Kishore Mahbubani’s engaging book uncovers hard truths about the two powers, but also makes questionable assertions.

State of the Americas

Has China won?

Vikram Nehemia
Associate Editor

The geopolitical contest between China and America has been one of the most significant in recent history. In a turning point of many dimensions – economic, ideological, social, technological, military and even philosophical – the US and China have emerged as the world’s two most powerful and influential states. Kishore Mahbubani’s book, ‘Has China Won?’, provides a comprehensive analysis of this geopolitical contest.

Mahbubani argues that China has made significant strides in its rise to global power. He posits that China has become a formidable challenger to American dominance. Mahbubani emphasizes that the rising power of China has implications for the global order, and that China’s rise is not necessarily a threat to the existing system, but rather an opportunity for a new, multipolar world to emerge.

However, Mahbubani’s arguments are not without their critics. Some have pointed out that Mahbubani’s invocation of the idea of a “new multipolarity” is too simplistic and overlooks the complex dynamics of global power relations. Others have argued that Mahbubani’s emphasis on China’s rise as a force for good is too optimistic, given the challenges that China faces, including human rights abuses, environmental degradation, and geopolitical assertiveness.

In conclusion, Mahbubani’s book offers a compelling analysis of the geopolitical contest between China and America. It highlights the potential for a new multipolar world, but also acknowledges the challenges that China faces in maintaining its rise and adapting to the global order. Mahbubani’s arguments are thought-provoking and worth considering, but further research and analysis are needed to fully understand the implications of China’s rise.

Source: The Straits Times, pC7
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Kishore Mahbubani, the former dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, discusses his new book, “Has China Won?” (PHOTO: JOSEPH NAIR/ST FILE)