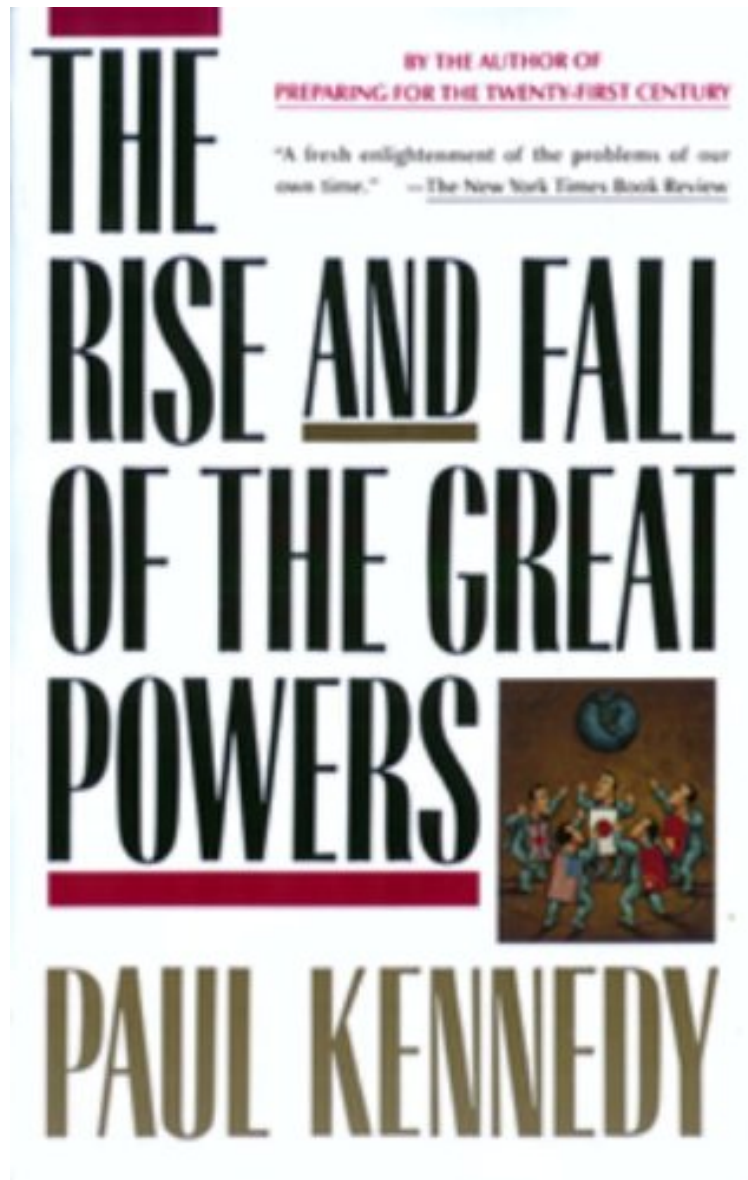


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The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers

Paul Kennedy

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Paul Kennedy : The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A book well worth reading By GrouchyOldman In this book, Paul Kennedy is searching for a pattern to explain "the rise and fall of great powers". He studies and reports on economic and military factors that accompanied or caused previously dominant nations to lose their Great Power status. He divides the (1987) world into 5 principle actors: the US, the European Union (England, France, Germany only), the

Soviet Union, China, and Japan. He discusses their economic and military strengths and weaknesses, and likely affects on their Great Power status. NOTE: This book was published in 1987, before the fall of the Soviet Union, before the fall of the Berlin Wall, and before China achieved its major economic transformation by adopting (somewhat) free-market policies. Thus, one might think that this book is well past its shelf life. However, what Kennedy undertakes to do is not to report on the world as it is in 1987, but to describe historical trends far predating 1987 and ending with the state of the would-be claimants to great power status as of 1987, and to show the role of interlocking factors of economic and military strength in trying to attain or preserve Great Power status. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The march of folly: The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers By Phyllis Antebi Ph.D. The "Rise and Fall of the Great Powers" is a book full of interesting thoughts. I preferred to read this book not from the beginning to the end, but rather, from the end to the beginning. This book is dense, full of facts and figures, but signifying something very relevant. Today's geopolitical landscape is much more fragmented than polarized as it was when Kennedy first published his book, 1988. Still our world leaders are facing a similar set of complex variables. These variables relate to the strength of our security requirements and the rising cost of expenditures which outpace domestic growth. If you are interested in topics with far reaching global implications, I suggest you read at least the beginning and the end of Kennedy's 550 plus page thesis. I am reminded of Dorner's book, "The Logic of Failure". In it Dorner shows us how and why complex situations generate habits of thought which set failure in motion from the beginning. History seems to repeat itself. At least both Kennedy and Dorner agree on this! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good history, bad prediction By Leon Lam This is a classic study on the history of Great Powers. Kennedy provides a holistic and detailed analysis of the shifting power balance in the world. The first seven chapters, an overview of global politics and economy in the past five hundred years, are rigorously researched and articulately presented. The last chapter, a forecast of the development of the five future Great Powers (US, USSR, European Economic Community, Japan and China) is less effective. His argument on the EEC that success lies on its solidarity is quite precise. However, he overestimated Tokyo and to a lesser extent underestimated China. This again proves historians's somehow notorious inability of making predictions. Nevertheless, Kennedy's landmark study worth a reading.

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