

SUNSET ON THE SUPERPOWER: ASSESSING AMERICA AS A DECLINING EMPIRE

Abstract: The US's striving for power has made its position as a global hegemon, world leader, and strongest superpower seem inevitable and irreversible. Despite successes in the past, the essay challenges the notion of the US as a permanent superpower. Discussed throughout three sections of the essay are the US's disregard for principles, the contradictions inside its political ideologies and society, and the rise of China as a better alternative that casts shadows on its leadership. The conclusion agrees on the dominance of the US; however, while questioning its viability, it also argues that America is a state in decline.

Keywords: United States, superpower, global hegemony, decline, China, international leadership, political ideology, state power

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I. INTRODUCTION

It was not until after the Cold War that the United States showed some signs of decline. As time flies the signs have just become stronger than ever, indicating that the US's hegemony and position as global leader is in question. First, the Great Depression (1930), the 911 (2001), the Financial crisis in 2008 then the Great Recession (2007), the Covid pandemic (2019) and now the Climate crisis. Let alone the collapse of US imperial control of the periphery. With fouls all the way including the pre emptive "war on terror", the genocide supporting of Palestinian people,... the United State has lost the battle of principle multiple times, to the point that rarely anyone in the Third world counties is going to believe its rhetoric about self determination, freedom and democracy. It can be said that the US in the 21st century is coming to an irreversible decline.

II. AMERICAN IDEOLOGIES: CHALLENGES AND TRADE-OFFS

"America is the greatest place on Earth"¹

The US has not long been proven that they are the strongest global hegemon in a World Order that they co-founded. A world order that helps sustain the American power and it seems like the US has never failed ever since. The ability to maintain world leadership, global hegemon as well as super power has also been deeply rooted in American ideology since the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

¹ It was Trump's only comment as he returned to the White House Sunday, hours after the Justice Department said Robert Mueller's investigation found no evidence of collusion. (2019 March 24)

1. The American Exceptionalism

At the very beginning, the US is isolated from the world by two oceans, especially isolated from the United Kingdom and Europe. With that geo-political characteristic, America is unique in its early adoption of liberal democracy, the Republican values of private property, legal equality, representative politics as well as the laissez faire capitalism. It is without a doubt to say that the US has all the natural privilege to develop rapidly and far away from the war. This isolation forms a strong ideological exceptionalism, the belief that America is unique, distinctive, exemplary, in other words, exceptional and superior in comparison with the rest of the world.

This belief is continuously repeated to stress its importance and impact on the prosperity of the USA. It is the Manifest destiny which is defined as “the concept of American exceptionalism, that is, the belief that America occupies a special place among the countries of the world.”, with The Puritans - the first European immigrant came to America in 1630 believing that their survival in the new world would be a sign of God’s approval (Smithsonian American Art Museum, p.1). The leading of the US has been well justified and recognized by the international community not only by the Manifest Destiny that American embrace but also by the actual capability to lead in all fronts, to the point that it rang true not only to American but also to a lot of political thinker that the US is undoubtedly global superpower. From a security perspective, the US is proven to be in the top strongest nuclear superpowers with a strong army backed by a network of allies and foreign military bases in many parts of the world². Additionally, the US is also seen as the world wealthiest country³, holding the invisible hand of the international economy and liberal trade.

When the Berlin wall fell, marking the official victory of the US against the USSR, the US has been leading the unipolar global power ever since. It is the world leader and continues to be the strongest power in every domain. It long stayed on the power not only because of its will, but also since it never gave up on expanding or in another world. "Spontaneous expansionism" is what Mexican historian Josefina Zoraida Vazquez refers to the North American as (Bender, 2006, p.51). The US has always been a country of expansion, from the conquest of Latin America, to the colonization and occupation of Philippines, Hawaii island, Panama canal to the

² There are roughly 750 US foreign military bases; they are spread across 80 nations (Bledsoe, 2023).

