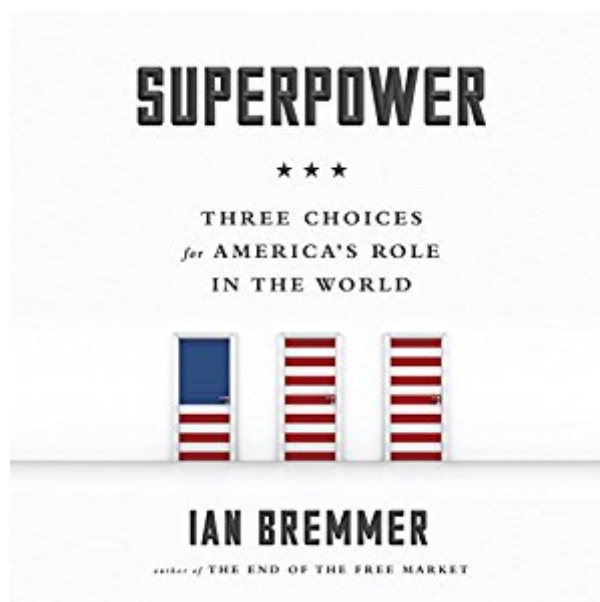


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Superpower: Three Choices For America's Role In The World



Synopsis

America will remain the world's only superpower for the foreseeable future. But what sort of superpower? What role should America play in the world? What role do you want America to play? Ian Bremmer argues that Washington's directionless foreign policy has become prohibitively expensive and increasingly dangerous. Since the end of the Cold War, US policymakers have stumbled from crisis to crisis in Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, and Ukraine without a clear strategy. Ordinary Americans too often base their foreign policy choices on allegiance or opposition to the party in power. We can no longer afford this complacency, especially now that both parties are deeply divided about America's role in the world. The next presidential election could easily pit an interventionist Democrat against an isolationist Republican - or the exact opposite. As 2016 rapidly approaches, Bremmer urges every American to think more deeply about what sort of country America should be and how it should use its superpower status. He explores three options: Independent America asserts that it's time for America to declare independence from the responsibility to solve other people's problems. Instead Americans should lead by example - in part by investing in the country's vast untapped potential. Moneyball America acknowledges that Washington can't meet every international challenge. With a clear-eyed assessment of US strengths and limitations, we must look beyond empty arguments over exceptionalism and American values. The priorities must be to focus on opportunities and to defend US interests where they're threatened. Indispensable America argues that only America can defend the values on which global stability increasingly depends. In today's interdependent, hyperconnected world, a turn inward would undermine America's own security and prosperity.

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Customer Reviews

Globalization marches on, but it is no longer synonymous with Americanization. This is jarring for Washington, which must chart a new way forward. Ian Bremmer walks the reader through all the three foreign policy paths America has to choose from: Indispensable (America should lead the world), Moneyball (America should strategically engage with the world), and Independent (America should primarily worry about itself). Though I disagreed with Bremmer's own choice for America's foreign policy at the conclusion of the book, the fact that I was able to make a completely different decision based on the very same arguments is a testament to this book's clarity and lack of bias. A must read, especially with the 2016 election on the horizon.

Bremmer's most recent book offers a nuanced, insightful account of contemporary American foreign policy, with a particular focus on competing strategies for the future. He outlines three distinct paradigms future presidents and policymakers could employ. In the first, the United States would withdraw from most geopolitical endeavors, and instead would invest heavily in domestic infrastructure and services. In the second, which he calls the "Moneyball" option, the US would scale back its engagement in international crises, and would intervene exclusively when American interests are significantly served. In the final scenario, American politicians could continue (and perhaps intensify) policies that promote widespread democratization and liberalization, even at heavy cost and sacrifice. Ultimately, Bremmer asks the reader to form their own conclusions, and includes countless policy explanations and historical anecdotes to assist in the formulation of an informed decision. From his own perspective, he concludes by endorsing the first option, which he calls "Independent America," and calls for increases in US education spending, social services, and infrastructural investments. This, he argues, will set an impressive example in the international community, and will best serve the interests and obligations of the United States government. As stated, Bremmer's writing is tremendously informative, but he also manages to make the book a continually engaging read. Five stars!

Ian Bremmer's latest book is a passionate and deeply informative meditation about the bewildering array of choices faced by America's president - now and well into the future. Few other analysts are

as qualified as Bremmer to capture the range of economic, geopolitical and other challenges the White House faces, and scenarios for each of them, from brewing crisis to long-term trends. He admirably boils down America's potential trajectory to three compelling narratives, each compellingly argued. True to his promise from the beginning, he steps forward at the end to defend his personal choice. Well worth reading all the way to the final word to find out! This book should be required reading for all Americans as the nation gears up for the 2016 election.- Dr. Parag Khanna (author, "The Second World" and "How to Run the World")

As a recent college graduate, my life's aspirations are paralleled only by my anxieties of what opportunities a future America may provide. To become more informed, I reviewed the opinions of top thought leaders and found in Ian Bremmer's latest book, "Superpower," not only tremendous insights on major international issues but blueprints for America's role in the future global order. Bremmer starts with a thoughtful and accessible narrative of American foreign policy since the end of the Cold War, setting us up for the essential question of where we go from here. He offers three distinct paths providing compelling arguments for each that far exceed the fanatical patriotism or exaggerated cynicism that traditionally accompany foreign policy discussions. With each path, he details critical questions concerning America's strategy, potential international consequences and domestic ramifications. Above all and why this text is so valuable to me and my peers, Bremmer demonstrates why we ought to care about these issues and what we can do about it. For my generation, that will inherit an inescapably interconnected world, it is imperative that we engage these questions. "Superpower" provides us a guide but, as Bremmer insists, we must choose the path.

It's an increasingly global world, but less and less an American one. That's the starting point for Ian Bremmer's new book. But America still has choices. Contain China or work with it? Pass sweeping trade deals or work on the labor force at home? Bremmer, who is Time magazine's foreign affairs columnist, lays out the choices in a strictly nonpartisan way and tells the reader to choose. If you'd rather make up your own mind about where the country should go, read this book.

I read everything this guy writes for Time magazine, only wish he would write more. The book delivers on its promise--while you may not agree with the choices, it forces you to think through everyone of them; the pleasant, surprising result is knowledge--"the why" you think what you think. It's probably the only book that I insist on getting back when I loan it out.

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