

Dragon and Elephant - animal magic or beasts of burden?

Sunday Times economics editor David Smith will discuss the phenomenon he describes as "the biggest thing ever to hit the world economy" when he visits GEP on December 4th.

His lecture, *The Dragon and the Elephant*, takes its title from his acclaimed book about China and India, the two nations that have changed the face of global economics in recent years.

It has been estimated the pair's extraordinary emergence and growth, coupled with the collapse of the Iron Curtain, has effectively doubled the number of people actively engaged in the world economy.

Smith agrees the "seismic" move to the East represents the biggest power-shift in living memory - and concedes it has been so vast that some worried investors might even feel tempted to learn Mandarin.

But he suggests the phenomenon represents a triumph for the world economy and offers not just threats but huge opportunities.

He says: "It can be guaranteed both countries will hit economic and political turbulence. How they handle it will do much to determine how far they rise.

"Some argue China's political system could not survive a significant economic downturn; others that the Indian miracle is much more fragile.

"What the rest of the world should not do is add to their problems by pulling up the drawbridge.

"The political pressures are growing, in America but also in Europe, for protectionist measures against these low-cost emerging economic superpowers. That would be a big mistake."

Smith's book has been praised not just for its economic overview of China and India but for its examination of their political and cultural histories and how these have helped influence their recent growth.

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Notes to editors:

GEP - the Globalisation and Economic Policy Centre - is based at The University of Nottingham, and is the major centre in Europe studying the impact of globalisation and economic policy. It receives substantial financial support from The Leverhulme Trust.

The University of Nottingham is Britain's University of the Year (*The Times Higher Awards* 2006). It undertakes world-changing research, provides innovative teaching and a student experience of the highest quality. Ranked by *Newsweek* in the world's Top 75 universities, its academics have twice won Nobel Prizes since 2003. An international institution, the University has campuses in the United Kingdom, Malaysia and China.