KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Rise of the Post-Western World

In this chapter, Professor Kishore Mahbubani highlighted the West's response to a shifting world order, and how non-Western nations find their place in it.

1. The past two centuries of Western domination in global affairs were an aberration in human history. Before colonialism, Asian economies were historically dominant, and the post-Western world represents a return to this historical norm.

2. Many Western political and intellectual leaders are reluctant to acknowledge or accept the transition to a post-Western world.

3. Asia's emerging powers have benefitted from embracing Western ideologies such as free market economics, which have helped facilitate their resurgence to power.

4. Western nations, particularly the United States, have worked to undermine the very international rules-based order they established, through actions like withdrawing from international agreements and reducing funding to multilateral organisations to weaken institutions that uphold global governance.

5. As the West constitutes only 12% of the global population, it is ultimately in its own best interests to strengthen the multilateral rules-based order; to ensure all participants abide by the same rules.