Time To Start Thinking - America and the Spectre of Decline.pdf

The Retreat of Western Liberalism

An “insightful and harrowing” analysis of the state of Western-style democracy by the Financial Times columnist and author of Time to Start Thinking (The New York Times). In his widely acclaimed book Time to Start Thinking, Financial Times columnist Edward Luce charted the course of America’s economic and geopolitical decline, proving to be a prescient voice on the state of the nation. In The Retreat of Western Liberalism, Luce makes a larger statement about the weakening of western hegemony and the crisis of democratic liberalism—of which Donald Trump and his European counterparts are not the cause, but a symptom. Luce argues that we are on a menacing trajectory brought about by ignorance of what it took to build the West, arrogance toward society’s economic losers, and complacency about our system’s durability—attitudes that have been emerging since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Unless the West can rekindle an economy that produces gains for the majority of its people, its political liberties may be doomed. Combining on-the-ground reporting with economic analysis, Luce offers a detailed projection of the consequences of the Trump administration and a forward-thinking analysis of what those who believe in enlightenment values must do to protect them.

The Fate of the West - The Battle to Save the World’s Most Successful Political Idea

When faced with global instability and economic uncertainty, it is tempting for states to react by closing borders, hoarding wealth and solidifying power. We have seen it at various times in Japan, France and Italy and now it is infecting much of Europe and America, as the vote for Brexit in the UK has vividly shown. This insularity, together with increased inequality of income and wealth, threatens the future role of the West as a font of stability, prosperity and security. Part of the problem is that the principles of liberal democracy upon which the success of the West has been built have been suborned, with special interest groups such as bankers accruing too much power and too great a share of the economic cake. So how is this threat to be countered? States such as Sweden in the 1990s, California at different times or Britain under Thatcher all halted stagnation by clearing away the powers of interest groups and restoring their societies’ ability to evolve. To survive, the West needs to be porous, open and flexible. From reinventing welfare systems to redefining the working age, from reimagining education to embracing automation, Emmott lays out the changes the West must make to revive itself in the moment and avoid a deathly rigid future.

Time to Start Thinking - America in the Age of Descent

This look at the crisis facing the United States “explores the gaping disconnect between elite optimism and popular bewilderment, anger, and despair” (Foreign Affairs). “Gentlemen, we
have run out of money. It is time to start thinking.” —Sir Ernest Rutherford In a book destined to spark debate among both liberals and conservatives, journalist Edward Luce advances a carefully constructed argument, backed up by interviews with key players in politics and business, that America is losing its pragmatism—and that the consequences of this may soon leave the country high and dry. Addressing the changing structure of the US economy; political polarization; the debilitating effect of the “permanent election campaign”; and problems in education and business innovation, Time to Start Thinking takes a hard look at America’s dwindling options in a world where the pace is increasingly being set elsewhere. “A brilliant reporter who has spoken to everyone: CEOs and members of the cabinet, lobbyists and small town mayors, recent MBAs and unemployed teachers. In his acutely observed, often witty, and very humane portraits, he succeeds in converting the abstractions of economics and bringing them to life.” —Liaquat Ahamed, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Lords of Finance “Americans need friends who will tell us what we need to hear and how to think about the troubles, many of our own making, that threaten our democracy, prosperity, and leadership in the world. We've got just such a friend in Ed Luce. He's a foreign observer who has not just traveled widely in the United States but listened carefully to a wide array of our citizens.” —Strobe Talbott, president, The Brookings Institution “In a tradition stretching back to de Tocqueville, sympathetic foreigners are often the keenest observers of American life. Edward Luce is one such person. He paints a highly disturbing picture of the state of American society, and of the total failure of American elites to come to grips with the real problems facing the country. It rises far above the current political rhetoric by its measured reliance on facts.” —Francis Fukuyama, author of Identity

**The Light that Failed - A Reckoning**

A landmark book that completely transforms our understanding of the crisis of liberalism, from two pre-eminent intellectuals Why did the West, after winning the Cold War, lose its political balance? In the early 1990s, hopes for the eastward spread of liberal democracy were high. And yet the transformation of Eastern European countries gave rise to a bitter repudiation of liberalism itself, not only there but also back in the heartland of the West. In this brilliant work of political psychology, Ivan Krastev and Stephen Holmes argue that the supposed end of history turned out to be only the beginning of an Age of Imitation. Reckoning with the history of the last thirty years, they show that the most powerful force behind the wave of populist xenophobia that began in Eastern Europe stems from resentment at the post-1989 imperative to become Westernized. Through this prism, the Trump revolution represents an ironic fulfillment of the promise that the nations exiting from communist rule would come to resemble the United States. In a strange twist, Trump has elevated Putin's Russia and Orbán's Hungary into models for the United States. Written by two pre-eminent intellectuals bridging the East/West divide, The Light that Failed is a landmark book that sheds light on the extraordinary history of our Age of Imitation.

