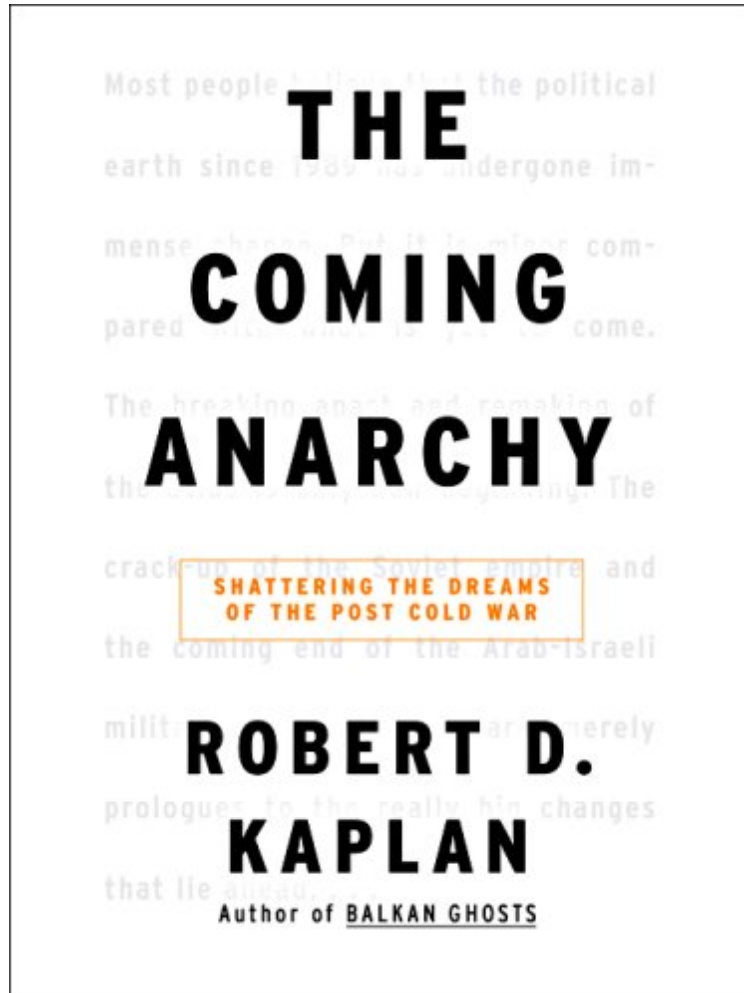


(Get free) The Coming Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War

The Coming Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War

Von Robert D. Kaplan

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Von Robert D. Kaplan : The Coming Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Coming Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not Kaplan's bestVon Leland E. G. LarsonHe starts off good, with a realistic portrayal based on his actual experience in areas of the world, notably Africa. His chapters on "democracy" and "idealism" are interesting and possibly these three chapters plus a short conclusion might have made a coherent, well-written (short) book. Instead, Kaplan wanders off the track into Gibbon's "Decline and Fall...", spends a whole bunch of time boring the reader thoroughly with Henry Kissinger's thoughts on 19th Century strategists, dares to try to wrap everything up as contained within Conrad's "Nostromo" and leaves the reader ready to quit after 185 overpriced pages. Other than telling us that there are serious

