

Fareed Zakaria

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

March 12, 2009

1. According to Zakaria, in the 16th C, “China could consume modern technology, but it could not produce it.” Is America headed in the same direction? Is she stagnating in today’s global expansion as non-Western countries did while the West moved forward? If so, what is the cause?
2. With the decline of the middle class, has America lost her competitiveness?
3. As the “rise of the rest” occurs, can America keep her power base? If so, how?
4. Is democracy the best political system for America in a post-American world?
5. Considering the societal changes taking place, which country or countries is America becoming most like?
6. Considering the mass import of Chinese goods, could America function without this trade?
7. What obstacles in foreign policy have been created by America’s arrogance?
8. If “politics can change a culture,” how is it changing ours?
9. Considering the “visceral strangeness” present in all cultures, are we able to trust those who look and sound differently? Have Americans become xenophobic?
10. What is the difference between modern and Western in today’s world? How do you see yourself functioning in post-America?
11. Would our government function better without politicians and instead tap into the rich resource of those outside Washington who excel in their respective fields?