**Summary of Edward Luce's the Retreat of Western Liberalism - Key Takeaways & Analysis**

PLEASE NOTE: This is a summary, analysis and review of the book and not the original book.
Edward Luce's in-depth analysis of the decline of democracy, "The Retreat of Western Liberalism" explores the myriad factors affecting the shift away from a political system many readers will have taken for granted in their lifetimes. This SUMOREADS Summary & Analysis offers supplementary material to "The Retreat of Western Liberalism" to help you distill the key takeaways, review the book's content, and further understand the writing style and overall themes from an editorial perspective. Whether you'd like to deepen your understanding, refresh your memory, or simply decide whether or not this book is for you, SUMOREADS Summary & Analysis is here to help. Absorb everything you need to know in under 20 minutes! What does this SUMOREADS Summary & Analysis Include? An Executive Summary of the original book Editorial Review Key takeaways & analysis Key players from the book Brief chapter-by-chapter summaries A short bio of the the author Original Book Summary Overview Western hegemony has begun a decline in recent decades, while Russian and Chinese dominance has slowly, but steadily, grown. Are we wrong to put our faith in liberal democracy? Is there prosperity in Eastern-style autocracy? In "The Retreat of Western Liberalism," Edward Luce takes the reader through the events and people that propagated Western democracy to the height of its popularity in past decades, and explores the factors that are contributing to its decline today. This book looks into the possible trajectories of recent events, and what, if anything, can be done to save Western liberalism. BEFORE YOU BUY: The purpose of this SUMOREADS Summary & Analysis is to help you decide if it's worth the time, money and effort reading the original book (if you haven't already). SUMOREADS has pulled out the essence-but only to help you ascertain the value of the book for yourself. This analysis is meant as a supplement to, and not a replacement for, "The Retreat of Western Liberalism."

**The Jungle Grows Back - America and Our Imperiled World**

A brilliant and visionary argument for America's role as an enforcer of peace and order throughout the world--and what is likely to happen if we withdraw and focus our attention inward. Recent years have brought deeply disturbing developments around the globe. American sentiment seems to be leaning increasingly toward withdrawal in the face of such disarray. In this powerful, urgent essay, Robert Kagan elucidates the reasons why American withdrawal would be the worst possible response, based as it is on a fundamental and dangerous misreading of the world. Like a jungle that keeps growing back after being cut down, the world has always been full of dangerous actors who, left unchecked, possess the desire and ability to make things worse. Kagan makes clear how the "realist" impulse to recognize our limitations and focus on our failures misunderstands the essential role America has played for decades in keeping the world's worst instability in check. A true realism, he argues, is based on the understanding that the historical norm has always been toward chaos--that the jungle will grow back, if we let it.

**Time To Start Thinking - America and the Spectre of Decline**

On its present course, the US faces a world of rising new countries that will compete with it ever more fiercely as its own power is declining. In order to slow and improve this steady leakage of power, the US must change course internationally, economically and domestically. It must also restructure to remain the world's most competitive economy. And it must address quality of life
issues and fairness at home. But American politics is broken -- competing forces and interests have led to stasis. With change so tough, where now for a country where the middle classes are suffering as they have never suffered before, the pensions crisis is growing, the deficit out of sight, and radicalism waiting in the wings?

**The Demons of Liberal Democracy**

Liberals blame the global retreat of liberal democracy on globalisation and authoritarian leaders. Only liberalism, so they assume, can defend democratic rule against multinationals or populists at home and abroad. In this provocative book, Adrian Pabst contends that liberal democracy is illiberal and undemocratic – intolerant about the values of ordinary people while concentrating power and wealth in the hands of unaccountable elites. Under the influence of contemporary liberalism, democracy is sliding into oligarchy, demagogy and anarchy. Liberals, far from defending open markets and free speech, promote monopolies such as the new tech giants that undermine competition and democratic debate. Liberal individualism has eroded the social bonds and civic duties on which democracy depends for trust and cooperation. To banish liberal democracy’s demons, Pabst proposes radical ideas for economic democracy, a politics of persuasion and a better balance of personal freedom with social solidarity. This book’s defence of democratic politics against both liberals and populists will speak to all readers trying to understand our age of upheaval.

