

# **Kishore Mahbubani ~ The Century Of Asia: The Inevitable Global Power Shift**

Kishore Mahbubani: 'You in the West have no idea how the rest of the world looks at you. They see an emperor without clothes. The world has changed tremendously, but you do not understand what that means. Globalisation Lecture 23: *The Century of Asia: The inevitable global power shift*, Felix Meritis, Amsterdam, 13-11- 2008.

For centuries Asians (Chinese, Indians, Muslims and others) were on the sidelines of world history. But the East is rapidly modernizing and is ready to claim their share of world power. They are among the fastest growing economies and have some of the largest financial reserves. On a social and cultural level the East is changing fast. How do Europe and the US respond to the rapid rise of the East? According to Singaporean intellectual Kishore Mahbubani, the Western business world appears to be the only one anticipating changes in the East. Western governments seem to be looking the other way and fail to accept that a shift in economic power will also mean a shift in political and cultural power.