³ The United States is considered to be the Richest Countries by Total GDP according to a research conducted by World popular review (2024).

case of Puerto Rico, Virgin island, American samoa, Mariana island and the list goes on. The US was not and will never be satisfied with its reach, as blinded by visions of Manifest Destiny, most Americans did not grasp the perception of the United States as greedy and dangerous, as an enemy (Bender, 2006, p.52). The aggressive territorial expansion that was sustained by national policy, effectively supported by the state and enforced by military means when needed constitutes a powerful version of empire (Bender, 2006).

This expansionism justified the American imperialism of which the heyday of it is represented as the position of global hegemon. Global hegemon can be interpreted as its core is the dominance of one country over all others, especially that country has the ability to exercise power on the international stage with minimal resistance from any other powers (Gill & Law, 1989, p.476). So it can be understood that with hegemony come along the economic dominance (as used to be well accomplished by the Marshall plan) and exercise of force. The US also holds control of a strong army - NATO, this close alignment between western nations helps maintain the safety of US hegemony.

However, US imperialism also means the expansion of capitalism and neocolonial chains, which does not always bring up good outcomes as its nature is not resilient.

2. The Unholy Alliances: Neoliberalism, Imperialism, And American Power

2.1. The American Neoliberalism

In the "Profit over people - neoliberalism and global order" written in 1999, Chomsky stated that neoliberalism is not simply as an economic doctrine, rather than that, it should be viewed as a comprehensive system encompassing economic, political, and social spheres. However, this system prioritizes maximizing corporate profits and shareholder value, often at the expense of workers, the environment, and public welfare. Core neoliberal principles like free trade are argued to disproportionately benefit corporations and harm developing nations. Also it can have detrimental impact on global order, neoliberalism has exacerbated global inequalities, creating a widening gap between the rich and the poor, with American-led international institutions like the World Trade Organization and International Monetary Fund serving corporate interests rather than promoting development and human rights.

Therefore US foreign policy under neoliberalism can be seen as often promoting the interests of multinational corporations, even if it contradicts stated ideals of democracy and human rights. Neoliberals are said to take various approaches to freedom and social justice, but none is fully compatible with economic and social human rights (Freeman, 2014). A broader discussion on the area of policy making and the driving forces behind American neoliberalism should be discussed. It is argued that the US's defense policies as well as welfare policies under neoliberalism are restructured to help create a "workfare-warfare" state. This means that welfare benefits are increasingly tied to foreign labor participation, while the military-industrial complex thrives on endless wars. The shift from traditional welfare programs to "active" welfare policies, like workfare, encourages individual responsibility and reduces state support (MacLeavy & Peoples, 2009).

Among factors that affect US policy, neoliberalism is considered to be a strong factor that frames foreign policy. New liberalism is what founded America and also the value of the two-party commonality that America craved (Gibson, 2000), the desire for territorial expansion that has never been achieved. That ambition will always remain, guiding foreign policy regardless of which party is in power. The empire's hegemony must be based on military hegemony with the support of fulfilled economic interests.

The upper class has always striven for dominance, and the US is no exception. America's imperialist tendencies haven't vanished, instead manifesting as "economic imperialism", which involves using economic might to re-establish a global hierarchy with the US on top, exploiting others in the process (Pose, 2003). Invasion or the "War on Terror" is merely for the benefit of a specific group. Gregory critiques the US government's political-economic ambitions, often masked as attempts to simply open markets for American corporations (Klein, 2007, p.308).

The process of "exporting American values" through free-trade pacts and technology is seen as a self-serving agenda, "crusade for democracy" rather than for peace keeping. Undermining democratic principles, all the intervention instead empowers unaccountable, often foreign-based corporations. The concepts of "free enterprise" and "private ownership," often presented as the representative of democracy and freedom as they offer opportunity to make a living, are simply a facade masking underlying inequalities and exploitation. Free enterprise and private ownership are declared to be essentials of democracy and freedom. The justice, liberty and welfare that neoliberal states offer are decried as a camouflage of slavery, hidden under the well meant concept of democracy (Harvey, 2005, p.37). In essence, the US

used its power and

influence to maintain a global class hierarchy, especially through military intervention even if it meant invoking positive values like democracy and free markets.

