0.117 |
|                   | 11     | Portugal               | 0.847 | 11       | Latvia      | 0.628 | 11   | Switzerland     | 0.096 |
|                   | 12     | Tanzania               | 0.838 | 12       | Ghana       | 0.616 | 12   | Peru            | 0.083 |
|                   | 13     | Poland                 | 0.835 | 13       | Romania     | 0.615 | 13   | Nepal           | 0.059 |
|                   | 14     | South Africa           | 0.824 | 14       | Bangladesh  | 0.613 | 14   | Burundi         | 0.045 |
|                   | 15     | Bulgaria               | 0.819 | 15       | Finland     | 0.604 | 15   | Indonesia       | 0.038 |
|                   | 16     | Slovakia               | 0.818 | 16       | Japan       | 0.585 | 16   | Venezuela       | 0.029 |
|                   | 17     | Rwanda                 | 0.812 | 17       | Norway      | 0.584 |      |                 |       |
|                   | 18     | Netherlands            | 0.811 | 18       | Korea       | 0.582 |      |                 |       |
|                   | 19     | United Kingdom         | 0.810 | 19       | Montenegro  | 0.580 |      |                 |       |
|                   | 20     | Canada                 | 0.805 | 20       | Mongolia    | 0.570 |      |                 |       |
|                   | 21     | Lithuania              | 0.784 | 21       | Israel      | 0.512 |      |                 |       |
|                   | 22     | Germany                | 0.777 | 22       | Kazakhstan  | 0.446 |      |                 |       |
|                   | 23     | Egypt                  | 0.773 | 23       | Estonia     | 0.432 |      |                 |       |
|                   | 24     | Taiwan                 | 0.767 | 24       | Pakistan    | 0.412 |      |                 |       |
|                   | 25     | Czech Republic         | 0.750 |          |             |       |      |                 |       |

**Table 6B: Three blocks of countries all having a negative correlation with the USA**

| Block Name        | STR-   |               |        | MOD-     |                   |        | WNC- |              |        |
|-------------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------|-------------------|--------|------|--------------|--------|
| Strength          | Strong |               |        | Moderate |                   |        | W/NC |              |        |
| List of Countries | SN     | Country       | r      | SN       | Country           | r      | SN   | Country      | r      |
|                   | 1      | Lesotho       | -0.920 | 1        | Libya             | -0.716 | 1    | Madagascar   | -0.393 |
|                   | 2      | Senegal       | -0.882 | 2        | Thailand          | -0.679 | 2    | Uruguay      | -0.378 |
|                   | 3      | Swaziland     | -0.866 | 3        | Eritrea           | -0.641 | 3    | Nigeria      | -0.341 |
|                   | 4      | Iran          | -0.864 | 4        | Malaysia          | -0.628 | 4    | Austria      | -0.328 |
|                   | 5      | Guinea-Bissau | -0.843 | 5        | Guinea            | -0.624 | 5    | Armenia      | -0.294 |
|                   | 6      | Algeria       | -0.838 | 6        | Burkina Faso      | -0.621 | 6    | Cyprus       | -0.271 |
|                   | 7      | Mali          | -0.833 | 7        | Mauritania        | -0.576 | 7    | Niger        | -0.246 |
|                   | 8      | Sierra Leone  | -0.831 | 8        | Cuba              | -0.553 | 8    | Belarus      | -0.223 |
|                   | 9      | Turkey        | -0.789 | 9        | Papua New Guinea  | -0.552 | 9    | Azerbaijan   | -0.168 |
|                   | 10     | Tunisia       | -0.776 | 10       | Ukraine           | -0.552 | 10   | Botswana     | -0.161 |
|                   | 11     | Kenya         | -0.763 | 11       | Ethiopia          | -0.457 | 11   | Luxembourg   | -0.119 |
|                   |        |               |        | 12       | Equatorial Guinea | -0.434 | 12   | Morocco      | -0.115 |
|                   |        |               |        | 13       | Philippines       | -0.410 | 13   | Spain        | -0.101 |
|                   |        |               |        |          |                   |        | 14   | Viet Nam     | -0.096 |
|                   |        |               |        |          |                   |        | 15   | Uganda       | -0.094 |
|                   |        |               |        |          |                   |        | 16   | Saudi Arabia | -0.048 |
|                   |        |               |        |          |                   |        | 17   | Albania      | -0.014 |

