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Gideon Rachman [has written in the FT this morning](#) that:

If Mrs Clinton makes it to the White House there will be relief across the west and a certain disappointment in Moscow and, perhaps, Beijing. But it will be very hard to erase the memory of this campaign. It has presented an image of a troubled, divided and deluded US to the rest of the world. As a result, it has already dealt a serious blow to the prestige and power of the west.

I have to say that whilst I share Rachman's concern for democracy the comment is trite. The real fact is that Trump is an embarrassment only insofar as he reflects the bankruptcy of American, and western, political thinking.

The actual lesson from democracy exposing all the weaknesses in western capitalism and all the struggles for power it has given rise to is that western capitalism is broken and that the power struggles are the act of the desperate who cannot and will not imagine a viable alternative to present to the electorate.

It is not democracy that is striking a blow at the prestige and power of the west; it is the failings of western capitalism that are doing that.

What we need is some serious alternative thinking. I recommend [The Courageous State](#), but I may not be unbiased in doing so.