

Rediscovering The New World...

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A friend recently advised me that everyone sees the world through his or her own personal prism. So 500-plus years after Columbus, I feel particularly fortunate to have a friend like that and for what the visions of Lawrence Lessig, David Weinberger, Thomas Friedman, Ron Suskind and Fareed Zakaria have added to how I am able to see our world. But these men are not presidents or emperors or kings; they are simply the people of the New World.

Zakaria described how India's Jawaharlal Nehru conveyed his vision of the of the world to his daughter, Indira Ghandi, through a series of 196 letters that he had written over three years in the early 1930s, while being held in prison by the British; they outlined the entire sweep of human history. His extensive education had allowed him to detail the rise and fall of empires, to explain wars and revolutions and to profile the key players – all without access to a library! Collected and released in 1934 as *Glimpses of World History*, the *New York Times* described it as 'one of the most remarkable books ever published.' Nehru's prism was definitely very special.

[Friedman](#) has told me how advances in Internet technology in just the last decade is having major global impact and driving changes both in regional economics and political shifts. [Lessig](#) made it possible for me to understand the complexities of the process in an open society. "At no point is the web merely technology", says [Weinberger](#), who shows us how our senses have been extended and makes us realize that the web is a social place that has been constructed out of our collective passion for the world. [Suskind](#) then reminds us that it's the people who are at the heart of this nation and that sometimes our leaders and their policies can have far reaching effects that may not always be in everyone's best interest.

Fortunately, this country has always been more than its presidents or its formal organizations of government. [Zakaria](#), a product of our educational institutions, points out that the talent and the resources of this nation are unique within the world. We are a "demographically vibrant" country and all that we need to compete and succeed globally

is the leadership and the vision that will enable us to grow with the rest of the world. People shall soon choose a new president that we, the people, can relate to and then we shall reshape our institutions if that become necessary. While traditional media has been dumbed down to 30-second sound bites and our TV news appears to be entertainment, the world copes with the reality of negative economic ripples over the Internet. We are all connected and dependent on one another; the future is no longer in the hands of a few. The truth and all the people of the world are now accessible to everyone.

So there is your reality and all you have to do is make your choice wisely. Now that's what I call a prism, my own personal prism! Please share it with me...