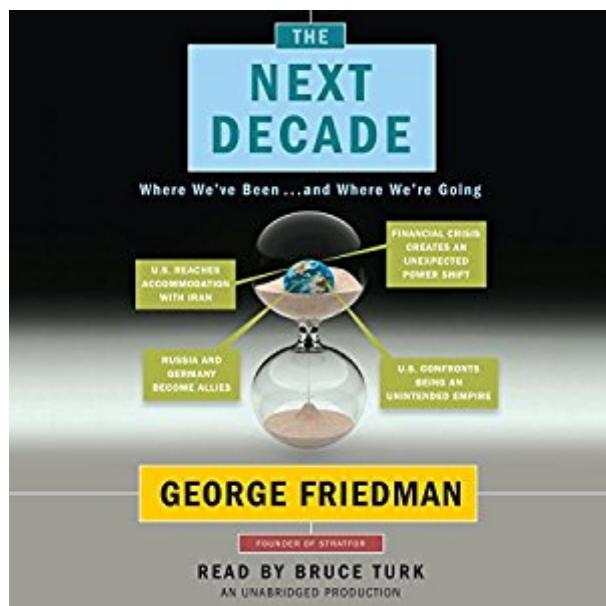


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The Next Decade: Where We've Been . . . And Where We're Going



Synopsis

The author of the acclaimed New York Times bestseller *The Next 100 Years* now focuses his geopolitical forecasting acumen on the next decade and the imminent events and challenges that will test America and the world, specifically addressing the skills that will be required by the decade's leaders. The next ten years will be a time of massive transition. The wars in the Islamic world will be subsiding, and terrorism will become something we learn to live with. China will be encountering its crisis. We will be moving from a time when financial crises dominate the world to a time when labor shortages will begin to dominate. The new century will be taking shape in the next decade. In *The Next Decade*, George Friedman offers readers a provocative and endlessly fascinating prognosis for the immediate future. Using Machiavelli's *The Prince* as a model, Friedman focuses on the world's leaders - particularly the American president - and with his trusted geopolitical insight analyzes the complex chess game they will all have to play. The book also asks how to be a good president in a decade of extraordinary challenge, and puts the world's leaders under a microscope to explain how they will arrive at the decisions they will make - and the consequences these actions will have for us all.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Two years after reading this, I am back here to give a 5-star review because it stayed with me. After a wordy first chapter, the book goes on to explain the world order better than any other book I have

ever read. The author correctly forecasted Russia as a renewed rival to USA and correctly forecasted that we would swallow our pride and make some deals with Iran - and correctly forecasted that this would cause tensions in Israel. Read this and it will forever change how you understand the international section of the newspaper.

George Friedman is a very clear writer. He proclaims the U.S. to be an empire. The danger lies with our admitting the unplanned for change. Being an empire puts the American Republic in danger. Friedman then goes on by playing a 21st century Machiavelli to our standing president. He advises him to search for a balance of power in the world, playing off major forces against each other so none will rise to become a threat: India and Pakistan, Japan and China, to name two examples. He advises less support for Israel because they are strong enough to stand on their own; He thinks South Korea bears keeping good relations to balance between China and Japan. He also sees a missed opportunity to hedge in Russia permanently and to keep them from becoming a threat to us again. Africa should be no concern to us, and neither should Venezuela. I'm not sure I agree with his amoral approach to politics, but he does make a good case for Lincoln, FDR, and Reagan being able to use Machiavelli's philosophy to get the U.S. through some difficult times. He's looking for a great president. I'm not sure President Obama is that man, but Friedman has been encouraged by Obama's change in policy--to waiting and watching and letting our allies handle the problems in Syria, and now Mali.

Loved this as much or more than *The Next 100 Years*, and I loved that a lot. (Well, I loved the first half - sort of skipped the sci-fi part, since I'll be dead before then). Friedman is an excellent writer; he translates extremely complicated histories and events into plain language that provides what you need to understand the geopolitical issues in the timeframe he's covering. And of course, many of the predictions he makes have come true, which is a strong accolade for his books. Geopolitics explain so much of what the average person sees but can't make sense of - why did this country do x, why did the president do y - there is so much we simply are not and cannot be aware of. I plan to read all of Friedman's books.

If you're looking for some fast moving, mind blowing stark tale of good versus evil, this isn't the book to read. George Friedman puts all bias aside and gives a bare-bones description of what it's going to take for a nation to keep its stature and look as good as possible while doing it. It's all about the balance of power; a concept that is easy to define but hard to articulate. What it means (in my very

inarticulate way!) is to keep your opponents, or those who could become your opponents, focused on someone else. Keep'm busy with their rival, such as India vs. Pakistan or Argentina vs. Brazil. Using a little diplomatic influence, special opportunities (e.g. allowing Japan to trade through American patrolled seas), and a lot of economy building cash, other nations can be pretty easily influenced to do the bidding of the American Empire. And I'm not using that phrase completely in jest. Friedman's main point in the book is that, whether it is admitted to or not, the US is a world empire. With 25% of the world's business transactions being with or for the US and with nearly every merchant sea lane in the world controlled by the US, el mundo pretty much has to cow tow to whatever the whim of the Empire is that year. Maybe it's Boca Burgers the one year and Twinkies the next (you would have thought it would be the opposite...), but economies around the world shift at this change in pleasantries (or in the case of Boca Burgers self-flagellation). In keeping this need for balance, within and without the country, the book explains why politicians are forced to lie about their agendas and make big issues out of something they know will never change (and only would change to the detriment of a very balanced equation). If you like political science, then this will be an easy and interesting read, but if you are like 99.9% of the rest of the population (by which I mean, you just read p.o.l.i.t.i.c.a.... zzz....zzz....zzz), then just turn around and walk away slowly. I liked it, though. At some point I plan on picking up Friedman's less specific book about the world in the next century.

An excellent description of the World from a geopolitical perspective. Friedman makes some well reasoned predictions for the future based on his grasp of ongoing trends as well as the geopolitical history of the various countries of the world. I gained a better understanding of some of the actions taken by the US leaders and those of other world powers. He points out some very startling probabilities of the way the world may change in the future.

As he has done previously, George Friedman has given us an introspective into the international world that America has been thrust into and helped shape for the last century and what to expect in the coming years. This should be required reading for anyone who is involved at any level of national politics and policy, and is a must for anyone aspiring to chart their course in business in the coming years.

I read this in December 2014, and it was written in 2010 before the emergence of ISIS. However, Friedman does lay out the circumstances by which something "like" ISIS could emerge. Very

interesting analysis also lays out how what may look like American indecisiveness and timidity may indeed be an accurate portrayal of the actual game plan. This book has invited me to re-think some of my long held opinions. Well done.

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