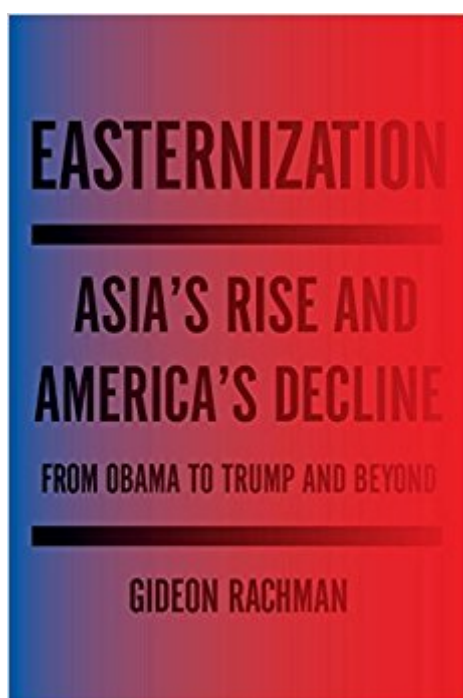


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Easternization: Asia's Rise And America's Decline From Obama To Trump And Beyond



Synopsis

From the winner of the 2016 Orwell Prize and the European Press Prize for Commentator of the Year, a provocative analysis of how a new era of global instability has begun, as the flow of wealth and power turns from West to East. *Easternization* is the defining trend of our age – the growing wealth of Asian nations is transforming the international balance of power. This shift to the East is shaping the lives of people all over the world, the fate of nations, and the great questions of war and peace. A troubled but rising China is now challenging America's supremacy, and the ambitions of other Asian powers – including Japan, North Korea, India, and Pakistan – have the potential to shake the whole world. Meanwhile the West is struggling with economic malaise and political populism, the Arab world is in turmoil, and Russia longs to reclaim its status as a great power. As it becomes clear that the West's historic power and influence is receding, Gideon Rachman offers a road map to the turbulent process that will define the international politics of the twenty-first century.

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Customer Reviews

“Informed on history and up to date, *Easternization* is a sprightly, pointed primer on world affairs. Foreign Affairs *Easternization*, his new survey of a transformed Asia, admirably does what so little writing on foreign affairs attempts. It treats with equal facility economics, geopolitics, security, enough history for needed background, official thinking, and public attitudes. Rachman, chief foreign affairs columnist for the

Financial Times, has an eye for the telling statistic and for the memorable detail that makes it stick. He packs an enormous amount of information into a short book and opens windows of understanding for nonexperts onto this immensely important three fifths of humanity.

• New York Review of Books

“A superb survey of global affairs.”

• Fareed Zakaria, CNN

The domination of the Atlantic rim nations over the rest of the globe may seem like it is fated, since it has been the power dynamic for nearly half a millennium. But the truth, as Mr. Rachman points out, is that it is an anomaly in the longer-run pattern of history.

In “Easternization,” Mr. Rachman, the foreign affairs columnist for the Financial Times, offers a birds-eye view of the transformation

• some would say collapse

• of the post-World War II global order. In brisk, engaging prose, he takes us around the world in 14 chapters, beginning with Asia, then moving to Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and what he calls the “borderlands” between East and West, including Ukraine, Turkey and Hungary.

Asia’s new predominance

• which essentially means China’s increasing power

• is taken as the starting point of Mr. Rachman’s narrative. He makes the convincing, chilling case that the military gap between the United States and China is rapidly narrowing and that the “focal point of Chinese-American military rivalry is the control of the Western Pacific,”

• which is now “disputed territory.”

• Reviewing China’s challenge to America’s decadeslong predominance in Asia’s waters, Mr. Rachman links it to a broader Chinese goal, led by Mr. Xi, of finally overcoming China’s so-called “century of humiliation.”

• This is a fascinating story.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

“This intelligent and provocative new book by [The Financial Times] leading Chief Foreign Affairs Commentator, Gideon Rachman, reminds us of different requirements for journalistic excellence: historical education, engagement in scholarly debates and tireless travel to interview global decision-makers.”

• NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

“Weaving a smattering of history with insights gleaned from his interviews with global power players, Rachman offers a fast-paced and diverting analysis of the challenges facing U.S. foreign policy in the Pacific.”

• PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

“A focused delineation of the shifting center of gravity toward Asia and the need for a strenuous Western response without losing global primacy. Financial Times chief foreign affairs commentator Rachman (Zero-Sum Future: American Power in an Age of Anxiety, 2011), a recent winner of the Orwell Prize, presents a fair, astute assessment of China’s rise during the past few decades in relation to its nervous neighbors, and especially the nuanced and highly criticized response of President Barack

Obama—Rachman carefully looks at both India's and Russia's roles in the global shift toward "easternization," and he considers the American and Western response, which has been largely ineffectual since the crises of 2008...A sage, forward-seeing study to be heeded.

—KIRKUS"China's challenge to the established postwar order needs to be taken seriously...The gravity of economic and military power, [Rachman] argues, is moving from West to East. He is thinking of more than the new class of Chinese billionaires; he includes India, a country that might one day surpass even China as an economic powerhouse, and reminds us that Japan has been one of the world's largest economies for some time now... many of Rachman's informants belong to an international elite that cannot be easily pinned down to East or West. It is refreshing that he does not depend on Lee Kuan Yew or Henry Kissinger for his knowledge of Asia...we want to know what senior diplomats, government ministers, heads of state, and well-connected academics think...One of Rachman's most cogent insights is that having so many Asian allies dependent on U.S. military force may turn out to be a weakness rather than a strength." —NEW YORKER"What this book is really about, and is very good at describing, is the growing impact of China on its neighbors, on the world" —THE ECONOMIST"Excellent . . . Rachman's theme takes him on a most interesting and stimulating tour du monde. His discussion of the impact of China's rise on south-east Asia, contrary to the great majority of accounts, is subtle and nuanced —A most informative, readable and interesting piece of work that deserves a wide

readership." —GUARDIAN —"A vivid and persuasive analysis of the dramatic shifts in global power. . . In his timely new book, Easternization, Gideon Rachman articulates a clear and persuasive idea. . . [His] flair for rich anecdotes, clever writing, strong analysis and original insight are impressive. . . Easternization hits its mark, with a wide range of arguments and prognostications that scholars and policymakers must contemplate as we consider the coming Asian century." —FINANCIAL TIMES

"Easternization... chronicles the economic potency and the diplomatic and military posturing of Asian elites... Rachman is one of the few sensible pundits in the Anglo-American establishment." —Pankaj Mishra, Guardian, author of The Age of Anger —"We are witness in this very decade to one of the greatest geopolitical shifts in the global power balances. . . This tale has many chroniclers and numerous exponents, but by far the most insightful, sensible, and compelling is Easternization. This really is one of those works where you can say you wished our political leaders would read and ponder upon its great implications." —Paul Kennedy, author of The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers —"A brilliant and engrossing account of the

emerging power struggles of the twenty-first century. . . Rachman's access to world leaders from Beijing to Washington provides a unique perspective on international politics.

• Andrew Roberts, author of *The Storm of War* "Gideon Rachman zeroes in on the most important geopolitical issue of our time. . . An indispensable guide to the Great Game of the twenty-first century."

• Nicholas Burns, Harvard University and former U.S. Under Secretary of State "An extraordinarily thoughtful and eloquent guide to a world in the midst of profound transition. Rachman navigates deftly an international landscape full of powerful and often contradictory currents."

• Ambassador William J. Burns, President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and former Deputy Secretary of State "Rachman's level-headed book can be read in one long sitting. . . For those that have already accepted the idea that the West will not and cannot possibly dominate as it did at the end of the last century, then Rachman's book provides both rigor and useful paradigms to order one's thoughts."

• ASIAN REVIEW OF BOOKS "A masterly account ... the best survey of global affairs I have read for some time. . . Rachman's book offers a first-rate primer to the world in which we live."

• SUNDAY TIMES "Gideon Rachman's elegantly written and hugely informed *Easternization* is an essential survey of the migration of economic and political power away from the USA and Europe, towards Russia, China and also possibly India in the long term. . . Cogent and wise."

• LITERARY REVIEW "Gideon Rachman, chief foreign affairs columnist for the Financial Times, cogently puts forward the case that Easternisation is the trend of the 21st century."

• IRISH EXAMINER "A superb account. . . An absorbing and sobering study."

• DAILY TELEGRAPH "[An] accomplished book."

• PROSPECT "Even as Hong Kong prefers the lifestyle and a more open market democracy that it inherited from British colonizers, there is little doubt that widespread 'easternization' is happening, Rachman argues in his book. . . The political implications of China's rise in economic power are profound. Rachman lays them all out in a few key chapters in his book, which is not solely China-centric. He looks at the U.S. and the Korean dilemmas, the impacts of a failed Middle East policy on the U.S. and -- in a positive nod to the West -- how American (and, believe it or not, European!) institutions will save us from a one world government ruled from Beijing."

