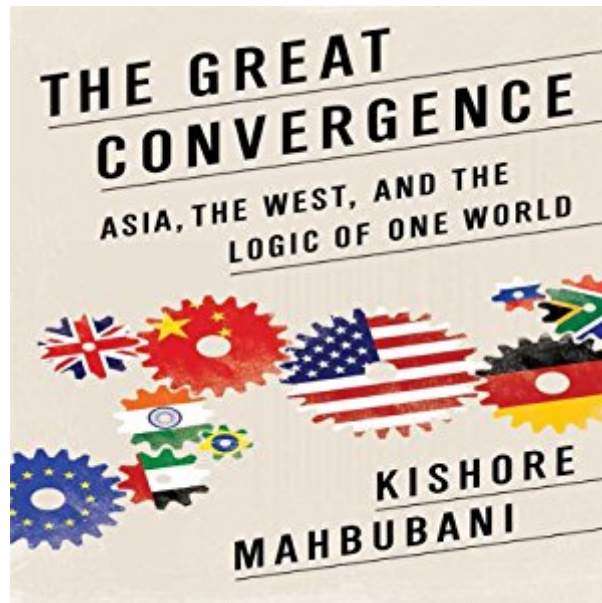


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The Great Convergence: Asia, The West, And The Logic Of One World



Synopsis

The 21st century has seen a rise in the global middle class that brings an unprecedented convergence of interests and perceptions, cultures and values. Kishore Mahbubani is optimistic. We are creating a new global civilization. Eighty-eight percent of the world's population outside the West is rising to Western living standards, and sharing Western aspirations. Yet Mahbubani, one of the most perceptive global commentators, also warns that a new global order needs new policies and attitudes. Policymakers all over the world must change their preconceptions and accept that we live in one world. National interests must be balanced with global interests. Power must be shared. The U.S. and Europe must cede some power. China and India, Africa and the Islamic world must be integrated. Mahbubani urges that only through these actions can we create a world that converges benignly. This timely audiobook explains how to move forward and confront many pressing global challenges.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kishore Mahbubani has served as a senior diplomat and a public policy scholar. His recommendations about reforming the United Nations and promoting multilateralism while dealing with critical global issues are worthwhile. He rightly points out that the inhabitants of this planet have nowhere to go but to live here which is why we all have to work collectively for making it a more prosperous and stable place. He provides several policy recommendations. The chapter about international aid is fascinating and revealing. It highlights the shortcomings in the current model of

distribution of foreign aid in the developing world and how it is used to influence national policies inside the UN. Mr. Mahbubani, however, sounds biased by putting all the blame for the global disorder on the United States without mentioning the failures of developing countries to improve governance; end corruption and improve the state of human rights within their boundaries. It's a great book for people who are interested in the changing global political and economic landscape and wondering how our world will look like in the next few years in the age of pressing global challenges such as poverty, terrorism and rise of new global powers such as China, India and Brazil.

Kishore Mahbubani, an outstanding former diplomat from Singapore, correctly criticizes what he views as western arrogance and the assumption of most Westerners that their practices and institutions can be easily transferred to other parts of the world. He also proposes a plan to reform the United Nations to reflect the changed distribution of power since the end of the Second World War. Finally, he expresses his strong desire for an end to the system of nation states and the creation of a truly just global order. My only criticism is that he fails to see the possibility of such an order arising during the next two or three decades due to logic of the current system. This possibility is investigated in the fictional narrative written by Ravi Morey entitled "Looking Backward: 2050-2013" and presented by Professor Johan Galtung at the World Futures Studies Conference in Bucharest on June 26, 2013.

The sense of optimism in the world going on in spite of the financial crisis is portrayed very well. This book questions the plenipotentiary countries to think about being egalitarian. Some of the thought provoking topics are:

1. How ASEAN helped Burma transform into a democracy when western countries secluded Burma?
2. Why should Bill Gates give money to WHO instead of directly helping countries?
3. How America can stop pointing fingers at China and start taking leadership responsibilities?
4. How India and China should work together to make this world a better place?
5. What are the pillars of convergence?

I got to read this book on my Kindle at its launch. In order to have a better access to the interesting Tables that accompany the text, I have decided to buy also a printed copy for my second reading and an important place in my library. At the beginning I could not understand how a single man could cover in such depth so many facets of what every man should try to grasp before attempting to emit words about which perspectives to share with the youngs. In fact, fortunately for all of us the book—The Great Convergence: Asia, the West, and the Logic of One World, has been composed

by a brilliant thinker in good company with exceptional colleagues and a number of young extraordinarily open minds. However surely it was not an easy task.

Good book. It gives leaders in the West plenty to chew on, and it challenges many assumptions, so I like it for that. Still, I'm not convinced that this convergence that he talks about is inevitable and I don't see how his recommendations can realistically be implemented.

The book explain the shift in power to east and put forwards alternative ways to solve problems coming from this shift

A very thoughtful narrative of geopolitics with some history and prophesy thrown in. I am not too comfortable with the one world theory, but it may be the logical answer. It is a book that makes you think. Always a good thing.

Required reading for school, and much more interesting than I expected

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