

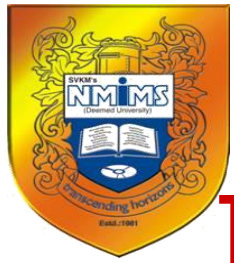
The World Is Flat

Thomas Friedman

Book Discussion Programme

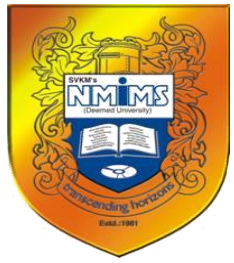
Nehru Centre

August 6, 2005



In The Twentieth Century...

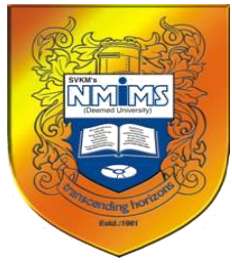
- Two assumptions that challenged all beliefs
 - The Earth is flat
 - The Earth is the centre of the universe and all other heavenly objects revolve around it
- First Assumption challenged by Columbus
- Second Assumption challenged by Galileo
- Used Scientific thinking and deductive logic to arrive at their conclusions that convinced the world



In the Twenty-first Century...

- Two assumptions of Friedman in the role of a historian
 - The World is Flat
 - America is the centre of the Universe and all other continents and countries revolve around it
- Used inductive thinking
- Need to separate the General And Superficial from the portals of knowledge that go deeper
- The classical and the popular

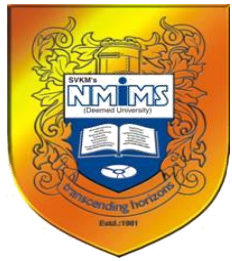
IT'S ONLY A METAPHOR!



Metaphors Abound

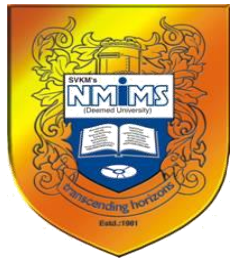
- Walls coming down
- Windows Opening
- Eating Sushi in Arkansas
- Running with gazelles and dining with lions
- Guys in funny brown shorts

And Many More



Separating the General And Superficial

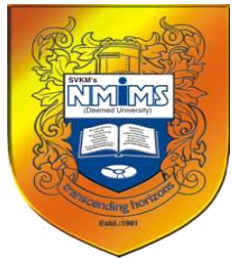
- Flat world is cracked!
- Huge crevasses in the surface
- Missed out in the myopia
- Great human divides of the twentyfirst century
 - Haves & have-nots
 - East & West
 - Hindu & Muslim
 - Muslim & Christian
 - Righteous & wrongdoers



Let us all agree

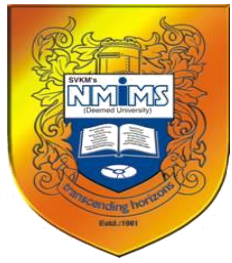
- God made the world round
- Mankind flattened it by his persistent nomadic instincts
- Wandering capitalists in search of green pastures drop anchor and seed themselves in other lands
- Merging of workplaces in a huge melting pot

Flatness happens!



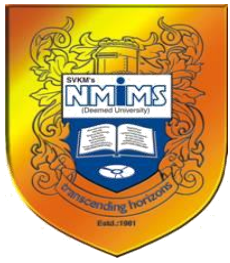
As Triple Convergence Happens

- Technology overrides cultural differences
- Familiar anchors of identity blur
- Resultant: multiple personality disorder
- Compulsions of the cookie cutter
- The great sorting out will create the crevasses in the flat world



Its All About Imagination

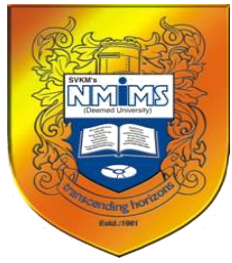
- A world without oil
- Future of Islam
- Where will E-bay go from here?
- Mera joota hai japani..
- The geopolitical bubble



Thank You

For Book Junkies: get your next fix
at

“Blink” by Malcolm Gladwell



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