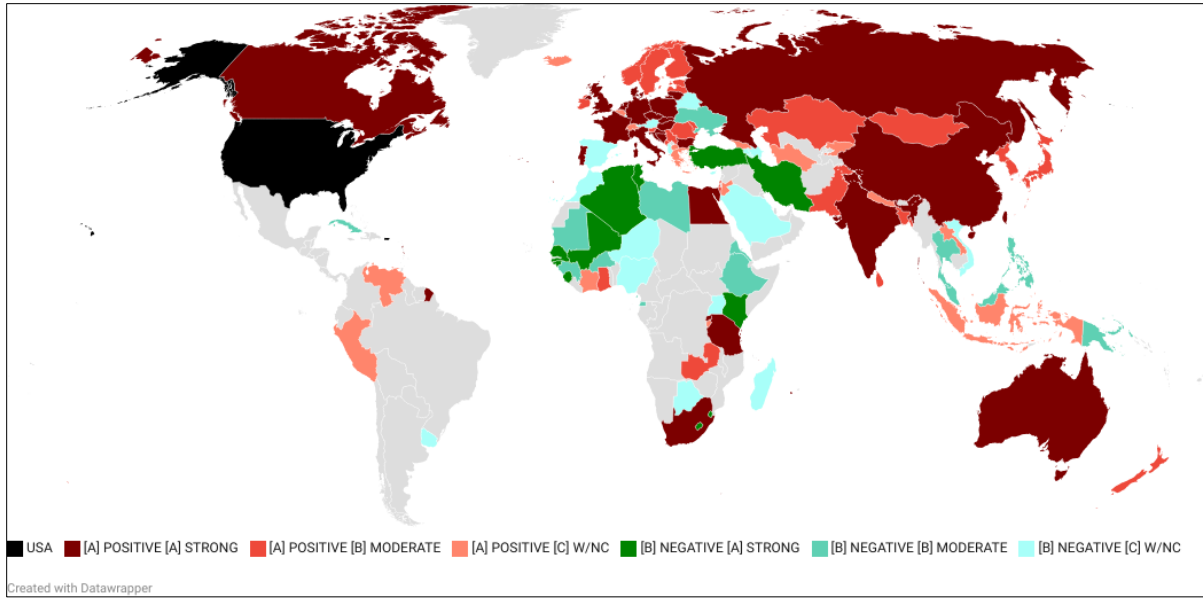
Table 7 presents the list of 107 countries against each of which three other countries having the highest correlation and three other countries having the lowest correlation are shown. In the table,  $r(x)$  represents the correlation coefficient of the country in the x-th position when the other 106 countries (relative to the country mentioned in the corresponding row) are arranged in decreasing order of the value (not absolute value) of the correlation coefficient.

**Table 7: Three other countries having the highest and the lowest correlations for each of the 107 countries (arranged in alphabetical order)**