2.2. Military Policy For Imperialism

Taking the military dominance being promoted using unilateral military action and preemptive use of force for example. Before the Cold War's end, non-intervention in other nations' internal affairs was a core principle, even with covert interventions like the US coup in Chile. However, right after the Cold War, human rights became a dominant justification for intervention, despite violating the UN Charter. This new interventionism often "accidentally" targets non-democracies such as the infamous Afghanistan and Iraq wars. The common justification for the US can be about Liberal matters. Liberal argument says an international community of citizens exists, and non-democracies lack full sovereignty due to human rights abuses, this justification is used to mask intervention for protecting Western interests like capitalist stability and profitability (Hoffmann, 2003).

Not only is this wrong and unacceptable, this also leads to an emerging trend that sovereignty is increasingly seen as "conditional", especially the "failed states"'s sovereignty (Wolf, 2001). Therefore, with the abandonment of values and principles, the "new right to intervene" based on human rights is often an ideological justification for interventions serving Western interests driven by imperialism. The use of human rights as a justification for the US interventions which caused detrimental impacts to the targeted societies. The war in Afghanistan was and is unjust because it simply lumps together those who may have attacked the U.S. with those who clearly did not do so and hence should not have been attacked in return. There is no reason to think that the U.S. was attacked by Afghanistan (Rockmore, 2004).

More than just the matter of principles, there is a troubling confluence of interests driven by profit and power. The "command of the commons" (Posen, 2003) which means the military control of key common areas like land, sea, air, and space allows the United States to project its power around the world and prevent other countries from doing the same. This military control power also means the ability to move troops and supplies quickly and easily around the world, deter or defeat potential adversaries and maintain a network of alliances and institutions that support its military dominance. The US's "Revolution in Military Affairs" and "Defense Transformation" doctrines are argued to primarily benefit the military-industrial complex, nourishing an ever-expanding system of militarism with the help of high-tech weaponry. This

shows a link with neoliberal interests seeking global dominance and securing access to valuable resources of the US (MacLeavy & Peoples, 2009). Power was and always will be a key aim for the US foreign policy.

The imperialist strategy that combined full implementation of neoliberal policies and capitalist restructuring of production with increased emphasis on military interventionism. The US often started with armed humanitarian intervention and escalated with pre-emptive war on terror, only in that way its supremacy is well preserved. Unlike the EU - an union, America always leads alone. It uses a visible fist as NATO to fight anyone who does not obey their imperial order. Neoliberalism and imperialism will help this country permanently profit from the market and state system, all for the craving of power.

Along with the ideology discussed above, US's hegemony in the imperialist chain as the most powerful capitalist state see itself as the only state capable of safeguarding the long-term interest of all the major capitalist states and its predominance is justified with no contestants. Europeans, it is said, are free to live in peace because there are Americans who safeguard this peace (Kagan, 2002), this constructs American "benevolent foreign policy". With no contest allowed to challenge American supremacy, the United States will not hesitate to attack anyone (even a present ally) who opposes its dominant position (Sakellariopoulos & Sotiris, 2008). However this supremacy also causes questions as to whether it is a sign of true leadership and hegemony, or is it a violent or even ruthless effort to compensate for an inevitable hegemonic decline, political, economic and moral.

2.3. The Paradox of US Power: Hegemon on the Precipice

The US is a global hegemon, yet this super power is showing it may be on the other side of the hill given many signs that it can not handle the contradictions and problems of its own political philosophy, starting with the disrespect for its own principles. On the economic and security level, America is still showing that its position has not been threatened successfully yet. However, it is also claimed that the American economy has many deep-seated issues like over-accumulation (Bello, 2006) and reliance on foreign labor (Siniavskaya, 2023) that threaten the US's economic leadership.

