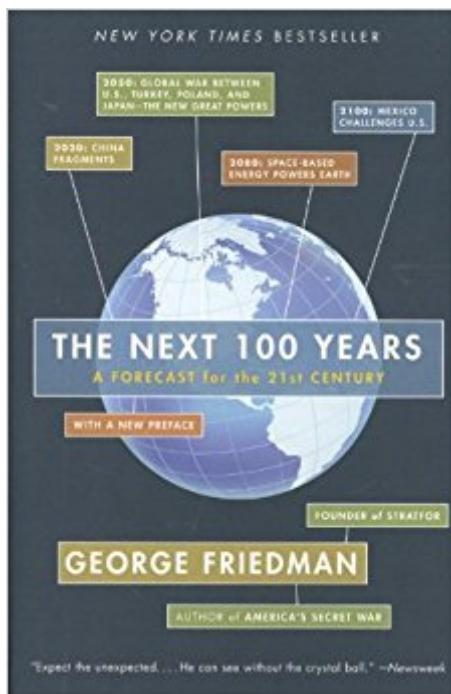


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The Next 100 Years: A Forecast For The 21st Century



Synopsis

China fragments, a new Cold War with Russia, Mexico challenges U.S., the new great powers Turkey, Poland and Japan. The Next 100 Years is a fascinating, eye-opening and often shocking look at what lies ahead for the U.S. and the world from one of our most incisive futurists. In his thought-provoking new book, George Friedman, founder of STRATFOR "the preeminent private intelligence and forecasting firm" focuses on what he knows best, the future. Positing that civilization is at the dawn of a new era, he offers a lucid, highly readable forecast of the changes we can expect around the world during the twenty-first century all based on his own thorough analysis and research. For example, The U.S.-Jihadist war will be replaced by a new cold war with Russia; China's role as a world power will diminish; Mexico will become an important force on the geopolitical stage; and new technologies and cultural trends will radically alter the way we live (and fight wars). Riveting reading from first to last, The Next 100 Years is a fascinating exploration of what the future holds for all of us. For continual, updated analysis and supplemental material, go to www.Stratfor.com

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Customer Reviews

Best of the Month, January 2009: "Be Practical, Expect the Impossible." So declares George Friedman, chief intelligence officer and founder of Strategic Forecasting, Inc. (Stratfor), a private intelligence agency whose clients include foreign government agencies and Fortune 500

companies. Gathering information from its global network of operatives and analysts (drawing the nickname "the Shadow CIA"), Stratfor produces thoughtful and genuinely engrossing analysis of international events daily, from possible outcomes of the latest Pakistan/India tensions to the hierarchy of Mexican drug cartels to challenges to Obama's nascent administration. In *The Next 100 Years*, Friedman undertakes the impossible (or improbable) challenge of forecasting world events through the 21st century. Starting with the premises that "conventional political analysis suffers from a profound failure of imagination" and "common sense will be wrong," Friedman maps what he sees as the likeliest developments of the future, some intuitive, some surprising: more (but less catastrophic) wars; Russia's re-emergence as an aggressive hegemonic power; China's diminished influence in international affairs due to traditional social and economic imbalances; and the dawn of an American "Golden Age" in the second half of the century. Friedman is well aware that much of what he predicts will be wrong--unforeseeable events are, of course, unforeseen--but through his interpretation of geopolitics, one gets the sense that Friedman's guess is better than most. --Jon Foro --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

With a unique combination of cold-eyed realism and boldly confident fortune-telling, Friedman (*Americas Secret War*) offers a global tour of war and peace in the upcoming century. The author asserts that the United States power is so extraordinarily overwhelming that it will dominate the coming century, brushing aside Islamic terrorist threats now, overcoming a resurgent Russia in the 2010s and 20s and eventually gaining influence over space-based missile systems that Friedman names battle stars. Friedman is the founder of Stratfor, an independent geopolitical forecasting company, and his authoritative-sounding predictions are based on such factors as natural resources and population cycles. While these concrete measures lend his short-term forecasts credence, the later years of Friedmans 100-year cycle will provoke some serious eyebrow raising. The armed border clashes between Mexico and the United States in the 2080s seem relatively plausible, but the space war pitting Japan and Turkey against the United States and allies, prognosticated to begin precisely on Thanksgiving Day 2050, reads as fantastic (and terrifying) science fiction. Whether all of the visions in Friedmans crystal ball actually materialize, they certainly make for engrossing entertainment. (Feb.) Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

