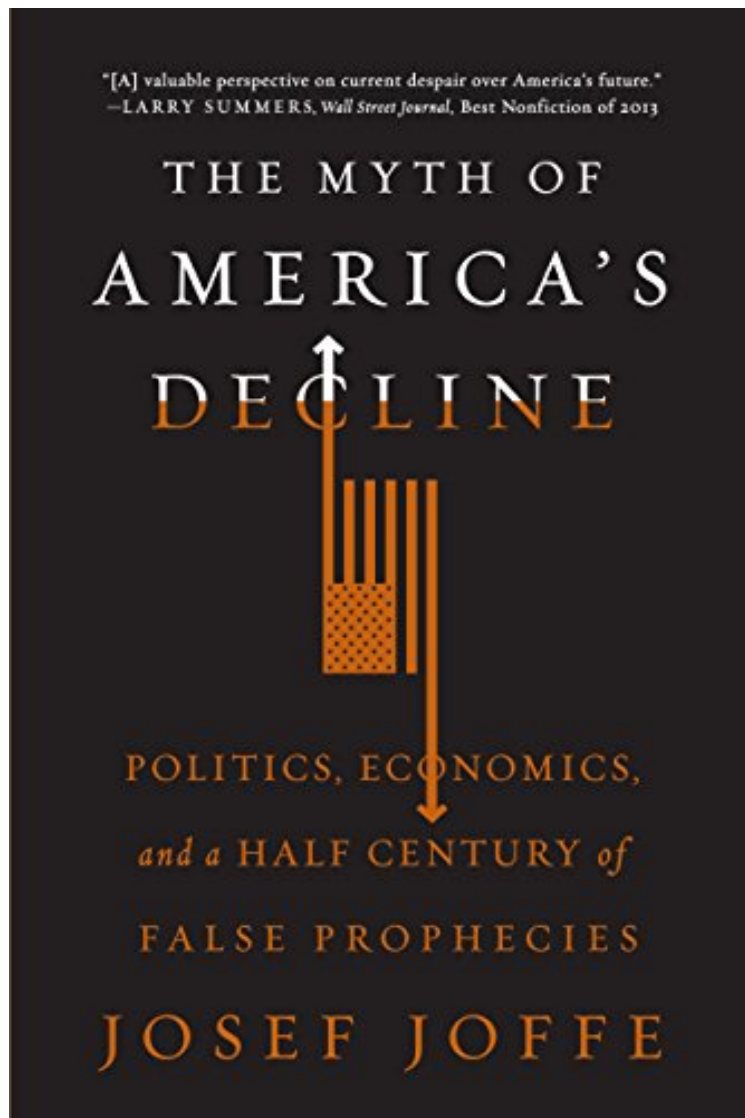


(Mobile library) The Myth of America's Decline: Politics, Economics, and a Half Century of False Prophecies

The Myth of America's Decline: Politics, Economics, and a Half Century of False Prophecies

Josef Joffe

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



 Download

 Read Online

#651182 in eBooks 2013-11-04 2013-10-29 File Name: B00COQ6XHC | File size: 78.Mb

Josef Joffe : The Myth of America's Decline: Politics, Economics, and a Half Century of False Prophecies
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Myth of America's Decline: Politics, Economics, and a Half Century of False Prophecies:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. America Still on TopBy David LindsayJosef Joffe is a former German newspaper editor. He sets out to prove that reports of America's demise are greatly exaggerated and he

produces a lot of data to back up his arguments. Joffe believes that Americans like to fret about losing their top dog status but he claims they have nothing to fear. Joffe describes the numerous crises of confidence that have afflicted the US since Sputnik in 1957. He explains that every twenty years or so, Americans get a little insecure about their future. China is just the latest in a series of potential rivals that America has seen off. Japan and the Soviet Union were the bogeymen in previous decades. Joffe produces tables to show that America still leads the world in many areas. Its universities are the best. He shows that the country has the most powerful military. It spends more on RD and has more inventors. However, you would expect the US to come first on many lists, like the total number of Nobel Prize winners. It has a population of over 300 million and more university graduates than anyone else. It was also the first country to provide free high school education to everybody. America has been the world's leading economic power since the 1870s. US share of world GDP in 1945 is estimated to have been about 50%, it is now about 25%. In the 1960s the US was the global leader in just about everything: business, technology, and culture. What is worrying many is that according to the IMF, China will overtake America this year to become the world's largest economy. This is based on calculations that take into account the cost of living. Joffe does not believe that China will pose a long-term threat to US hegemony. Some relative decline was inevitable, but Joffe claims that American politicians have liked to talk the country down in order to win elections. Kennedy, Reagan, and Obama all told the public that the country was in decline. Joffe writes: "The country is on the skids, but tomorrow it will rise again - if only you, the people, will anoint me as your leader." Many American intellectuals are now writing about decline and this book is a response. Ian Bremmer, Tom Friedman, Dinesh D'Souza, Pat Buchanan and Robert Kaplan have all produced books recently making this claim. There is no doubt that the US will remain a powerful force in the world, the question is whether it will be able to retain the hegemonic role it assumed in 1945. If you want evidence that America will remain top dog, this book is for you.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A complex look at America