| SN | Country        | Highest                 |       |                         |       |                         |       | Lowest                    |         |                           |         |                           |         |
|----|----------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
|    |                | 1 <sup>st</sup> country | r (1) | 2 <sup>nd</sup> country | r (2) | 3 <sup>rd</sup> country | r (3) | 106 <sup>th</sup> country | r (106) | 105 <sup>th</sup> country | r (105) | 104 <sup>th</sup> country | r (104) |
| 1  | Albania        | Greece                  | 0.510 | Eq. Guinea              | 0.492 | Libya                   | 0.451 | Israel                    | -0.467  | Jordan                    | -0.439  | Switzerland               | -0.365  |
| 2  | Algeria        | Sierra Leone            | 0.891 | Lesotho                 | 0.889 | Kenya                   | 0.886 | Latvia                    | -0.958  | B&H                       | -0.954  | Hungary                   | -0.952  |
| 3  | Armenia        | Tunisia                 | 0.709 | Sierra Leone            | 0.703 | Swaziland               | 0.691 | India                     | -0.717  | Romania                   | -0.670  | North Korea               | -0.668  |
| 4  | Australia      | India                   | 0.954 | USA                     | 0.934 | China                   | 0.932 | Senegal                   | -0.965  | Sierra Leone              | -0.962  | Mali                      | -0.940  |
| 5  | Austria        | Uruguay                 | 0.745 | Cuba                    | 0.634 | Niger                   | 0.539 | Lithuania                 | -0.428  | Saudi Arabia              | -0.413  | Italy                     | -0.407  |
| 6  | Azerbaijan     | Burkina Faso            | 0.579 | Philippines             | 0.543 | Lesotho                 | 0.520 | Taiwan                    | -0.567  | B&H                       | -0.529  | Montenegro                | -0.523  |
| 7  | Bangladesh     | Rwanda                  | 0.898 | Russian Fed.            | 0.890 | UK                      | 0.854 | Algeria                   | -0.942  | Kenya                     | -0.787  | Guinea-Bissau             | -0.767  |
| 8  | Belarus        | Nepal                   | 0.772 | Burundi                 | 0.697 | Botswana                | 0.688 | Korea                     | -0.667  | Kyrgyzstan                | -0.583  | Ghana                     | -0.557  |
| 9  | Belgium        | Japan                   | 0.550 | Lao PDR                 | 0.543 | Germany                 | 0.540 | Viet Nam                  | -0.507  | Guinea                    | -0.426  | Senegal                   | -0.414  |
| 10 | B&H            | Croatia                 | 0.930 | South Africa            | 0.916 | Hungary                 | 0.909 | Algeria                   | -0.954  | Lesotho                   | -0.912  | Kenya                     | -0.875  |
| 11 | Botswana       | Nepal                   | 0.875 | Belarus                 | 0.688 | Ethiopia                | 0.679 | Tanzania                  | -0.646  | Cote d'Ivoire             | -0.598  | Korea                     | -0.591  |
| 12 | Bulgaria       | Italy                   | 0.917 | B&H                     | 0.841 | Hungary                 | 0.836 | Kenya                     | -0.876  | Algeria                   | -0.842  | Thailand                  | -0.807  |
| 13 | Burkina Faso   | Philippines             | 0.974 | PNG                     | 0.870 | Malaysia                | 0.868 | Ghana                     | -0.906  | Tanzania                  | -0.899  | Korea                     | -0.896  |
| 14 | Burundi        | Philippines             | 0.801 | Burkina Faso            | 0.761 | Eq. Guinea              | 0.735 | Kyrgyzstan                | -0.800  | Jordan                    | -0.718  | Morocco                   | -0.711  |
| 15 | Canada         | Rwanda                  | 0.968 | France                  | 0.932 | Russian Fed.            | 0.925 | Algeria                   | -0.836  | Sierra Leone              | -0.824  | Eritrea                   | -0.804  |
| 16 | China          | India                   | 0.971 | South Africa            | 0.954 | Croatia                 | 0.934 | Senegal                   | -0.966  | Lesotho                   | -0.941  | Mali                      | -0.920  |
| 17 | Cote d'Ivoire  | Cuba                    | 0.716 | Niger                   | 0.547 | Ireland                 | 0.533 | Indonesia                 | -0.684  | Turkmenistan              | -0.673  | Ethiopia                  | -0.613  |
| 18 | Croatia        | India                   | 0.963 | India                   | 0.963 | Hungary                 | 0.944 | Lesotho                   | -0.969  | Senegal                   | -0.939  | Algeria                   | -0.914  |
| 19 | Cuba           | Uruguay                 | 0.833 | Guinea                  | 0.794 | Nigeria                 | 0.761 | Tanzania                  | -0.753  | Korea                     | -0.700  | B&H                       | -0.672  |
| 20 | Cyprus         | Tunisia                 | 0.503 | Saudi Arabia            | 0.445 | Eq. Guinea              | 0.407 | Morocco                   | -0.498  | Netherlands               | -0.469  | Sweden                    | -0.455  |
| 21 | Czech Republic | Hungary                 | 0.907 | Russian Fed.            | 0.901 | Rwanda                  | 0.899 | Algeria                   | -0.937  | Turkey                    | -0.790  | Libya                     | -0.718  |
| 22 | Denmark        | Italy                   | 0.852 | India                   | 0.851 | India                   | 0.851 | Lesotho                   | -0.878  | Algeria                   | -0.822  | Iran                      | -0.797  |
| 23 | Egypt          | South Africa            | 0.828 | Sri Lanka               | 0.793 | Hungary                 | 0.791 | Eritrea                   | -0.869  | Guinea-Bissau             | -0.860  | Lesotho                   | -0.774  |
| 24 | Eq. Guinea     | Tunisia                 | 0.881 | Burundi                 | 0.735 | Turkey                  | 0.686 | North Korea               | -0.811  | India                     | -0.762  | Ghana                     | -0.760  |
| 25 | Eritrea        | Ethiopia                | 0.944 | Swaziland               | 0.889 | Ukraine                 | 0.859 | Singapore                 | -0.909  | South Africa              | -0.895  | Sri Lanka                 | -0.883  |
| 26 | Estonia        | Czech Republic          | 0.765 | Rwanda                  | 0.743 | Portugal                | 0.673 | Algeria                   | -0.698  | Turkey                    | -0.491  | Saudi Arabia              | -0.396  |
| 27 | Ethiopia       | Eritrea                 | 0.944 | Ukraine                 | 0.778 | Madagascar              | 0.749 | Singapore                 | -0.766  | Egypt                     | -0.764  | Sri Lanka                 | -0.735  |
| 28 | Finland        | Slovenia                | 0.795 | Russian Fed.            | 0.793 | Canada                  | 0.781 | Madagascar                | -0.756  | Algeria                   | -0.706  | Mauritania                | -0.626  |
| 29 | France         | Rwanda                  | 0.940 | Russian Fed.            | 0.939 | Canada                  | 0.932 | Eritrea                   | -0.822  | Algeria                   | -0.816  | Sierra Leone              | -0.812  |
| 30 | Georgia        | Saudi Arabia            | 0.560 | Italy                   | 0.462 | B&H                     | 0.461 | Cuba                      | -0.596  | Morocco                   | -0.556  | Thailand                  | -0.532  |
| 31 | Germany        | Tanzania                | 0.934 | Zambia                  | 0.879 | Australia               | 0.851 | PNG                       | -0.907  | Tunisia                   | -0.884  | Mali                      | -0.880  |
| 32 | Ghana          | Tanzania                | 0.816 | Mongolia                | 0.814 | China                   | 0.811 | Burkina Faso              | -0.906  | Philippines               | -0.877  | Tunisia                   | -0.847  |
| 33 | Greece         | Ireland                 | 0.780 | Finland                 | 0.651 | Pakistan                | 0.563 | Turkmenistan              | -0.622  | Jordan                    | -0.621  | Indonesia                 | -0.522  |
| 34 | Guinea         | PNG                     | 0.841 | Burkina Faso            | 0.826 | Tunisia                 | 0.818 | Korea                     | -0.928  | Tanzania                  | -0.903  | Germany                   | -0.851  |
| 35 | Guinea-Bissau  | Algeria                 | 0.877 | Lesotho                 | 0.834 | Eritrea                 | 0.796 | Italy                     | -0.905  | Sri Lanka                 | -0.883  | B&H                       | -0.873  |
| 36 | Hungary        | Russian Fed.            | 0.949 | Croatia                 | 0.944 | Poland                  | 0.940 | Algeria                   | -0.952  | Lesotho                   | -0.936  | Senegal                   | -0.891  |

