

# Authentic Listening

**Audio link:** [www.engcornershop.com/Theglobalmiddleclassroars.mp3](http://www.engcornershop.com/Theglobalmiddleclassroars.mp3)

**Rupert Murdoch's trips to China and India have convinced him of one thing: there is no alternative to economic growth as a remedy for poverty. According to the media magnate, caste and communism have condemned hundreds of millions to wretched lives.**

**This is a long lecture; however, activities are available for only the first 2 parts (the history of globalization and the growing prosperity of China) and the lecture's conclusion.**

## **Take notes while listening to Part 3 (India, Colombia, Vietnam and Rwanda)**

*Poverty is not pretty, poverty is not ennobling. Poverty is neither romantic nor rustic. We all have a responsibility to create the conditions for the poor to be less poor and then to be middle class and beyond. We all have a responsibility to challenge ideas and ideologies which have incarcerated hundreds of millions in poverty for far too long.*

*There is cause for modest celebration. One of the most underreported stories of our days is the rise of a huge new global middle class. People have emerged from poverty or, I should say, have lifted themselves out of poverty, given this chance through market reforms. A world dominated by a new middle class of course is not what supposed radicals had in mind a century ago when they spoke of revolution.*

### **Listen to the recording and fill in the summary below with the missing words.**

When in 1848 Karl Marx predicted a revolution that would mean the end of the industrialised world, he was (1)\_\_\_\_\_ (2)\_\_\_\_\_. Contrary to his predictions, the revolution didn't come from the industrialised, but from relatively (3)\_\_\_\_\_ countries, like Russia and China. Conversely to Marx's predictions, under communism workers were treated (4)\_\_\_\_\_ (5)\_\_\_\_\_ than their counterparts in the capitalist countries. Family members, friends and neighbours became (6)\_\_\_\_\_. The reality was far from being idealistic and almost made our world (7)\_\_\_\_\_.

One-hundred-and-sixty years after Marx's prediction, a new kind of revolution is changing our world. This change is brought about by three billion people (8)\_\_\_\_\_ the global economy and (9)\_\_\_\_\_ wealth. The process is (10)\_\_\_\_\_ middle class, something that many societies have lacked. However, the transformation from (11)\_\_\_\_\_ agricultural backwaters into modern day industrial societies has also resulted in (12)\_\_\_\_\_ problems.

*Yet despite the many pressure on them, leaders of once poor nations can see the virtues of free markets. For example, they do not see the mayhem on Wall Street as a fatal flaw but, rightly, as a symptom of an excess that the system is purging. Far better to purge excess than to purge millions of innocent people.*

*The former UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, who I probably do not agree with on many things, but he put it very well when he described the entry of these nations into the global economy this way: 'The main losers in today's very unequal world,' he said, 'are not those who are too much opposed to globalisation, they are those who have been left out.' If Mr Annan is right, one of the greatest services we in rich countries can do for the poor is to open markets for their goods, and in this Australians can take some pride in our national record, at least in recent decades.*

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*Through our leadership in the Cairns Group, a group of nations committed to liberalising trade in agriculture, Australia has helped open global markets to the things that poor countries actually produce, and I reckon that we probably do more for poor people around the world by opening up agricultural markets than we do with all our foreign aid combined.*

**Listen to the next part of the recording and answer the following questions.**

13. What is the main difference between Globalisation in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and Globalisation at present?
14. When did the modern era of globalisation begin?
15. What are the 'tigers' economies and what do they have in common?
16. Which countries joined the original 'tigers' in the 1990s and what made it possible for these countries to prosper?
17. Explain the analogy between a spaceship and the global economy.
18. The move of the Dutch Multinational, Philips, to China to cut costs led to three several positive outcomes. What are they?  
1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_
19. How do Australian farmers profit from the growing economic prosperity of the Chinese?
20. How many Chinese are expected to reach the lower rungs of the middle class in 2011? In 2025?

**Now listen to the part where Rupert Murdoch addresses the issue of Globalisation in India and take notes under the following heading.**

*The other large nation Miss Meredith writes about in her book is India. When India achieved independence from Britain, it embraced its own version of stultifying socialism. As a result, India largely cut itself off from the world. Its industries were heavily protected from outside competition. They became weak and outdated, and experts excused the poor performance by talking of a Hindu rate of growth.*

21. **India**

22. **Colombia**

23. **Vietnam**

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## 24. Rwanda

*Colombia, Vietnam, Rwanda, these are just a few countries that have been dismissed as hopeless but are turning themselves around. Others will have their own lists. My point is that the global economy is empowering millions of people around the earth, and as these nations rise, the global economy is going to be responding to a very different set of incentives.*

### Conclusion: True or False?

25. \_\_\_ Rich nations have more talent and ability than poor nations.
26. \_\_\_ To make the poor richer, we need to open up access to global economy to poorer nations.
27. \_\_\_ The conservative estimate of the middle class expansion comes up with the figure of 70 million people annually.
28. \_\_\_ According to Murdoch, the worldwide growth of the middle class will certainly bring about the rise in unemployment in the developed countries.

*I cannot predict how it will all turn out. It is far too easy to focus on the problems. But these vastly better educated, better fed groups of fellow human beings have minds as well as mouths, and everything I have experienced in my life persuades me that people living in freedom have the ability to rise to new challenges and change the world for the better. Above all, I know this; the world is in a much better place when we are dealing with the challenges of expanding prosperity rather than the miseries of expanding poverty. We should all have more faith in ourselves and in each other. Thank you*