Loved every line of it even if in some places the thoughts were somewhat repetitive. 40 years ago I left Soviet Union, today I observe Putin's actions with complete understanding of his desire to

recreate the Mother Russia. The author was very perceptive in describing Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Russia in terms of their geopolitical desires and tenacity (or lack thereof). I can very well see his projection of technology into the future as well as tech advances due to war and even the affects of such advances on the social fabric of the societies. Western population decline and the changes this will bring to the western world. I was most amazed with the parallels the author draws between US and a teenage behavior as well as Europe and an elder tired man. That alone brings every move US makes in global politics to light! It is really Empowering to know that the U.S. Is still on the rise while behaving just like a indestructible teenager. Understanding the 50 year American cycles was also so very helpful especially to come to terms that the Presidents cannot single handily change was had been set up on the global stage, so no need to panic every time a President you did not vote for gets elected... What a relief! Lol!

This book is good starting point for long term foreign policy discussions among poli-sci/history/foreign policy buffs. If you are already familiar with various subjects relating to history/foreign policy then this book will be a lot of fun. Ideas like: world population demographics, certain kinds of historical patterns, how geography drives policy, a rough idea of where eastern europe needs to go, economics and various policy solutions, how civilizations develop, decent knowledge of recent history, and a broad understanding of the rest of human history. If you have that kind of background knowledge then you should find The Next 100 Years more useful then someone who doesn't because then you will be able to see elements within the equation that George Friedman left out. One of George Friedman's blind spots is India. He does not see India as being a player in the 21st century. I rather think India will be a player. It will be a different kind of player than the other nations he focuses on because India already has within it bounds most of the land that have been a part of historical empires in India. India has at least decent amount of natural resources and does not have much in the way of competition in it's immediate sea area. India also has a billion people and it's economy will be much larger the farther we get into the 21st century. India will become a different kind of country then it is today because of these factors. If George Friedman included such ideas about India into his calculations then his equation for the 21st century would look a bit different overall. But that is not a reason to discount this book. The book definitely had a number of useful insights that will be part of what makes the 21st century the 21st century. It provides a reasonable framework for more productive conversations about what we want the next hundred years to look like and what we really want to achieve with our foreign policy. Blind spots aside, one of the interesting things to realize is that if enough policy makers read this book then

some of the policies that he predicts would be adopted at various points would be more likely not to be adopted and thus the equation that he lays out would wind up with more widely different results. The more widely read this book is then the more likely history will turn out differently.

One of the top interesting books I had read in quite a while, Very engaging and immersive read that keeps you thinking about the content even when you are not reading. The writer uses a very clear language (English is a 2nd language for me). and he expresses his thoughts and ways of thinking and elicitation clearly. Overall honest elicitation, opinions and conclusions (but not necessarily entirely true), that is enriching for any strategic thinker/planner, also had some entertaining quite realist and plausible fiction parts.

The fun thing about this book is it's more than 5 years old now, so you can start to evaluate the predictions. Amazingly, the book predicts the Russian invasion of Ukraine and lays out the exact reasons for it as well as what might come afterwards. It also predicts that immigration reform discussions and the recent wage hikes are part of a longer term trend that will come to a head in the '28 or '32 election. In 2 pages it explains the motivations of religious extremism and why it will eventually fail. Some of the other near term predictions are very counterintuitive from our perspective. However, the intriguing thing is the concept of 20 year cycles and how in each cycle the situations we see as being intractable fade away while longer term trends and changes happen invisibly. A very convincing scenario is laid out describing how current allies will come into conflict with the US in the middle of the century. Hopefully the right people read this and, with each side understanding the motivations of the other, have more than enough time to deal with these trends diplomatically.

I always resist making final judgments on events in the broader world (think SYRIA and CRIMEA recently) until AFTER I have gone to my inbox and read George Friedman's thoughts. He isn't always dead on, but he is so dead on usually that you just have to factor in his writing. An unabashed geopolitical thinker, his wisdom on things EU in particular is unparalleled. This is the book you should take on that overseas flight, or from NYC to LA, and then keep on your desk for ready review. Friedman impacts thinking on diplomatic and macro military strategy in major ways. If you make decisions and don't consider his views, you should change. Might not change the decisions but his think really should be considered.

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