• FORBES.COM

Gideon Rachman is chief foreign affairs commentator for the Financial Times. He joined the FT in 2006, after fifteen years at The Economist, where he served as a correspondent in Washington

D.C., Brussels, and Bangkok. In 2010 Rachman published his first book, *Zero Sum World*, which predicted the rise in international political tensions and turmoil that followed the global financial crisis. In 2016 he won the Orwell Prize, Britain's leading award for political writing. He was also named Commentator of the Year at the European Press Prize, known as the "European Pulitzers."

.....Do not be put off by the title or subtitle of this book. 'Easternization' is not a politicized tome, but instead a very convincing collection of knowledge and facts to justify several important historical convictions (and a few historical predictions). There is a wealth of clear and concise information packed into this absorbing book by Gideon Rachman. As the chief foreign affairs consultant/commentator for the U.S. based *Financial Times*, Gideon Rachman has long been in contact with many of the power brokers and politicians of today's global geopolitical network. He is thus intimately familiar with the broad subject matter of this book. In *Easternization*, Rachman aptly deals with in equal facility: economics, geopolitics, security, history, official thinking, and public attitudes. The book begins by addressing the subject of Asian predominance in today's world, and then takes us around the globe in the next 14 chapters. It gives us a 'birds eye view' of the transformation and gradual collapse of the global post-WWII order established by the remaining Western powers (and the Soviet Union) in 1945.....I enjoyed this book immensely because I found it to be an informative reference surprisingly free of politicized opinions and judgementalism. This is a welcome relief for any reader in these turbulent times seeking knowledge and facts without bias. I certainly appreciated it. The focal point of this tome is the Chinese-American military rivalry for control of the Western Pacific Ocean, which is arguably the most important geopolitical issue of our time. I found it to be informative and enlightening. *Easternization* is not entirely a China-centric book, for it also addresses the United States and Korean dilemmas, and the broad impact/repercussions of a failed Middle East policy by the United States. *Easternization* also surveys the gradual shifting of economic and political power away from the United States and Western Europe to China, Russia, and India. India, interestingly enough, is another nation on the rise destined for Superpower status within the next two decades. Without giving too much of the conclusion away, the book does end on a positive note (from a Western perspective). The author believes that the stability of American and European financial and governmental institutions will one day save the planet from a 'one world government' ruled from Beijing. I would certainly hope for this eventuality. I'm most pleased with this book because I believe it a top-notch survey of global affairs and a first-rate primer to the world in which we live. I cannot recommend this book highly enough for

anyone interested in understanding why the world of today is perpetually in turmoil. 5 stars.

Excellent overview of China's growing global influence in the last several years, even if you disagree with the author's position/conclusion. Most of the reported events have been chronicled in the news, but Rachman usually adds some interesting bits of information not easily gleaned from media services. He also includes some interesting analysis and views on China's rapid development.

Excellent book. Helps you understand what is going on worldwide, especially the important changes in South Asia, and the rising power of China. Very clear and easy to read..

The beauty of this work is that while Gideon Rachman's title has perhaps an abrasive rub for some his understanding of what that process entails and how and where it is occurring derives from years of experience as a leading journalist for respected publications and the opportunities that allowed to also converse with leaders and observers across the globe involved in world affairs. He spent 15 years with The Economist, with post in Washington, Brussels and Bangkok, and is now chief foreign affairs columnist for the Financial Times. In 2016 Rachman won the Orwell Prize, Britain's leading award for political writing. He brings an open mind and polished style to a serious topic; you will share in those insights. The book was published in 2017 and notes the election of Trump in its preface but in large measure focuses on Obama's foreign policy as Asia and Foreign Policy are Rachman's specialties. He projects the causes for his title by following developments in Asia but also very effectively traces the trends in the E.U., west and east, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. The Peoples Republic of China carries a heavy load but he details the likely reaction of its many neighbors to its rise and their historical interactions with China as limiting factors of its hegemony. Each of his sections are rich in details that have not in general been broadcast by the media and reason enough to earn his five stars for this reviewer. The informed reader will find some glitches in the report but these flow from changes in personalities such as the election of a new president for the Philippines or the more foreboding election of an American president; such do not distract from his well crafted and enjoyable reporting.

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