Beyond economic concerns, it is also highlighted that US leadership security is also challenged. Events such as aggressive interventions like the Iraq War, or having increasing strained relations with allies are tarnishing the nation's image. Let alone the failed occupation in

Afghanistan, the involvement in Russia - Ukraine war, failing to achieve its stated goals, has fueled resistance, conflicts, and a seemingly endless military commitment. Additionally, social and political movements in Latin America challenge US influence and economic models, while efforts to destabilize regional players and unwavering support for Israel do nothing but further complicate peace efforts (Goren, 2023).

Moreover, the possibility of military action against Iran raises concerns about overstretched resources, inflamed anti-war sentiment, and the potential for regional destabilization (Sakellariopoulos & Sotiris, 2008). The military is also seen as a convenient escape for those struggling to meet stringent workfare requirements, trapping them in a cycle of low-wage service for basic needs. Therefore the US military system is argued to exacerbate social inequalities, undermine democratic principles, and promote militarism as a solution to complex social issues rather than protect the citizens (MacLeavy & Peoples, 2009).

These security challenges have not gone extremely out of control but enough to paint a complex picture, suggesting that US leadership faces threats beyond just surface level. Thus, social movements, geopolitical rivals, are considered to be the most significant challenge to US dominance. The neoliberal policies lead to social consequences like eroded public services and growing inequality while anti-war, anti-capitalist movements within and outside the US have not been addressed yet. There are still resistances including Iraqi insurgency, Latin American social movements, anti-capitalist struggles in developed countries.

3. The American Capitalism

The first problem of American capitalism is that it can intertwine with maintaining democracy. There is a core fundamental tension between the two systems, while Democracy emphasizes equal political rights and opportunities, Capitalism, however, thrives on competition and differentiation, potentially leading to economic and social inequalities. Historically, the compatibility of capitalism and democracy has been achieved through "embedded capitalism" (Merkel, 2014) where social welfare policies and regulations mitigate inequalities and ensure broad public support for the system. However, this embedded capitalism has been eroded by globalization and financialization, and a decline in public trust in democratic institutions. This scenario, therefore, means that the US trades the erosion of democratic freedoms to maintain economic stability and order .

This also shows that American capitalism has reached a stage of decline and is no longer a viable system for organizing society and that it has become "senile" focusing solely on maintaining the wealth of the rich while neglecting the needs of the majority (Amin, 2003). Capitalism as an unsustainable model leads to increasing social and economic inequalities, fueling discontent and instability. The aggressive preemptive invasion of the US to other countries (Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yugoslavia) can be an example of the fact that American capitalism goes against any values about democracy and peace, perpetuates global disorder and undermines international cooperation. The limitations and contradictions of an outdated capitalism has encouraged the current system's flaws and also for US dominance and neocolonial exploitation. While internal contradictions and rising alternatives challenge the nations' long-term viability, the erosion of trust in democratic institutions due to rising inequality, declining political participation, stagnation in the economic development and increasing corporate influence adds to the strain and weakens the legitimacy of the state. (Atreack, 2016). Yet, the challenges don't solely reside within.

Modern American capitalism or the "low-road" capitalism (Desmond, 2019) defined by prioritizing profit over human well-being is argued to find its roots in the brutal reality of American slavery. Big businesses are where enslaved people were treated not as human beings, but as commodities to be exploited for maximum gain. There existed brutal control mechanisms like surveillance and physical punishment to ensure the slave's compliance, all highlighting the system's deep-rooted disregard for human dignity. Between the "plantation practices" and modern-day the parallels can be seen. Taking the subprime mortgage crisis as an example, the vulnerable populations were targeted for profit through lending. This demonstrates a defining characteristic of such an exploitative system that is focused on short-term gain, regardless of long-term social costs. Also the enduring legacy of this system's racialized hierarchies. The wealth disparities and limited opportunities faced by many African Americans today have their roots in the structures established during slavery (Desmond, 2019).