| SN  | Country         | Highest                 |       |                         |       |                         |       | Lowest                    |         |                           |         |                           |         |
|-----|-----------------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
|     |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> country | r (1) | 2 <sup>nd</sup> country | r (2) | 3 <sup>rd</sup> country | r (3) | 106 <sup>th</sup> country | r (106) | 105 <sup>th</sup> country | r (105) | 104 <sup>th</sup> country | r (104) |
| 37  | Iceland         | Cuba                    | 0.573 | Uruguay                 | 0.543 | Netherlands             | 0.533 | Saudi Arabia              | -0.527  | Viet Nam                  | -0.465  | Indonesia                 | -0.382  |
| 38  | India           | China                   | 0.971 | Croatia                 | 0.963 | Australia               | 0.954 | Lesotho                   | -0.985  | Senegal                   | -0.980  | Sierra Leone              | -0.977  |
| 39  | Indonesia       | Turkmenistan            | 0.646 | Moldova                 | 0.461 | Spain                   | 0.408 | PNG                       | -0.705  | Cote d'Ivoire             | -0.684  | Cuba                      | -0.580  |
| 40  | Iran            | Lesotho                 | 0.935 | PNG                     | 0.934 | Mali                    | 0.912 | India                     | -0.931  | Tanzania                  | -0.918  | Zambia                    | -0.908  |
| 41  | Ireland         | Netherlands             | 0.791 | Greece                  | 0.780 | Finland                 | 0.769 | Guinea-Bissau             | -0.617  | Thailand                  | -0.561  | Algeria                   | -0.539  |
| 42  | Israel          | Canada                  | 0.768 | India                   | 0.765 | Rwanda                  | 0.749 | Algeria                   | -0.846  | Tunisia                   | -0.767  | Saudi Arabia              | -0.764  |
| 43  | Italy           | USA                     | 0.932 | Bulgaria                | 0.917 | B&H                     | 0.879 | Guinea-Bissau             | -0.905  | Lesotho                   | -0.887  | Algeria                   | -0.878  |
| 44  | Japan           | Mongolia                | 0.891 | Tanzania                | 0.870 | Zambia                  | 0.797 | Senegal                   | -0.896  | Burkina Faso              | -0.888  | Swaziland                 | -0.825  |
| 45  | Jordan          | Turkmenistan            | 0.722 | Korea                   | 0.646 | Morocco                 | 0.622 | PNG                       | -0.834  | Burkina Faso              | -0.782  | Mali                      | -0.749  |
| 46  | Kazakhstan      | Russian Fed.            | 0.838 | Singapore               | 0.815 | Sri Lanka               | 0.797 | Eritrea                   | -0.786  | Swaziland                 | -0.727  | Sierra Leone              | -0.718  |
| 47  | Kenya           | Algeria                 | 0.886 | Iran                    | 0.746 | Guinea-Bissau           | 0.710 | Bulgaria                  | -0.876  | B&H                       | -0.875  | Moldova                   | -0.857  |
| 48  | Korea           | Tanzania                | 0.903 | Zambia                  | 0.879 | Ghana                   | 0.808 | Guinea                    | -0.928  | Burkina Faso              | -0.896  | Philippines               | -0.833  |
| 49  | Kyrgyzstan      | Madagascar              | 0.598 | Ethiopia                | 0.527 | Ghana                   | 0.453 | Burundi                   | -0.800  | Belarus                   | -0.583  | Montenegro                | -0.555  |
| 50  | Lao PDR         | Bangladesh              | 0.648 | Belgium                 | 0.543 | Czech Republic          | 0.539 | Guinea-Bissau             | -0.563  | Algeria                   | -0.558  | Kenya                     | -0.388  |
| 51  | Latvia          | Rwanda                  | 0.905 | Romania                 | 0.857 | UK                      | 0.853 | Algeria                   | -0.958  | Sierra Leone              | -0.823  | Turkey                    | -0.767  |
| 52  | Lesotho         | Mali                    | 0.939 | Iran                    | 0.935 | PNG                     | 0.933 | India                     | -0.985  | Croatia                   | -0.969  | Tanzania                  | -0.961  |
| 53  | Libya           | Turkey                  | 0.784 | Iran                    | 0.774 | Algeria                 | 0.763 | India                     | -0.859  | China                     | -0.810  | Poland                    | -0.788  |
| 54  | Lithuania       | Croatia                 | 0.853 | India                   | 0.797 | Tanzania                | 0.793 | Iran                      | -0.860  | Lesotho                   | -0.817  | Algeria                   | -0.781  |
| 55  | Luxembourg      | Rwanda                  | 0.599 | Canada                  | 0.581 | Canada                  | 0.581 | Saudi Arabia              | -0.665  | Madagascar                | -0.558  | Algeria                   | -0.495  |
| 56  | Madagascar      | Mauritania              | 0.854 | Thailand                | 0.773 | Ethiopia                | 0.749 | Finland                   | -0.756  | Egypt                     | -0.749  | Pakistan                  | -0.736  |
| 57  | Malaysia        | Tunisia                 | 0.889 | Burkina Faso            | 0.868 | Iran                    | 0.836 | Mongolia                  | -0.897  | Tanzania                  | -0.892  | Taiwan                    | -0.866  |
| 58  | Mali            | Swaziland               | 0.980 | Tunisia                 | 0.940 | Lesotho                 | 0.939 | India                     | -0.958  | Australia                 | -0.940  | South Africa              | -0.931  |
