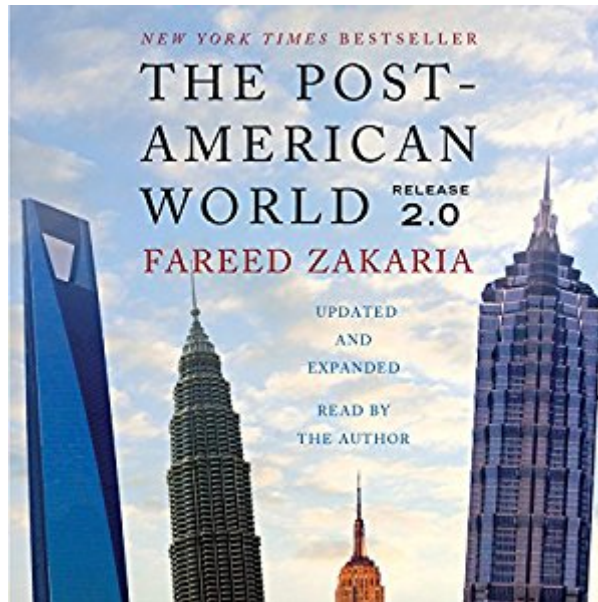




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The Post-American World 2.0



Synopsis

Here is the New York Times and international best seller, revised and expanded with a new afterword. This is the essential update of Fareed Zakaria's analysis about America and its shifting position in world affairs. The Post-American World pointed to the rise of the rest - the growth of countries China, India, Brazil, and others - as the great story of our time, the story that will undoubtedly shape the future of global power. Since its publication, the trends Zakaria identified have proceeded faster than anyone could have anticipated. The 2008 financial crisis turned the world upside down, stalling the United States and other advanced economies. Meanwhile, emerging markets have surged ahead, coupling their economic growth with pride, nationalism, and a determination to shape their own future. In this new edition, Zakaria makes sense of this rapidly changing landscape. With his customary lucidity, insight, and imagination, he draws on lessons from the two great power shifts of the past 500 years - the rise of the Western world and the rise of the United States - to tell us what we can expect from the third shift, the rise of the rest. The great challenge for Britain was economic decline. The challenge for America now is political decline, for as others have grown in importance, the central role of the United States, especially in the ascendant emerging markets, has already begun to shrink. As Zakaria eloquently argues, Washington needs to begin a serious transformation of its global strategy, moving from its traditional role of dominating hegemon to that of a more pragmatic, honest broker. It must seek to share power, create coalitions, build legitimacy, and define the global agenda - all formidable tasks. None of this will be easy for the greatest power the world has ever known - the only power that for so long has really mattered. America stands at a crossroads. In a new global era in which the United States no longer dominates the worldwide economy, orchestrates geopolitics, or overwhelms cultures, can the nation continue to thrive?

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Customer Reviews

Mr. Zakaria has a very perceptive view of the future of the world and America's range of possible roles within that future. If you study history with a view to how the human race has developed, one of the themes within that view is that, for our protection, we continually learn to form larger and more inclusive groups within which to function. From that viewpoint, globalization and world unity are inevitable, so the question becomes "How can we best get there and best function, once there?" Though Zakaria did not say this in those words, he really outlined the general concept thoroughly and well. His multicultural background has given him opportunity to develop valid perceptions -- and in addition he has developed formidable powers of analysis. I loved his powerful but realistic optimism. I think all of us function best when we can embrace optimism. In some ways, his concluding point that the present United States is engulfed in a fear that is entirely inappropriate for a world leader is the most important of the many important points in his book. We CAN control our emotions -- and none of us wants to be hag-ridden by fear -- and the ideas and perceptions outlined in his book can help us to emerge from that atmosphere of fear that motivates too many USA actions at present.

Zakaria analyzes where the U.S. has been and how it has arrived where it is today. I am impressed by his insights into the dangers facing us today. Dangers that are plagued by our frightening ourselves over terrorist, seeing ourselves as imminently about to be personally in danger at all times, giving up privacy and independence and espousing draconian laws. Even more, giving up power to demigods and dictatorial politicians.

I enjoyed this overview concerning the roles open to America politically. Fareed sees the U.S. using its soft powers to shape the future. We should not bully others nor preach to them or judge their world view. We should show by example, by living up to our ideals and be a controlled actor. He is quite convincing and provides good information to support his advice.

I decided to read this because I saw that Barack Obama was reading it and I wanted to see what he has been thinking about. I can see where this will help him if he becomes President, because the author does a good job of explaining and defining the post American world. The author maintains that the 21st century is not so much about the decline of American influence as it is about the rise of the third world. China, India, and African nations are becoming more technologically advanced and globalized. Moreover, half of all PHD students in the sciences in the USA are foreign students from overseas. Fareed Zakaria also suggests that Americans need to continue emphasizing technological development and educational advancement if they want to stay competitive with the world. We also need to realize that not all Muslims are of the radical kind, and that we need to be more wise and discerning. The author also shows how the nations of the earth have tended to prosper under administrations that have emphasized development, like post Mao Tse Tong China. This is a good primer on the international landscape and people should read it.

Zakaria presents an excellent, balanced view of the future of American unipolarity and the impact of the Big Two - China and India, on America's future. Instead of doomsday predictions and worry about how China and India will take over, he presents a pragmatic view of how these and other countries are rising - not that America is necessarily failing. Zakaria also outlines a realistic roadmap for how America can avoid continuing as an international pariah and retain its influence, by realizing it is the most powerful part of a multipolar system, but the other parts add up to far more than its power. His repeated statements of how we live in fear rather than pride strike a powerful chord and should make all Americans focus on what we've done right rather than what we are told to fear.

The book was a gift to my father who expressed interest in it. The book arrived on time and as described in excellent condition. He is reading it and enjoying it very much.

Far sighted look at political and economic world history that explains what's happening in the world now and what's likely to happen next. Very smart and logical

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