American society has to suffer harmful detrimental impacts from its own philosophy system. The system that undermines its own cultural foundations. First, The "spirit of capitalism," characterized by hard work, thrift, and deferred gratification, was crucial for its initial success. However, rising affluence and social mobility weaken these values, leading to individualism, hedonism, and alienation. Second, capitalism drives social change and fosters a diverse, pluralistic culture. However, its focus on efficiency and profit can commodify art, homogenize

culture, and suppress critical thought. Advancements in communication and automation will further exacerbate cultural contradictions, potentially leading to *gesellschaft* (atomized society) or *gemeinschaft* (collectivist society) (Bell, 1972). Third, the system core values are challenged by the emergence of the new class - the knowledge-based economy creates a new professional class with values more aligned with self-expression and autonomy than traditional capitalism (Manchester, 2021).

III. THE COLLAPSE

1. The State Of Decline

The US economy is strong and it is a fact that the whole world is affected by it, globalization and internationalization of finance is the ultimate act of US hegemony. However, this phenomenon needs a broader historical context to be examined. The ultimate impact of US hegemony through financial globalization holds significant weight. It's true that the internationalization of finance and the introduction of transnational corporations (TNCs) into developing nations have raised concerns about exclusion from truly liberalized trade (ReviseSociology, 2017). A power “matrix” would be more accurate to depict the way America, alongside other powerful nations and institutions, funnel power and wealth away from developing nations to the US.

Not only that, American exceptionalism has undoubtedly fueled interventionist policies abroad with the foreign policy itself being influenced by internal and external factors that cause harmful effects for the nation's “hegemonic entitlement”. The US’s influence operates through mechanisms beyond just economic programs, it involves structural adjustment policies imposed by international financial institutions (IFIs) or, in many cases, violent interventions. Under the name of “democratize and bring freedom” the Bush Doctrine caused serious bad consequences, including the “forever wars” in the Middle East and deteriorated geopolitical situations. While the recent confluence of COVID-19, under the Trump presidency, domestic political instability certainly raises questions about American power (Balz, 2020) and also shows a definitive sign of an “overextended and due for contraction” superpower. Afghanistan is a humiliating withdrawal for the US but it is not enough to challenge the massive global power that the nation has carefully built for over 70 years.

However, small failures are the regulation of the very logic that has upheld American domination for declinists, as the US shows that their coping mechanism is weaker than ever. Covid 19 proved tangibility of American and liberal capitalist erosion, the pandemic hit American capitalism really hard and left failures of free market and the “collaborating government” - the government that can only respond to the pandemic with lack of support and responsibility. The state reluctantly intervened into the privatized economy during the peak of the pandemic, leading to mass homelessness⁴, food insecurity but also deepening inequality and precarity, which can be prevented given enough effort from the state (Berman, 2020).

Overall, the country that stood at the top could hardly respond to its assailant. Secondly, it can be witnessed that there is now a thriving middle power like China, Russia, India, that challenges the American-led system. The US’s share of the global economy declines (Bhutada, 2021), the competition arises and the playing ground at the top is narrowing down. The world is entering a multipolar phase, with the US facing increased competition, but its underlying power base remains substantial. It can be proven by the fact that now, the EU did legislate more confidently and fine US's companies when they preach EU's law. In the Android Antitrust case, Google is fined over 5 billion US dollars (€4.34) for their violations.

The picture of the world economy system is now repainted, the budget now seems comparable between top countries which means US industry can not call all the shots anymore. However, considering factors like military spending, technological innovation, and diplomatic influence, these still remain significant strengths for the US. Therefore while the US share of the global economy might decline, this doesn't automatically translate to a loss of absolute power. But still, it is a state of decline with weak coping mechanisms, they are more vulnerable to a changing world order.

2. The Contradiction Within The American Society Have Advanced

Beside every foreign economic surge and competing ideology, the American society itself is also believed to trigger a decline in this nation. The American dream is dimmed to its citizens, instead, the American interest in socialism continues to rise (Peoples Dispatch, 2023). This phenomenon can be attributed to many reasons, mainly the contradiction revealed in capitalism itself. Undeniably, these internal contradictions are at a turning point, with an increasing

⁴ The data released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development shows that US's homeless count surges to 12% - the highest level on record

number of many Americans suffering stagnant wages, limited and extravagant healthcare access while the cost of living continues to rise. With all of that problems and more, fundamental challenges are posed to the core tenets of American capitalism.