| 59  | Mauritania      | Madagascar              | 0.854 | Ethiopia                | 0.701 | Sierra Leone            | 0.676 | B&H                       | -0.748  | Romania                   | -0.715  | Montenegro                | -0.683  |
| 60  | Moldova         | Romania                 | 0.859 | Latvia                  | 0.849 | India                   | 0.830 | Algeria                   | -0.931  | Kenya                     | -0.857  | Turkey                    | -0.842  |
| 61  | Mongolia        | Japan                   | 0.891 | Taiwan                  | 0.857 | Sri Lanka               | 0.821 | Malaysia                  | -0.897  | Burkina Faso              | -0.838  | Senegal                   | -0.817  |
| 62  | Montenegro      | India                   | 0.839 | Taiwan                  | 0.820 | Norway                  | 0.806 | Algeria                   | -0.852  | Sierra Leone              | -0.835  | Lesotho                   | -0.820  |
| 63  | Morocco         | Thailand                | 0.748 | Uruguay                 | 0.703 | Madagascar              | 0.672 | Saudi Arabia              | -0.891  | Burundi                   | -0.711  | North Macedonia           | -0.666  |
| 64  | Nepal           | Botswana                | 0.875 | Belarus                 | 0.772 | Guinea                  | 0.721 | Korea                     | -0.561  | Cote d'Ivoire             | -0.557  | Tanzania                  | -0.524  |
| 65  | Netherlands     | Canada                  | 0.892 | France                  | 0.875 | Russian Fed.            | 0.865 | Sierra Leone              | -0.765  | Algeria                   | -0.752  | Turkey                    | -0.712  |
| 66  | New Zealand     | Bulgaria                | 0.834 | Italy                   | 0.815 | Hungary                 | 0.773 | Thailand                  | -0.711  | Guinea-Bissau             | -0.665  | Libya                     | -0.614  |
| 67  | Niger           | Nigeria                 | 0.951 | Finland                 | 0.725 | Uganda                  | 0.686 | Spain                     | -0.642  | Lithuania                 | -0.570  | Germany                   | -0.550  |
| 68  | Nigeria         | Niger                   | 0.951 | PNG                     | 0.777 | Cuba                    | 0.761 | Zambia                    | -0.677  | Germany                   | -0.669  | Korea                     | -0.652  |
| 69  | North Korea     | Australia               | 0.924 | India                   | 0.914 | Zambia                  | 0.899 | Sierra Leone              | -0.925  | Tunisia                   | -0.907  | Senegal                   | -0.905  |
| 70  | North Macedonia | Bangladesh              | 0.624 | Burundi                 | 0.618 | B&H                     | 0.609 | Morocco                   | -0.666  | Algeria                   | -0.571  | Madagascar                | -0.524  |
| 71  | Norway          | Rwanda                  | 0.890 | Russian Fed.            | 0.885 | Canada                  | 0.876 | Sierra Leone              | -0.901  | Algeria                   | -0.860  | Lesotho                   | -0.798  |
| 72  | Pakistan        | Finland                 | 0.754 | Rwanda                  | 0.741 | Canada                  | 0.733 | Madagascar                | -0.736  | Algeria                   | -0.675  | Eritrea                   | -0.553  |
| 73  | PNG             | Tunisia                 | 0.981 | Mali                    | 0.938 | Iran                    | 0.934 | Tanzania                  | -0.966  | India                     | -0.936  | Zambia                    | -0.932  |
| 74  | Peru            | Finland                 | 0.548 | Iceland                 | 0.508 | Venezuela               | 0.494 | Indonesia                 | -0.551  | Spain                     | -0.407  | Kyrgyzstan                | -0.355  |
| 75  | Philippines     | Burkina Faso            | 0.974 | Burundi                 | 0.801 | Guinea                  | 0.801 | Ghana                     | -0.877  | Korea                     | -0.833  | Tanzania                  | -0.792  |
| 76  | Poland          | Croatia                 | 0.963 | Hungary                 | 0.940 | South Africa            | 0.932 | Senegal                   | -0.950  | Lesotho                   | -0.931  | Algeria                   | -0.919  |
| 77  | Portugal        | Hungary                 | 0.909 | Czech Republic          | 0.894 | Rwanda                  | 0.892 | Algeria                   | -0.849  | Guinea-Bissau             | -0.822  | Lesotho                   | -0.740  |
| 78  | Romania         | India                   | 0.909 | Australia               | 0.862 | Moldova                 | 0.859 | Sierra Leone              | -0.901  | Algeria                   | -0.884  | Senegal                   | -0.830  |
| 79  | Russian Fed.    | Rwanda                  | 0.968 | South Africa            | 0.956 | UK                      | 0.952 | Algeria                   | -0.901  | Sierra Leone              | -0.876  | Turkey                    | -0.836  |
| 80  | Rwanda          | Canada                  | 0.968 | Canada                  | 0.968 | UK                      | 0.950 | Algeria                   | -0.936  | Sierra Leone              | -0.844  | Turkey                    | -0.822  |
| 81  | Saudi Arabia    | Eq. Guinea              | 0.676 | Tunisia                 | 0.663 | Spain                   | 0.630 | Morocco                   | -0.891  | Canada                    | -0.789  | Israel                    | -0.764  |
| 82  | Senegal         | Lesotho                 | 0.931 | Sierra Leone            | 0.916 | Mali                    | 0.910 | India                     | -0.980  | China                     | -0.966  | Australia                 | -0.965  |
| 83  | Serbia          | South Africa            | 0.845 | South Africa            | 0.845 | Russian Fed.            | 0.834 | Algeria                   | -0.835  | Lesotho                   | -0.799  | Eritrea                   | -0.725  |
