

Book Review

October 2015

The Next 100 Years, A Forecast for the 21st Century

George Friedman, Anchor Books, A Division of Random House, New York, 253 pages, 2010.

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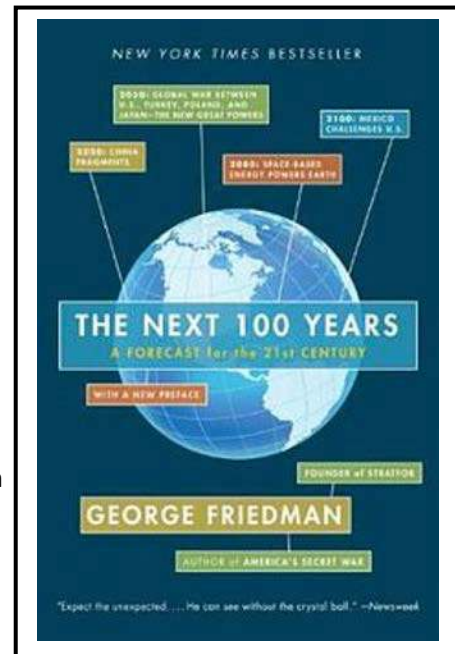
Summary.

A good book to jog your thinking about the future, based on a strong analysis of the past. The fact that this book is six years old does not diminish his thought process and the world's dynamics that he describes. Mr. Friedman has specific ideas about each decade of the current century some of which need to be modulated based on current events, but the essence of his argument is still interesting. He opines that the United States will be the dominant nation of the 21st Century; trans-Pacific trade will equal trans-Atlantic trade; Japan, Turkey and Poland will be powerful forces mid-century; Mexico will be a strong competitor to the U.S. He states our grand strategy is to maintain our position as the sole dominant power in the world.

The term “Realpolitik” applies well to the ideas expressed by the author. Power, the balance of power and the inevitable reliance on war as policy dominates the story with a sound foundation in America’s history. The author has a very interesting perspective of the world from a political, sociological, and demographic foundation. As an example of his specificity, “the battle ground is the family and its definition” and the differing views of its importance to society. “The single most important demographic change in the world right now is the dramatic decline everywhere in birth rates.” [p51]

George Friedman, writing during The Great Reset, tells us that “Geopolitics is about memory” “As I point out, there is a fifty year cycle in American life.” [p. xviii] He recounts the municipal bond crisis of the 1970s when the federal government guaranteed New York City’s debt; the energy crisis of the late 1970s and early 1980s when it was widely assumed that the resource was limited and prices would rise continually; the late 1980s commercial real estate collapse based on the assumption that prices would rise indefinitely and the 2008 housing crisis when housing prices were likewise assumed to be rising unendingly. In each case, the federal government intervened and helped correct the problem.

“Had I written this book in 1900, I hope I would have identified the three things that were going to matter in the twentieth century: the collapse of the European imperial system, the quadrupling of the world’s population and the revolution in transportation and communication. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, I will argue that there are again three things to take seriously:



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- the rise of American power,
- the end of the population explosion, and
- the development of technologies to deal with a declining population.” [p. xxi]

YouTubes.

In addition to the reviews cited below, check out Mr. Friedman speaking about the subject book plus his most recent book:

[The Next 100 Years: A forecast for the 21st century. George ...
www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpAkT5YnpEA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpAkT5YnpEA)

George Friedman: "Flashpoints: The Emerging Crisis in Europe" | Talks at Google

Published on Feb 12, 2015

“A major new book by New York Times bestselling author and geopolitical forecaster George Friedman (The Next 100 Years) with a bold thesis about coming events in Europe, this provocative work examines ‘flashpoints’—unique geopolitical hotspots where tensions have erupted throughout history—and why conflict is due to emerge again.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-8KV_GurLY

Published Reviews.

A biting critique of Mr. Friedman’s organization.

“Stratfor Is a Joke and So Is Wikileaks for Taking It Seriously”

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/02/stratfor-is-a-joke-and-so-is-wikileaks-for-taking-it-seriously/253681/>

The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21st Century, Paperback – January 26, 2010

“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.”

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Next-100-Years-Forecast/dp/0767923057>

George Friedman's “The Next 100 Years; A Forecast for the ...

www.europeaninstitute.org/.../962-george-friedmans-t...

European Institute

“These are a few of the audacious and often controversial predictions of **George Friedman**, author of **The Next 100 Years**, A Forecast for the 21st Century, which ...”

<https://www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=george+freidman+the+next+100+years>

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