

Global Power Shift: Rise and Decline?

LSE400: Thinking Like a Social Scientist
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13 March 2015

China poised to pass US as world's leading economic power this year

By Chris Giles, Economics Editor

[Author alerts](#) ▾

The US is on the brink of losing its status as the world's largest economy, and is likely to slip behind [China](#) this year, sooner than widely anticipated, according to the world's leading statistical agencies.

The US has been the global leader since overtaking the UK in 1872. Most economists previously thought China would pull ahead in 2019.



The end is not nigh

No other country is ready to challenge America's dominant global position

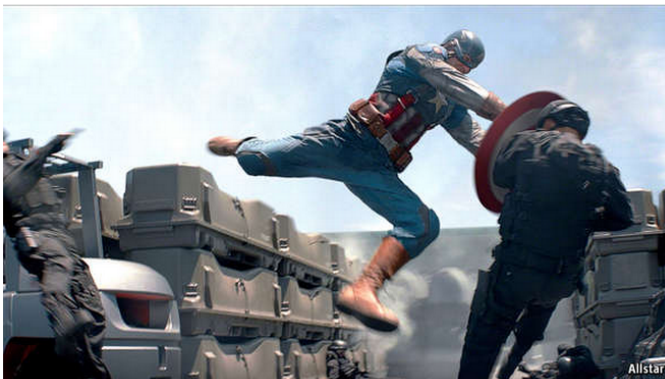
Mar 7th 2015 | From the print edition



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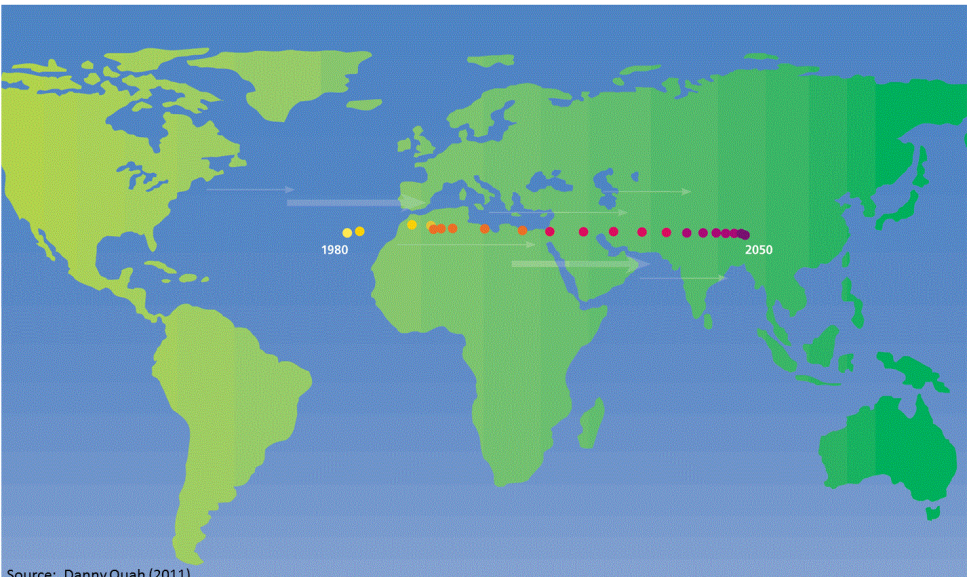
Captain America demonstrates his soft power

Is the American Century Over? By Joseph Nye. *Polity Press*; 152 pages; \$12.95 and £9.99.

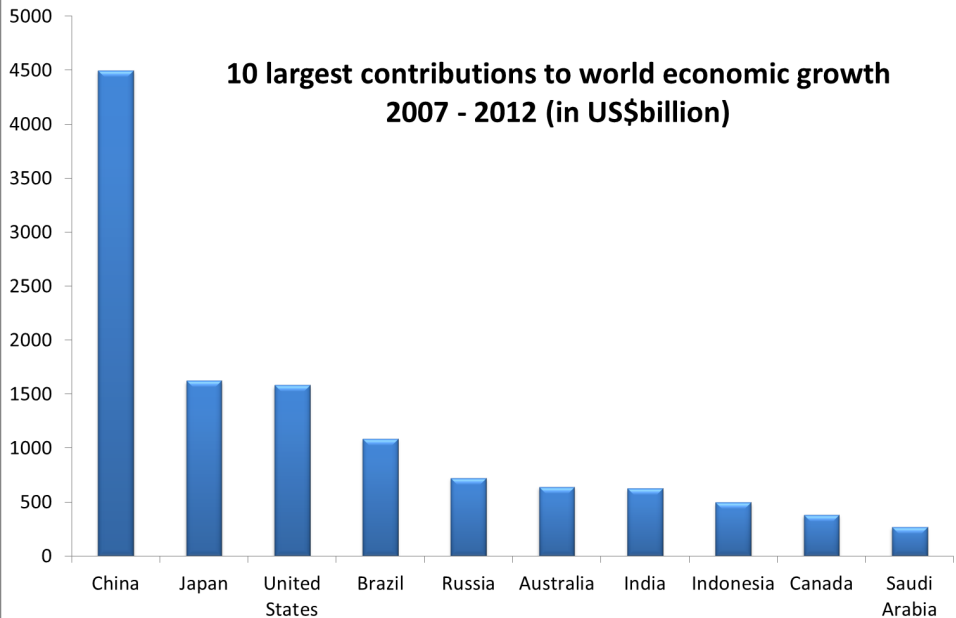
A Global Landscape of Power

- “Gym Locker Room”
- Who Should, Not Just Who Can: Normative and Positive
- Power and Leadership: Distribution Across Entire Landscape. Not Only Zero/One
- Provide Global Public Goods
- World Order

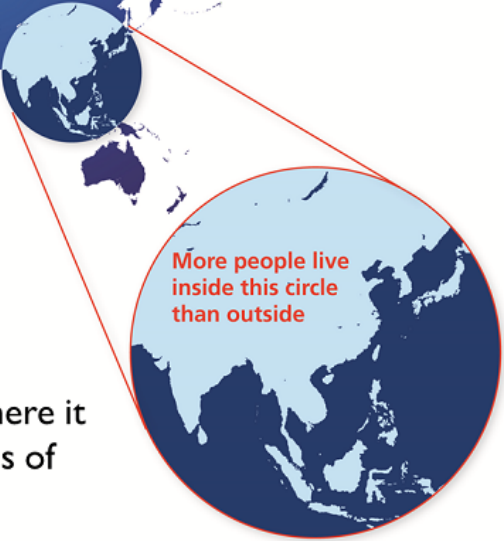
The world's economic centre of gravity: 1980-2050



**10 largest contributions to world economic growth
2007 - 2012 (in US\$ billion)**



If the world were a democracy, this is where it would make decisions of global significance.



More people live
inside this circle
than outside

Conclusions

- Who Should, Not Just Who Can: Normative and Positive
- Power and Leadership: Distribution Across Entire Landscape. Not Only Zero/One
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