

The Age of Uncertainty

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Introduction

The world today has entered into uncharted territory. The hopes and euphoria accompanying the end of the Cold War in 1989, in which we were supposed to usher in a new era of human security marked by peace, stability and development, have all but been dashed. The period between 1989 and 2001 turned out to be an interregnum to the real post-Cold War international disorder which is today becoming ever more apparent. Since the seminal events of 9-11, we have seen the emergence of not just global terrorism, but also the destabilisation of the entire Middle East, emerging questions over the future of the European Union on account of the ongoing challenges posed by the Eurozone and refugee crises, high tensions in East Asia between China on the one hand and the United States and Japan on the other, and fears of an all-out conflict between a resurgent Russia and the West. The surprise election of Donald Trump with his nationalistic and uncompromising 'America First' agenda has further disrupted the post-1945 international system, which is today all but dead. To add to all these, there are global economic uncertainties, the threat of global pandemics, renewed concern over climate change, and a refugee crisis. The world has clearly entered into a new age of uncertainty. How will the new world order look like? What are the challenges and what can we do about them?