In 2005, the average American will finally realize what most of the rest of the world already knows – the post World War II period of time we have called “The American Century” will now have to be shared with the People’s Republic of China.

Peter A. Quinter
Customs and International Trade Department
Becker & Poliakoff

2005 could well witness continued, unbridled consumer and federal government spending and debt build-up, a tanking dollar, interest rate increases, sluggish employment growth, a bursting of the real estate bubble, volatile oil markets, growing insurgency in Iraq, and a Chinese tsunami of exports coupled with enormous foreign investment diversion to that country. But more importantly, will the Florida Marlins remain in Miami?

Jerry Haar
Professor of Management and International Business
College of Business Administration
Florida International University

Going into 2005, we will encounter Chinese businessmen with briefcases full of money, haggling for western assets. Moral: We should all learn to eat with chopsticks.

Ruben Rotulo
Vice President Latin American Region
Agilent Technologies

Massive demand for raw materials in China, combined with an overall strengthening of the world economy and a tight global supply of ships – at a time when more aging vessels are going to scrap than new ones are being built – has produced the hottest ocean shipping market ever seen. And the situation is not about to change any time soon.

James Fleming
Marketing Manager,
South America
Stolt-Nielsen Transportation Group
Greenwich, CT

Our historical belief in international law as a regulator of human interaction, rather than might equaling right, has always made us strong as a nation. While we seem to have forgotten this in recent years, let’s hope that we once again remember and that the coming year brings us closer to the community of nations.

Joshua Markus
Shareholder
Carlton Fields

We continue to observe the rise of a new kind of global citizen, who travels 300,000 miles a year and gets paid very well for understanding local fashions in a global way. These are skilled executives who could buy timeshare in hotels and have lunch in New York and dinner in Rio and still be able to check emails before bedtime. I only hope that we are able to remain part of the society and our families, and still be local somewhere, somehow.

Lionel Carrasco
Global SVP Strategic Solutions & Alliances

While in Argentina recently I kept hearing of a different U.S. than we’ve heard of lately. “What a land of opportunity you live in. You should be proud. I wish I could live there.” After a hotly contested – but not so close – election, take time for the long view of our country, as others do but often don’t say.

Mitchell S. Fuerst
Rodriguez O’Donnell Ross Fuerst