By Troy

This book is very interesting in many parts. The author has gone to great lengths to research and present a factual case supporting the title of the book. However, he often times gets so tied up in presenting his facts and statistics that it leaves my head spinning. It is sometimes very difficult to keep up with him and he too often uses overly complex or little known words in his writing. If you read this book, be sure you have a dictionary handy. I think this book needs a much simpler re-write that would still present the case but also be less taxing on the reader. Above all else, I am glad I read this book because it gave me a great deal of confidence and belief in the continuing strength of America. We are not even close to a decline as so many talking heads on news programs would have us believe. We are not going down the same path as Rome or Greece or other "empires". We are unique as a country and probably the only country in the world that has the unique strengths that we have and I believe in the final analysis, that after all is said and done, America will still be standing and strong. We may be one of only a small handful of countries left but we will still be there.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great perspective

By Leslie Moore

In the world of one major superpower interesting discussion on America's position in the world. China and Russia competing to be the next superpower.

"A bracing and intelligent reminder that, for all its woes, America remains extraordinarily dynamic, innovative, and resilient." — Fareed Zakaria

Hailed by the Wall Street Journal as one of the best books of 2013, *The Myth of America's Decline* is a highly provocative look at how the United States, for all its failings, continues to be the leading business, political, and intellectual model for all other nations. In a world where America bashers constantly chortle that the United States is in decline, Josef Joffe, using lively historical examples and empirical economic models, demonstrates that these doomsday contentions are flawed, and that America — even when compared with a resurgent China — is the land where the future is being born.

From Publishers Weekly

Editor of Germany's esteemed weekly *Die Zeit*, Joffe (Uuml;berpower) builds his latest book around the idea of the U.S. as the world's default power. Joffe rebuts those doomsayers who, over the course of the last half-century, have predicted that American influence was secondary to the Soviet Union, or Japan, and now China. While Joffe's counter-argument that indeed America is not in relative decline is persuasive on the issue of military power, he sidesteps domestic issues such as education, urban deterioration, and racial conflict. Joffe's detailed catalogue of economic and civil weaknesses in the Chinese police state is the book's high point, however, with the author observing that repression has been the Chinese way since the Ming Dynasty. Aggressively capitalistic and resolutely optimistic, Joffe revisits familiar conservative talking points about American vitality, private enterprise, and individual freedom. For readers tired of blame-America-first critics or who want to find out what a smart, influential European thinks of the country's prospects, Joffe's book is a useful place to begin. (Nov.)

"The Myth of America's Decline effectively lays to rest the belief that America has lost its preeminence. Joffe's well-documented research confirms an entirely different story: that the United States stands near or at the top of every ranking used to measure a nation's strength and vigor. It is a book that should be of interest to all who may be worried about America's future." — Henry A. Kissinger

"In lucid and logical style, one of Europe's leading intellectuals skewers the anti-Americanisms of his compatriots while telling the United States

how to survive as the only superpower. - Joseph S. Nye Jr., author of *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*; Josef Joffe is a brilliant observer of international politics. He is also a keen student and admirer of the United States. He combines these two passions in this remarkable reflection on America's role in the world. It is the best book on the subject in years. - Fareed Zakaria, author of *The Future of Freedom*; Joseph Joffe has written a bracing and intelligent reminder that, for all its woes, America remains extraordinarily dynamic, innovative and resilient. Pessimists on the left and right should read it carefully, as should all of us. - Fareed Zakaria, author of *The Post-American World*; Joffe's counter-argument that indeed America is not in relative decline is persuasive. Joffe's detailed catalogue of economic and civil weaknesses in the Chinese police state is the book's high point, however, with the author observing that repression has been the Chinese way since the Ming Dynasty. For readers tired of blame-America-first critics or who want to find out what a smart, influential European thinks of the country's prospects, Joffe's book is a useful place to begin. - Publishers Weekly; A solid job of refuting the declinism so feared by the right and perhaps welcomed by some even farther to the right and left. Along the way, Joffe cites some little-discussed statistics, such as the fact that China's aging population and the need for a replenished labor pool to support it fall into ratios [that] are far worse than any in the West. So much for China as the rising dominant world power. There is no triumphalism here, for Joffe notes that there are plenty of problems for the United States to overcome, such as the breakdown of bipartisanship, intractable deficits and rising debt, and social polarization. - Kirkus; German intellectual Josef Joffe makes a stirring case against the Fareed Zakaria and Thomas Friedman's of the world that America is strong and getting stronger. While acknowledging that anything is possible and America's best days may yet be behind us, Joffe is adept at explaining the intangible factors that will likely ensure America's preeminence for ages to come. - James Kirchick, *The Daily Beast*; Brave and bracing. Joffe makes a strong case that a mix of Chinese vulnerabilities and American strengths means it is unlikely that China will replace the United States anytime soon as the center of the global system. Yet, as Joffe notes, constant anxiety about the United States' prospects might be one of the cultural forces responsible for the country's persistent strength; rather than resting on their laurels, Americans continually and even neurotically poke at their social fabric, looking for tears that need mending. - Walter Russell Mead, *Foreign Affairs*; About the Author; Publisher-editor of *Die Zeit* and the author of *Unleashing Power*, Josef Joffe was educated at Swarthmore College and Harvard University. A frequent contributor to *Foreign Affairs* and *Foreign Policy*, he is a founding board member of the American Interest. He is a Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and the Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies.