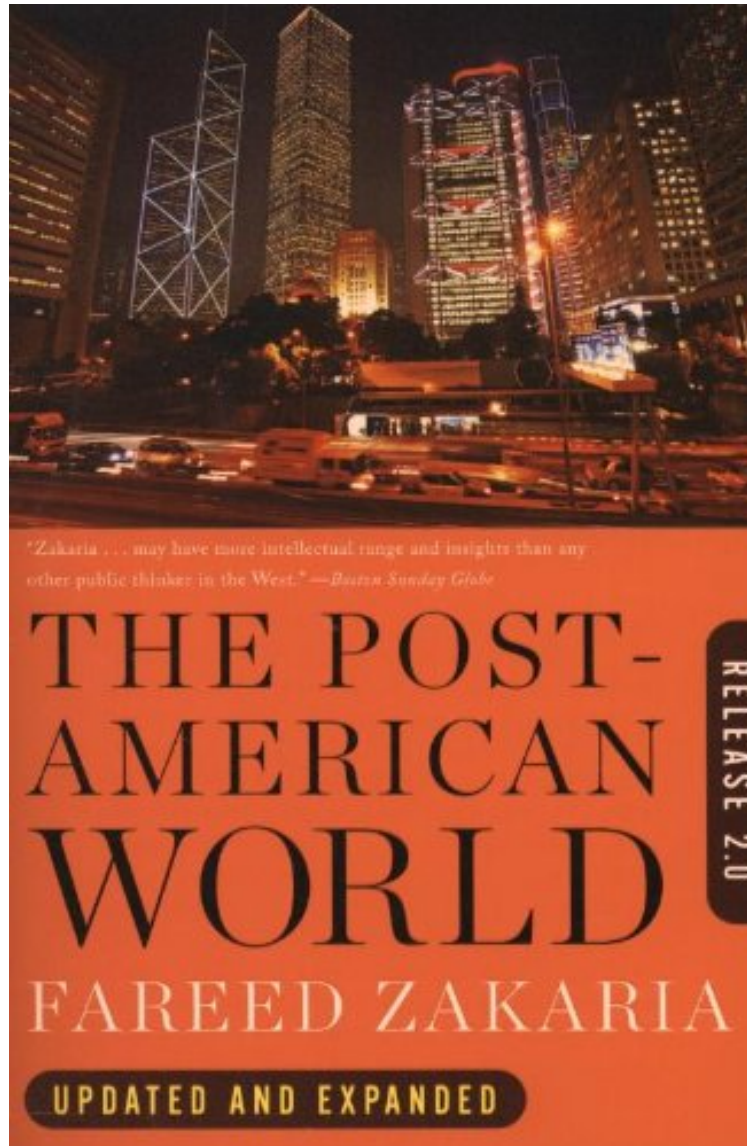


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## The Post-American World: Release 2.0

*Fareed Zakaria*

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**Fareed Zakaria : The Post-American World: Release 2.0** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Post-American World: Release 2.0:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. I wish every American would read and understand this book!By Joan C. ScottMr. 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. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Extremely Readable Explanation of the U.S. Today By Trudy 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well thoughtout view and moreover, fair human to human. By Santa Barbara Joe 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.

A relentlessly intelligent book. Joseph Joffe, New York Times Book Review This is not a book about the decline of America, but rather about the rise of everyone else. So begins Fareed Zakarias blockbuster on the United States in the twenty-first century, and the trends he identifies have proceeded faster than anyone anticipated. How might the nation continue to thrive in a truly global era? In this fully updated 2.0 edition, Zakaria answers these questions with his customary lucidity, insight, and imagination.

.com Fareed Zakaria and Ian Bremmer: Author One-to-One In this exclusive, we brought together authors Fareed Zakaria and Ian Bremmer and asked them to interview each other. Ian Bremmer is the president of Eurasia Group, the world's leading global political risk research and consulting firm. He has written for The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Newsweek, Foreign Affairs, and other publications, and his books include Every Nation for Itself, The End of the Free Market, and The J Curve. Read on to see Ian Bremmer's questions for Fareed Zakaria, or turn the tables to see what Zakaria asked Bremmer. Ian Bremmer: You made clear from the opening sentence of The Post-American World that you do not believe that America faces some kind of inevitable, irreversible decline. But how can U.S. policymakers ensure that the rise of the rest actually strengthens the United States? Fareed Zakaria: If more countries thrive in the existing global system, it means a larger world economy--more consumers and producers, investors and inventors. Thats great for America. As Europe boomed after World War II, America boomed with it. The rise of Japan and Korea and Taiwan has not meant the decline of America. But the key has been that we have to be able to adjust and adapt. The US economy was enormously productive in the 1950s and 1960s--leading the world in almost every way, from technology to infrastructure to mass education. Our problem is that we no longer lead the world on many of these dimensions-- think of infrastructure or K-12 education--and the rest of the world has been hard at work catching up. So, the fault lies not in our competitors but in ourselves. The good news is, if we can rectify these mistakes, we should still do well in the emerging world. Bremmer: Given everything that has happened since 2008-- the financial market meltdown, the Eurozone crisis, the Arab Spring--have you become more confident or less that the United States can successfully transition from its previous role as global hegemon to a new role as the most powerful among other powerful countries? Zakaria: There are two distinct (though related) challenges for Washington in a Post-American World. The first is economic, which I outline above. The second is political. Here the structural challenge might seem daunting. Political power is not like economic power. In economics, others can grow and that can be good for you--win, win. In politics, power is relative. As China and India and Brazil and Turkey all prosper and gain strength and confidence, whose dominant influence are they cutting into? The U.S. But even here, the picture is actually quite hopeful for America. The truth is, only America has power along all dimensions economic, military, political, cultural. And that gives it great strength, particularly as an agenda-setter. Also, the rise of these other countries creates uncertainty and anxiety in the international system. If the United States plays its cards well, it can be the crucial stabilizing force in the system. You can see that dynamic at work in Asia where Chinas rise has unsettled many Asian countries and they look to America to play a stabilizing role. Its a new diplomatic challenge for America, to be more of a catalyst and broker than hegemon and arbiter. It emphasizes brains more than brawn. Lets hope were up to it. Bremmer: How can policymakers overcome the polarization of American politics to get this right? Zakaria: Thats the trillion-dollar question. Americas economy and society remain dynamic. Its political system is broken. First, recognize the problem. Stop mouthing slogans about how we have the worlds greatest democracy. Our system is now highly dysfunctional and corrupt. We need to fix it. Bremmer: Among rising states, which do you think have the most

staying power and why? Will some of the rest be left behind? Zakaria: China is in a league apart from every other rising power. It has the scale--in terms of sheer numbers--to have a huge global impact. It is also run by a competent elite, technocrats who plan for the long term and are moving China up the value chain. They are making huge investments in education and infrastructure, which will pay off over the long run. I agree with you that China continues to have a long-term political challenge, how to combine a vigorous and open economy with a closed and bureaucratic political system. But so far they have managed to balance it--I think they will need to make much larger political changes in the next decade than they have in the last decade. Bremmer: How well do you think America is responding to Chinas continued rise? Zakaria: American business has been responding well to Chinas rise, helping it but also benefitting from it. American society is more closed and parochial than American business and so there has been little contact, which is a pity because we can always learn from others. Washington, at a foreign policy level, has actually done quite well in its handling of China. It has encouraged the integration of China into the global economy, it has tried to get China to be more rule-based and more committed to producing (rather than consuming) global public goods. And it has carefully and systematically shored up its alliances with key Asian countries, from India to Japan to South Korea to Australia, which is an important hedge against Chinese expansion. All in all, a solid performance. Bremmer: You devote a chapter to Indias growing prominence. Are you optimistic that Indias government will help spur the country toward the next stage of its economic development? Or is this still a country where progress will come mainly in spite of government? Zakaria: China grows because of its government, and India grows in spite of its government. I dont expect much improvement in Indias public policy. The infrastructure will continue to lag, the education system will be poor, the government will keep doling out subsidies, and tax and regulatory policy will be uncompetitive. But Indian businesses are world class. They manage under very difficult conditions to perform amazingly well. They manage capital efficiently, understand global markets and brands, and have high quality management. India has good demographics, with lots of young consumers. Indias story is a bottom-up story, rather than Chinas top-down story. But dont kid yourself. Ultimately, you need good government policy to go to the next stage. Unless there is massive and intelligent investment in human and physical capital, India will lag behind China substantially. Whether in India or America, bad government will be a huge limiting factor on a countrys success, no matter how dynamic the society and the economy. Photo of Ian Bremmer Marc Bryan Brown