problems out there and that our experience of these comforting times might be distorted as well as ephemeral. Kaplan presents no pearls of wisdom which one might have expected based on his prior works, several which deserve all five stars (Balkan Ghosts, The Arabists, Ends of the Earth). I was very disappointed in this poorly edited, all over-the-place book, indeed, various magazine articles made over into a book, but lacking in coherence. Surely with Kaplan's experience, the reader might have expected more. I wouldn't waste your time or money on this one (I'm sad to say)--but, by all means, buy one of this author's other books!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Self conscious 'profundity' Von bongoNewt is correct about one thing, Kaplan quotes everyone one earth. That is part of his whole technique of sounding prophetic. I for one am not especially enamored of 'prophecy'. I would prefer some solid empirical reporting. Kaplan's last book had the same faults as this one, as a matter of fact, it reads like he cut and pasted alot from An Empire Wilderness, but this book isn't even that good. Which is saying something, cause I gave that one about a C-.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The World According To Robert D. Kaplan! Von Barron Laycock This is a book full of fascinating and absorbing essays portraying Robert Kaplan's insightful vision of a world suddenly full of frightening, endlessly fragmented, unstable and chaotic nations launching into violence and internal genocide at the drop of the proverbial hat. So what has changed, Bobby, other than the fact that the balance of terror provided by a catastrophically expensive, wasteful, and useless Cold War that Kaplan aches nostalgically for since it provided some means of international stability? While everything Mr. Kaplan argues for is ostensibly true in the narrow sense, I have a problem with the fact that for all its flashes of insight and brilliance, his perspective is sadly lacking in any genuine insights in terms of a rational and progressive policy for righting what he rightly views is ailing the collective world at large. Moreover, I suspect from these essays that like many neo-conservatives desperately searching for reasons and rationalizations to reignite the home fires now languishing so petulantly beneath the American arms industry, he neglects to mention how flagrantly the transnational corporations he often lectures to negatively influence the regional conflagrations he so conspicuously deplors. In short, I fear the author doth protest too much; for all his urgent protestations, he seems more like a wolf dressed in wool baying like a sheep than an ardently sincere proponent of peace in our time. Certainly ours is a much more dangerous and fractious world than it was before the breakup of the former Soviet Union. But it is a serious mistake to conclude that this is solely due to the lack of a continuing balance of terror that kept each opposing orbit of influence circling within tolerable political tolerances. Instead, the circumstances represented by the momentous change the author refers to must be viewed in a better defined, developed, and articulated context, one recognizing that while we enjoy a enviable lifestyle while producing what most of the rest of the world wants and cannot find the means to afford, we also act to undermine their positions, as well. For example, both the nation itself and the transnational corporations it serves also conspicuously withhold (for reasons of profit and advantage) humanitarian aid and support of the rest of the world's basic needs for such elementary supplies and services as pharmaceutical assistance for the third world tuberculosis epidemic, or control of HIV infections in Africa, or a more rational crop management system that doesn't ruthlessly exploit third world countries by condemning their leaders to grow cash crops for export to meet their World Bank payment obligations instead of allowing them to feed their burgeoning populations. This is a hardly an enlightened, disinterested, or progressive way to aid and assist the emerging third world countries. In short, far from being innocent observers of dangerous trends going on "out there" in Kaplan's sterile and superficially defined world of nation states, we need to integrate what we know about the way the world really works, not just in the notional and abstract political world discussed in foreign policy statements for public consumption. Rather, we need one that recognizes the fact that nations often conduct foreign policy in service to their corporate sponsors' perceived interests, that the flag often follows commerce, that the profound social, economic, and political influence wielded with great purpose by the cynical, indifferent, and anonymous corporations who are in fact almost exclusively oriented and motivated by profit considerations affect what is going on in the world. I agree with much of what Mr. Kaplan has to say in terms of individual statements about the dangerous, unpredictable, and provocative times we are moving into. But I hardly believe it serves public discussion to voice these concerns so articulately only to then retreat to a silly and superficial set of notions about what the larger social, economic and political realities are or what an enlightened foreign policy would be to guard against these dangers. It is a sweet but insubstantial confection, one that patently disregards the profound issues of corporate globalization and how it views its role in the unfolding drama the author addresses so interestingly.

Kurzbeschreibung Robert Kaplan, bestselling author of *Balkan Ghosts*, offers up scrupulous, far-ranging insights on the world to come in a spirited, rousing, and provocative book that has earned a place at the top of the reading lists of the world's policy makers. The end of the Cold War has not ushered in the global peace and prosperity that many had anticipated. Volatile new democracies in Eastern Europe, fierce tribalism in Africa, civil war and ethnic violence in the Near East, and widespread famine and disease not to mention the brutal rift developing as wealthy nations reap the benefits of seemingly boundless technology while other parts of the world slide into chaos are among the issues Kaplan

identifies as the most important for charting the future of geopolitics. Historical antecedents in Gibbon's *Decline and Fall* and in the legacies of statesmen such as Henry Kissinger contribute to this bracingly prophetic framework for addressing the new global reality. Bold, erudite, and profoundly important, *The Coming Anarchy* is a compelling must-read by one of today's most penetrating writers and provocative minds. Robert Kaplan warns of a "bifurcated world divided between societies like ours, producing goods and services that the rest of the world wants, and those mired in various forms of chaos." This is a familiar theme for previous Kaplan readers (*Balkan Ghosts*, *The Ends of the Earth*). For those unacquainted with Kaplan, however, *The Coming Anarchy* is a fine introduction to one of the most important voices on the future of society and international relations. Kaplan mixes the intense reportage of a travel writer with the sharp wisdom of a foreign-policy expert to deliver what he calls "an unrelenting record of uncomfortable truths, of the kind that many of us implicitly acknowledge but will not publicly accept." *The Coming Anarchy* is also a disturbing book: Kaplan's vision of the future is a bleak one, full of ethnic conflict as the world falls away from a cold war that at least provided a kind of stability in even the shakiest of countries. That's gone now, of course, and Kaplan's descriptions of life and politics in Sierra Leone, Russia, India, and elsewhere are keenly troubling. Much of the book--but not all of it--has already seen print, mainly on the pages of *The Atlantic Monthly* and *The Wall Street Journal*. It is brief in length but not in importance. --John J. Miller.com

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