

THE COMING WORLD

Àngel Castiñeira

This session will consist of three parts:

1. From disruption to the VUCA world: Remembering where we come from
2. Six new transitions
3. Seven geopolitical tensions

RECOMMENDED READING

Robert Kaplan, *The Revenge of Geography*, Random House, 2012

Parag Khanna, *Connectography*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2016

Tim Marshall, *Prisoners of Geography*, Simon & Schuster, 2016

Pedro Baños, *Así se domina el mundo*, Ariel, 2017

Ian Bremmer, *Us vs. Them: The Failure of Globalism*, Penguin (coming in 2018)

“Top Risks 2018”

https://www.eurasia-group.net/siteFiles/Media/files/2018_Eurasia_Group_Top_Risks.pdf

This recent Eurasia Group report identifies 2018 as the geopolitical equivalent of the 2008 financial crisis. The world is entering a period of geopolitical recession/depression. The “America First” approach of Donald Trump and the policies that flow from it have eroded the US-led order and its guardrails. At the same time, no other country or group of countries stands ready or interested in rebuilding it, thereby increasing global risk. What we are seeing is a world without leadership. The decline of US influence in the world will accelerate in 2018.

“Sharp Power: Rising Authoritarian Influence”, December 2017

<https://www.ned.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Sharp-Power-Rising-Authoritarian-Influence-Full-Report.pdf>

This report by the International Forum for Democratic Studies examines the influence of China and Russia on four young democracies in Latin America and Central Europe.

In recent years, China and Russia have invested significant resources in media, academic, cultural and think-tank initiatives designed to shape public opinion and perceptions around the world. These efforts to exert authoritarian influence have traditionally been seen by democracies through the familiar lens of “soft power”, which has become a generic term for forms of influence that are not “hard” in the sense of military force or economic power. In fact, authoritarian influence efforts in young and vulnerable democracies are better characterised as “sharp power” that penetrates or pierces the political and information environments of the targeted countries. These regimes are not seeking to “win hearts and minds” – the common frame of reference for “soft power” efforts – but rather to influence their target audiences by manipulating or distorting the information that reaches them.