

**History 104, Lecture 00:  
Orient-ations, Questions, and Key Concepts**

**1. Our Story, Part 1: The Shift of Wealth and Power from Asia to the West**

**a. Reversal of Fortunes**

- i. 2/3 of world's wealth now resides in the G7 countries
- ii. 200 years ago, 2/3 of world's wealth resided in China and India
- iii. What happened to make this happen?

**b. Some Questions to Guide Us (from OMW, p. 2)**

- i. How did European industrialized nation-states come to define our world?
- ii. How and why has there been a growing gap between rich and poor?
- iii. How and why have G7 countries been able to set the rules of the game?

**2. Issues and Key Concepts**

**a. What is Eurocentrism?**

- i. Ethnocentrism + Universalism = Bad Historical Understanding
- ii. Eurocentrism as article of faith in America
- iii. Thinking Outside the Eurocentric Matrix

**b. Contingency, Accident, and Conjunction**

**c. A Polycentric World System, circa 1400**