

# Canada should lead, not follow

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## FULL TEXT

Re: If You Can't Beat China, Surrender, William Watson, April 5.

It is a grave mistake to conclude that Canada should become more Chinese in order to compete against Brazil, Russia, India and China. In fact, the Chinese would be flabbergasted by the suggestion.

As empires rise (China) and fall (the United States), there is an inexplicable tendency amongst soothsayers to claim that our problems can be solved if only we adopt the norms and practices of the rising power. This cultural mimicry is destructive and self-defeating and Canadians should not engage in it.

Canada is not China. As Canadians we must chart our own path for global economic success and prosperity. This will require a cold and sober look at our national strengths and more importantly our weaknesses. Then in a most unCanadian manner we must act, rather than just talk: Our national success will follow.

It is high time for Canadians to become the ones others mimic.

Jack Slibar, Shanghai, China.

Credit: Jack Slibar; National Post

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