| 84  | Sierra Leone    | Swaziland               | 0.957 | Senegal                 | 0.916 | Mali                    | 0.910 | India                     | -0.977  | Australia                 | -0.962  | South Africa              | -0.942  |
| 85  | Singapore       | Taiwan                  | 0.893 | Sri Lanka               | 0.882 | India                   | 0.845 | Eritrea                   | -0.909  | Swaziland                 | -0.902  | Sierra Leone              | -0.874  |
| 86  | Slovakia        | India                   | 0.946 | Taiwan                  | 0.918 | Hungary                 | 0.915 | Lesotho                   | -0.928  | Sierra Leone              | -0.900  | Swaziland                 | -0.891  |
| 87  | Slovenia        | France                  | 0.802 | Finland                 | 0.795 | Rwanda                  | 0.753 | Guinea-Bissau             | -0.799  | Algeria                   | -0.774  | Madagascar                | -0.716  |
| 88  | South Africa    | Russian Fed.            | 0.956 | China                   | 0.954 | India                   | 0.952 | Swaziland                 | -0.965  | Lesotho                   | -0.957  | Sierra Leone              | -0.942  |
| 89  | Spain           | Saudi Arabia            | 0.630 | Turkmenistan            | 0.573 | Tanzania                | 0.525 | Guinea                    | -0.686  | PNG                       | -0.681  | Niger                     | -0.642  |
| 90  | Sri Lanka       | South Africa            | 0.912 | Taiwan                  | 0.910 | Russian Fed.            | 0.888 | Eritrea                   | -0.883  | Eritrea                   | -0.883  | Eritrea                   | -0.883  |
| 91  | Swaziland       | Mali                    | 0.980 | Sierra Leone            | 0.957 | Lesotho                 | 0.931 | South Africa              | -0.965  | India                     | -0.939  | Australia                 | -0.933  |
| 92  | Sweden          | Netherlands             | 0.813 | Denmark                 | 0.734 | USA                     | 0.701 | Algeria                   | -0.767  | Sierra Leone              | -0.713  | Turkey                    | -0.687  |
| 93  | Switzerland     | Pakistan                | 0.543 | Sweden                  | 0.423 | Netherlands             | 0.396 | Eritrea                   | -0.451  | Ethiopia                  | -0.410  | Sierra Leone              | -0.408  |
| 94  | Taiwan          | India                   | 0.939 | South Africa            | 0.937 | China                   | 0.931 | Lesotho                   | -0.952  | Mali                      | -0.901  | Swaziland                 | -0.899  |
| 95  | Tanzania        | India                   | 0.954 | Germany                 | 0.934 | Zambia                  | 0.932 | Tunisia                   | -0.974  | PNG                       | -0.966  | Lesotho                   | -0.961  |
| 96  | Thailand        | Madagascar              | 0.773 | Morocco                 | 0.748 | Uruguay                 | 0.692 | Bulgaria                  | -0.807  | Italy                     | -0.803  | Denmark                   | -0.739  |
| 97  | Tunisia         | PNG                     | 0.981 | Mali                    | 0.940 | Senegal                 | 0.910 | Tanzania                  | -0.974  | Zambia                    | -0.941  | North Korea               | -0.907  |
| 98  | Turkey          | Senegal                 | 0.874 | Algeria                 | 0.871 | Sierra Leone            | 0.848 | Poland                    | -0.892  | Hungary                   | -0.887  | India                     | -0.879  |
| 99  | Turkmenistan    | North Korea             | 0.784 | India                   | 0.746 | Tanzania                | 0.743 | Tunisia                   | -0.825  | PNG                       | -0.800  | Guinea                    | -0.709  |
| 100 | Uganda          | Niger                   | 0.686 | Nigeria                 | 0.665 | Cuba                    | 0.639 | Indonesia                 | -0.543  | Spain                     | -0.488  | Saudi Arabia              | -0.472  |
| 101 | Ukraine         | Eritrea                 | 0.859 | Ethiopia                | 0.778 | Sierra Leone            | 0.705 | South Africa              | -0.730  | Egypt                     | -0.684  | Australia                 | -0.674  |
| 102 | UK              | Russian Fed.            | 0.952 | Rwanda                  | 0.950 | South Africa            | 0.938 | Algeria                   | -0.909  | Sierra Leone              | -0.881  | Turkey                    | -0.861  |
| 103 | Uruguay         | Cuba                    | 0.833 | Austria                 | 0.745 | Morocco                 | 0.703 | Saudi Arabia              | -0.674  | Bulgaria                  | -0.612  | Italy                     | -0.610  |
| 104 | USA             | Australia               | 0.934 | Italy                   | 0.932 | India                   | 0.930 | Lesotho                   | -0.920  | Senegal                   | -0.882  | Swaziland                 | -0.866  |
| 105 | Venezuela       | Norway                  | 0.613 | Sri Lanka               | 0.557 | Bangladesh              | 0.541 | Malaysia                  | -0.563  | Kyrgyzstan                | -0.538  | Eritrea                   | -0.503  |
| 106 | Viet Nam        | Israel                  | 0.558 | Jordan                  | 0.473 | North Korea             | 0.464 | Belgium                   | -0.507  | Iceland                   | -0.465  | Greece                    | -0.435  |
| 107 | Zambia          | Tanzania                | 0.932 | India                   | 0.903 | North Korea             | 0.899 | Tunisia                   | -0.941  | PNG                       | -0.932  | Iran                      | -0.908  |

