the implications of a bi-polar world centred around the U.S. and the Soviet Union, with the USSR set to outshine the U.S.'s productive capacity. Although it might appear evident that tri-polarization is emerging today, as yet the trend is neither so robust nor so exceptional that the shape of the world economy fifty years hence can be predicted with certainty. Although tri-polarization might indeed be the way of the future, policies should remain flexible enough to respond to unforeseen changes.