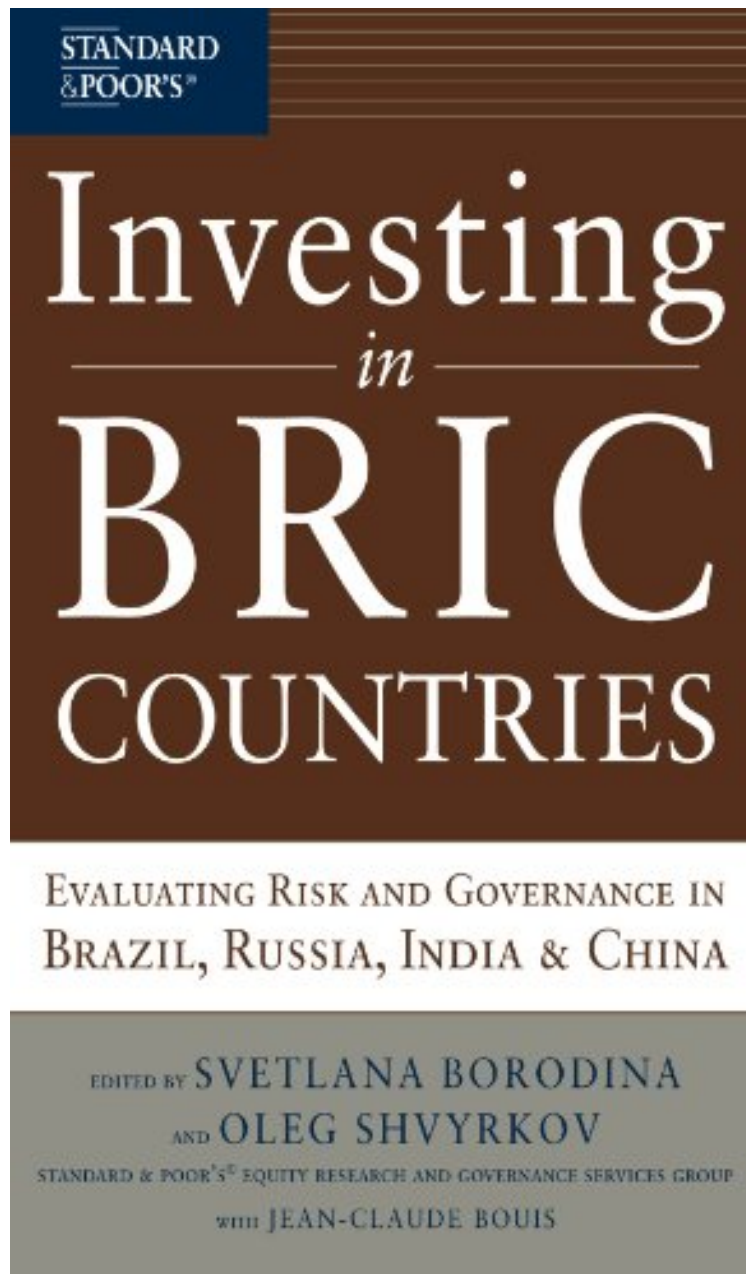


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Investing in BRIC Countries: Evaluating Risk and Governance in Brazil, Russia, India, and China

Svetlana Borodina, Oleg Shvyrkov

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Chart a course for success in the fertile terrain of BRIC investing! The world's largest and fastest-growing emerging markets are those of the BRIC nations—Brazil, Russia, India, and China. Combined, these countries house more than 40 percent of the world's population, and their respective GDPs are growing at an impressive rate. This economic success comes partly from a trend toward good corporate governance, a concept virtually unheard of in these four nations just a decade ago. Still, the BRICs have a long way to go. Corruption, double dealings, and other conflicts of interest are regular business practices for far too many companies. Although investing in BRIC nations can be wildly profitable, you must familiarize yourself with the realities of their corporate governance to avoid catastrophe. With Investing in BRIC Countries, you are equipped with the best available tool for detecting the signs of poor governance. Edited by Standard Poor's equity research and governance group, it details the group's highly successful approach to analyzing risks in emerging economies. With case studies illustrating the effectiveness of corporate governance scrutiny, Investing in BRIC Countries examines the economic structure and governance status of each BRIC nation—and then explains how to: Detect the malevolent influences of a powerful minority of shareholders Protect yourself from misleading or false audits and risk assessments Recognize regulatory weaknesses with regards to shareholder rights Distinguish effective boards of directors from weak or corrupt ones As the financial crises in Mexico, Russia, and Asia during the 1990s prove, corporate governance is the pivot on which an emerging market's success or failure hinges. Before entering one or more BRIC markets, perform the due diligence they require. Investing in BRIC Countries is the best tool available for mitigating your exposure to risky deals and other problems that can arise when dealing with international companies.

From the Back Cover The definitive guide to evaluating corporate governance in the world's largest emerging markets Investing in Brazil, Russia, India, and China is a whole new game. In order to avoid nightmare scenarios, you have to inform yourself about the corporate governance problems rampant in BRIC companies—general corruption, weak boards of directors, individual shareholders wielding undue influence, and other critical conflicts of interest. You'll find, though, that the benefits are well worth it. Investing in BRIC Countries explains: Why governance is critical to international investing success The secrets of Standard Poor's methodology for analyzing governance in emerging markets How to apply advanced thinking based on a number of real-life cases Written by two high-level figures at Standard Poor's who apply their company's own methods and processes, this is a detailed road map to analyzing corporate governance in the world's top emerging markets, helping you make sound decisions and proper evaluations prior to investing in them. About the Author Svetlana Borodina is director of corporate governance at Standard Poor's Equity Research in Moscow. She served in a number of senior executive positions in the areas of investor relations and financial communications with TNKBP and Sibneft oil companies. Oleg Shvyrkov is associate director for Standard Poor's Governance Services group and serves as lead analyst on corporate governance scores and GAMMA scores at MTS, MDM Bank, EroChem, and other companies in Russia, Kazakhstan, and Brazil. The authors live in Moscow, Russia.