**Note:** B&H: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russian Fed.: Russian Federation, Eq. Guinea: Equatorial Guinea, PNG: Papua New Guinea, UK: United Kingdom



**Fig. 1 The World Map as per the Block structure derived, taking the USA as the nodal country.**

Tables 6A, 6B, and 7, together with Figure 1, when investigated manually, reveal some interesting insights in the geopolitical and geo-economic context –

- Figure 1 shows that the conflicts of the richest 1% of different countries with that of the USA are concentrated mostly in the regions of – Western Africa, MENAT (Middle East and North African countries (MENA) and Turkey), Eastern Africa, i.e., the Horn of Africa, a part in Eastern Europe, and near the South China Sea.
- The STR- block contains four neighboring countries from Western Africa – Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Sierra Leone. Evidently, the richest 1% in this region is competing with the richest 1% of the USA, and other countries which have a strong positive correlation (synergy) with the USA. It is no wonder that the countries in the STR- block will be strongly positively correlated with one another – taking the highest three positive correlations, Senegal has strong positive correlation with Lesotho, Sierra Leone and Mali; Guinea-Bissau has the same with Algeria, Lesotho, and Eritrea; Mali has the same with Swaziland, Tunisia, and Lesotho; and Sierra Leone has the same with Swaziland, Senegal, and Mali (see Table 7). If Burkina Faso (MOD-), Nigeria, and Niger (WNC-) from the same region are included in this set of countries, a prominent case of conflict with the involvement of the USA, Russian Federation, China, and France in this region (Chin & Bartos, 2024; ELDoh, 2023; Gurjar, 2023; Reuters, 2024) may shed some light on the negative correlation.
- The two countries in the STR- block – Lesotho and Swaziland (now called Eswatini) are surrounded on all sides (except that Swaziland has a short border shared with Mozambique) by South Africa, which has a positive correlation with the USA. Evidently, the richest 1% of these two countries are facing stiff competition from the richest 1% of the surrounding South Africa. While Lesotho has a strong positive correlation with Mali, Iran, and Papua New Guinea, Swaziland has the same with Mali, Sierra Leone, and Lesotho.
- Three other African countries in the STR- block are Algeria, Tunisia, and Kenya. Whereas Algeria and Tunisia are neighboring North African countries that experienced the Arab Spring about 15 years ago, Kenya is in the Horn of Africa and has a violent history of ethnic conflicts within and in the surrounding countries (Ethiopia Peace Observatory, 2024). Kenya has a strong positive correlation with Algeria, Iran, and Guinea-Bissau (see Table 7). Another country in the Horn is Ethiopia lying north of Kenya. Ethiopia has a moderately strong negative correlation with the USA but a high positive correlation with the neighboring Eritrea and with Ukraine from Eastern Europe (see Table 7). The first country in the MOD- block – Libya – is another MENA country having the shock of the Arab Spring.
- The remaining two countries in the STR- block – Iran and Turkey – are from the Middle East and have recent history of internal political disturbances and violence.
- Although belonging roughly to these regions, some countries are rather in the STR+ block – Tanzania and Rwanda (two neighboring countries sharing a border with or in close proximity with Kenya), South Africa (as mentioned earlier), Egypt (in MENA, and experienced Arab Spring). The first country in the MOD+ block – Zambia – is a neighboring country of Tanzania.
- Ukraine (MOD-), Austria, and Belarus (WNC-) are three countries from Eastern Europe surrounded by STR+ countries. While Ukraine is at war at present with Russia, Belarus has seen recent internal political turmoil (Stiftung, 2024). Austria has its own political problems, and it has close relations with Belarus, although they do not share a border.

