

COVID-19 will also accelerate the shift in power and influence from **West to East**. South Korea and Singapore have responded best, and China has reacted well after its early mistakes. The response in Europe and America has been slow and haphazard by comparison, further tarnishing the aura of the **Western “brand”**.

What won't change is the fundamentally conflictive nature of world politics. **Previous plagues—including the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919—did not end great-power rivalry nor usher in a new era of global cooperation. Neither will COVID-19.**

We will see a further **retreat from hyper globalization**, as citizens look to national governments to protect them and as states and firms seek to reduce future vulnerabilities.



In short, COVID-19 will create a world that is **less open, less prosperous, and less free**. It did not have to be this way, but the combination of a deadly virus, inadequate planning, and incompetent leadership has placed humanity on a new and worrisome path.