**The Retreat of Liberal Democracy - Authoritarian Capitalism and the Accumulative State in Hungary**

This book is the product of three years of empirical research, four years in politics, and a lifetime in a country experiencing three different regimes. Transcending disciplinary boundaries, it provides a fresh answer to a simple yet profound question: why has liberal democracy retreated? Scheiring argues that Hungary’s new hybrid authoritarian regime emerged as a political response to the tensions of globalisation. He demonstrates how Viktor Orbán’s Fidesz exploited the rising nationalism among the working-class casualties of deindustrialisation and the national bourgeoisie to consolidate illiberal hegemony. As the world faces a new wave of autocratisation, Hungary’s lessons become relevant across the globe, and this book represents a significant contribution to understanding challenges to democracy. This work will be useful to students and researchers across political sociology, political science, economics and social anthropology, as well democracy advocates.

**Suicide of the West - An Essay on the Meaning and Destiny of Liberalism**

James Burnham’s 1964 classic, Suicide of the West, remains a startling account on the nature of the modern era. It offers a profound, in depth analysis of what is happening in the world today by putting into focus the intangible, often vague doctrine of American liberalism. It parallels the loosely defined liberal ideology rampant in American government and institutions, with the flow, ebb, growth, climax and the eventual decline and death of both ancient and modern civilizations. Its author maintains that western suicidal tendencies lie not so much in the lack of
resources or military power, but through an erosion of intellectual, moral, and spiritual factors abundant in modern western society and the mainstream of liberal psychology. Devastating in its relentless dissection of the liberal syndrome, this book will lead many liberals to painful self-examination, buttress the thinking conservative’s viewpoint, and incite others, no doubt, to infuriation. None can ignore it.

**In Defense of Cultural Christianity**
As liberalism falters, the vestigial religious practices of post-Christian cultures could become functional parts of Christian politics once again.

**Their same-sex rabbinical wedding was a historic first for the Conservative movement**
You could call it bashert: 15 years after a landmark decision in Judaism's Conservative movement that paved the way for gay and lesbian students to enter its rabbinical schools and for rabbis to ...

**Interview with Tobias Ellwood: Johnson lacks “serious expertise, people with political acumen, over in the Number 10 machine”**
Boris Johnson does not have the advisers he needs at Number 10, has exposed himself to comparison with the Hungarian leader, Viktor Orban, and is “losing sight of what parliamentarians and the ...”

**The pioneering female academic GP: Debbie Sharp**
The professor of primary healthcare talks to Marika Davies about being the first woman throughout her academic career In 1994 Debbie Sharp became the first professor of primary healthcare at the ...

**Two rabbis tie the knot in LGBTQ+ conservative Jewish wedding**
Rabbi Ariella Rosen and Rabbi Becca Walker tied the knot at the Conservative movement’s camp in Palmer, Massachusetts.

**The Western canon has endured at the expense of marginalised voices — but is there still value in these works?**
Does pluralism, liberalism, democracy, freedom of expression and rule of law shine a way forward or obscure a dark past that still haunts us today, asks Stan Grant.

**In 1st for Conservative movement, women rabbis tie knot in same-sex wedding**
It feels like we shouldn’t be groundbreaking,’ Rabbi Becca Walker says after marrying Rabbi Ariella Rosen in wedding officiated by another lesbian rabbi ...

**Western Muslims and Jews must pay closer attention to what’s unfolding in Bosnia**
Western Muslims and Western Jews must—for their own sakes and for each other—pay closer attention to the dangerous brinksmanship now unfolding in Bosnia. That small Balkan country, held together by a ...  

**Loss of belief in the Australian project threatens our future**
Elections are much more than just a choice between different political parties fundamentally, they are a contest over the sort of country we want for ourselves and our children one that goes more in ...

**China turns inward: Xi Jinping, COP26 and the pandemic**
Responding to acute domestic pressures and hostility abroad, Beijing appears to be slowly decoupling from the west ...

**Inside the Unraveling of American Zionism**
who not only presided over more settlement construction in the West Bank but sided with the ultra-Orthodox
rabbinate on matters both religious and civil, attempted to hamstring liberal NGOs, engaged ...