Compared to a struggling American unable to control its citizen's caseload, China is on a more stable trajectory, winning the developing world with a more socialist understanding. Moreover, while anti communism, anti muslim propaganda result in crimes against innocent people surging, the American is led into unnecessary proxy war. In the claim that taking an opposite stand means supporting the end to American freedom and democracy. The American society is terribly politicized and deeply divided by those double standards. For example, the US lashed out in a trade war against China with the belief that China is the reason why their beloved country is not great anymore, strongly impacted by propaganda campaigns. Those can be witnessed including blaming the Chinese for suspicious nuclear missions, spy, military operations and bases beyond the region all just to counter and pose a serious death threat to the US.

Additionally, mostly during the first year of the Covid pandemic, the US government was reluctant to vaccinate and the point of all propaganda is to state that China is the root of the virus, those campaigns indeed caused hate crime against people of Asian heritage to surge significantly (Gover, Harper, et al., 2020). It seems like everytime US hegemony is painted as being under threat, there would appear the same response as if the strongest power is always too insecure. Just because freedom is put on the line and retaliation is inevitable, the advocates are depicted as traitors to the US. Even China's rise presents competition, not an immediate alternative replacement, the US just simply can not let it go. It always has to cling to the outdated "us and them" binary model.

Another point worth examining is the fact that developing countries have been exploited by capitalist oppressors for decades. Now in modern day and age, despite the western power's best efforts, anti-capitalist sentiment is stronger than ever, to the point that it begins to take root abroad and at home (Manchester, 2021). Especially when there's a China willingness to "help" the LDCs get out the boot of US imperialism. That means towards the prevailing economic order, a strong skepticism is growing. This trend can be attributed to various factors, including internal inequalities and perceived exploitative practices of the US's foreign policy. Compared to that, China is offering alternatives, addressing systemic issues with a better understanding (Hillman, 2020) and the global landscape is also undeniably shifting towards a strong

sustainable multipolarity. The key takeaway lies not in declaring an inevitable decline, but in acknowledging this multi-layered reality. The US's neo liberalism order may not survive another few decades.

3. The Struggle Against China

The United States' foreign policies are primarily driven by the desire to maintain its superpower status. Therefore, the US thus seeks to prevent the emergence of challengers, on both the global and regional stage using international law, market economy and the promotion of liberal democracy (Sakellarpoulos & Sotiris, 2008). However, concerns arise regarding the efficacy and ethical implications of the US's tendency to adopt such an approach.

The US's current foreign policy fosters resentment and alienation amongst other nations because of its emphasis on promoting specific political and economic structures, instead of fostering mutually beneficial partnerships. This, therefore, hinders its ability to navigate a complex and increasingly multipolar world. In comparison to this, China seemingly has a more pragmatic and flexible approach, focusing on economic cooperation and strategic partnership. Gradually, China appears to be gaining traction in certain regions, particularly Africa and Southeast Asia.

The rise of China as an intimidating competitor poses a significant challenge to the US's traditional leadership role and prompts calls for a reevaluation of its foreign policy strategy. It is also proven by growing evidence of the US losing ground to China across various domains. First, Chinese companies are making headway in key economic markets, making the competition more challenging for the US (China Power Team, 2019). Moreover, China's rapid development and strategic ambitions also pose a substantial threat to US dominance in the ongoing "tech war" (Allison & Schmidt, 2020; Dychtwald, 2021) .

Valid concerns have been raised about the long - term viability of Washington's foreign policy, which is criticized as primarily focused on containment and ideological competition. This is not to underestimate the suggestion of China's model adoption, also an exploration of alternative paradigms that prioritize partnership, mutual respect, and adaptability for more effective maintaining US's international leadership. In order to ensure the US's continued success and influence, a critical reevaluation of its foreign policy priorities is highly recommended.

