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## I. INTRODUCTION

### A WORLD ON THE MOVE: THE EVOLVING CONTEXT FOR FOREIGN POLICY

*The dangerous but predictable post-war system is gone.*

- The international community must increasingly navigate in uncharted waters. The peaceful triumph of democracy destroyed the Soviet bloc and with it, the bipolar world. Many of the old certainties that guided foreign policy through the Cold War have collapsed, but now, more than five years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, construction on a new order is only at its beginning. It may not be fully shaped for decades, although some of its outlines, including the emergence of centres of influence in Europe, Asia and the Americas to replace the old superpower-centred world, are appearing. This is therefore a time of great uncertainty, but also of great opportunity.

*Authority is dispersing.*

- Some of the prerogatives and functions of the state, still the main actor in the international system, are passing to sub-national and supra-national actors; others to NGOs and multinational corporations. In the case of some particularly vulnerable states, armies and even criminal networks have gained excessive influence.

*Power, however, is also moving into the hands of electorates, where it belongs.*

- South Africa is an excellent example of this. Its hopeful message may spur renewed development regionally. As wealth is created and middle classes grow, democracy is also taking root in Latin America and Asia. This trend will likely continue, in particular, wherever the power to make economic decisions rests in an ever greater number of hands, as in South-East Asia. In Latin America, a transformation over the past 15 years has introduced democracy, human rights and market orientation as the norm towards which the region strives. Consequently, economic growth is now taking hold there. However, democracy and free markets are still fresh and fragile in many places and cannot be taken for granted. In this decade, we have already witnessed assaults on fledgling democracy - in Russia, for instance - and reversals, as in Nigeria.