

the West

To regard anything in public life as “inevitable” is to succumb to teleology. Still, with the passing of [Bob] Dole and much of his generation, it is hard to avoid the thought that societies grow rasher and more reckless as their memories of past crises fade. In other words, for the west, whose last existential mess is now a human lifetime ago, there is no avoiding the wages of success. It should expect its politics to wobble and lurch until such time as citizens taste the consequences again.

**Janan Ganesh,
Financial Times, December 7, 2021**