8. Around the South China Sea, Malaysia and the Philippines are in the MOD- group, along with Papua New Guinea in close proximity and Thailand sharing a border with Malaysia. Viet Nam, to the east of the South China Sea, is not positively correlated with the USA. This region has geopolitical geo-economic tensions with the involvement of the USA, China, India, the Russian Federation, and Japan (Turker, 2023).

The block structure of the countries presented in Tables 6A and 6B, when read together with Table 7, can reveal many other insights on which further research can be carried out. But what can be concluded without investing the block structure further is that **the TCC is in geopolitical and geo-economic synergy and conflict**, where the plutocrats as agents of the TCC are pivotal in the process. The term 'geopolitical' is added here because military actions are observed in some of these relations.

Combining all the findings of this study, it can now be asserted that the research hypothesis of this study stands proven, although the resulting block structure has both geo-economic and geopolitical significance.

In preparing the blocks, the USA was taken as the nodal country; if, instead, some other country is chosen as the nodal country, there may be appear a different block structure. It depends on the purpose of the study which country is to be chosen as the nodal country for preparing the block structure.

## V. CONCLUSION

Taking the richest 1% of every country as belonging to the TCC and as a group of persons promoting the TNS over the financial sovereignty of their own country through TNP and plutocratic practices, this study, taking cue from the earlier studies and findings, investigated whether share of the richest 1% in national income of different countries have any interrelation or not, and if there exists a relation, then what its nature is in terms of geo-economics. The study took the period 1980-2022 for investigation and selected 107 countries based on the availability of data. The share of the richest 1% in the pre-tax national income was retrieved from the WID.world for the period 1980-2022 and used for these 107 countries.

Dropping the time dimension, this study then prepared the correlation matrix of the share of the richest 1% in these 107 countries. Inspection of this correlation matrix was carried out.

It has been found that – (1) the richest 1% of different countries, as plutocrats, can be treated as agents of the TCC, (2) these plutocrats are closely integrated within the TCC, (3) whenever the plutocrats of some particular countries win better command over their own countries, the plutocrats of some other particular countries lose a part of their command over their own countries, i.e., there is both synergy and conflict within the TCC, and (4) the block structure of synergies and conflicts, when prepared taking USA as the nodal country, suggests that the synergies and conflicts have geopolitical and geo-economic significance – the regions of Western Africa, the Horn of Africa, MENA countries with Turkey, South China Sea, and partly the Eastern Europe are found having conflict the USA and other countries in synergy with the USA, in terms of command of the plutocrats over their own countries.

The present study has certain limitations. First, the countries in synergy have been formed into a single block representing one class of capitalists assumingly cooperating with one another, whereas it might well be that it comprises more than one block such that two countries in two blocks appear to be correlated, but they might not be in synergy (e.g., USA and China); it will be very astonishing if the capitalists of USA and China are really in synergy as is found in this study. This needs further research for preparing a keener block structure. Secondly, this study shows synergic and conflicting movements of the share of the richest 1%, but it does not explain the mechanism by which the share of the richest 1% in one country can be in synergy or conflict with the same in another country. This, too, needs further research. Thirdly, although the strongly positive and strongly negative correlations have revealed some geopolitical and geo-economic insights on the role of the plutocracy, there might be variables other than the TNP of the TCC that will be more suitable to explain the positive and negative correlations. This needs alternative research efforts.

Despite these limitations, following this study, or any other study of a similar nature, a government can evaluate the nature of its richest 1% and then take appropriate measures to save the country from any unwelcome influence of the TNS.

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