Yet, while the US remains disrupted in costly wars, China thrives. China's foreign policy continues to show success, value collaboration with other nations, prioritizing technological advancement and at the same time improve its citizen's living standard and average income (Bradley, Canal, et al., 2022). One thing that China is considered to do better than the US is that China's foreign aid comes without the strings of imperialist domination, it offers an alternative model that is more equitable and avoids exploitation or tension gaining. In other words, China offers an alternative that is just better and also non imperialist.

Compared to that, the US loans to developing nations are seen as exploitative, highly demanding privatization and resource access with its manufacturing highly dependent on other nations for outsourcing. In some way, the military strength or war is the only thing the US has left with, the last chance the US has to give itself a shot in the arm and a limp along another few decades as the dominant power. But will this last-ditch clinging effort work or in the picture of power fading, it is just another outdated strategy. The future remains uncertain, the global power dynamics need critical reconsideration, however, it seems clear that the United States's foreign policy is failing to meet its desire to maintain geopolitical interest abroad. The American - the New Empire's grip is slipping.

4. Doomed to Repeat: The New Empire on the Path of Decline

The discussed issues above faced by the United States might seem like nothing: a sluggish economy, growing social unrest, a bipolar domestic political system tearing the whole country apart, decline in citizen's faith with the system,... But a thousand tiny cuts being inflicted can wipe out an Empire. Empires in the past collapsed because they were unable to bear the weight of their inherent contradiction.

It seems like all Empires are destined to meet this fate. Like a slow leak in a boat, a pile up issues add up and weaken the powerful United States. It is not falling apart immediately today or tomorrow, not by epic battles, but it is a warning for the future that the United States is in decline. America as its finest is a new Rome, the shining city on the hill, at its golden age of civilization and manifesting its destiny to be on the throne of global hegemon for decades.

Along with its ability to exercise power on all fronts are challenged, its power is in decline, its death by a thousand cuts seems like a self-fulfilling prophecy. Inability to function caused by the accumulation of minor failures leads to an unaddressed collapse. The US will fail in the same way that the Roman Empire failed in the past. It will not be a quick and dramatic collapse

but cracks are already there, it may just take another century or decade for the New Empire to really crumble.

IV. CONCLUSION

While American dominance has held sway over all domains for generations, its foreign policy is well established on capitalist ideals and driven by neo-liberalism and has succeeded in achieving and maintaining its global dominance as a super power - a nation that leads the whole world. Fukuyama's "the end of history" resonated, the ultimate political ideology destined to be liberal democracy and destined to rule the world. The victory of those values can be interpreted and justified as the homogenization of the globe under the leadership of the "most powerful and democratic nation" - the United States. The future of the global order seems to be carved in stone that it is going to be an unchanging order with the firm pinnacle assigned to be the United State.

Yet, history, as it often does, refuses to comply with such entitlement. The US's willingness to break the rules and disrespect its own principles, alongside growing contradiction inside its political based philosophy are causing troubles and leaving a harmful profound impact. The empire built on the best capitalism seems to be on the precipice of decline and even believers in the capitalist cult can not deny this discomfoting reality no more.

A quote by Oscar Wilde may ring true here: "America is the only country that went from barbarism to decadence without civilization in between." The US speedy rise may lack the building of a truly civilized foundation, leaving it vulnerable to a decadent fall. A power struggle, a government full of fouls, a threatened elite class's desperation to cling to an outdated system at its core. The internal contradictions thriving, the global economic and power landscape shifting, and the crave for a change grow more daringly. The "throne" is no longer as secure as it once seemed, its ultimate collapse is becoming a possibility needed acknowledging.

The image of America as the unchallenged leader is shattered by the rise of alternative economic and political paradigms, coupled with thriving middle powers and changing global power dynamics. The adaptation and interpretation of liberal democracy paved the way to more local values, realities across diverse contexts to be acknowledged and respected. Maybe the United States is nothing that special than any other empires that existed in the past, just because it has been the first ranked superpower for so long, no one can imagine a world order without

its leadership. History as they know it may have ended, in that perspective, with the United States of America dying along with it.

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