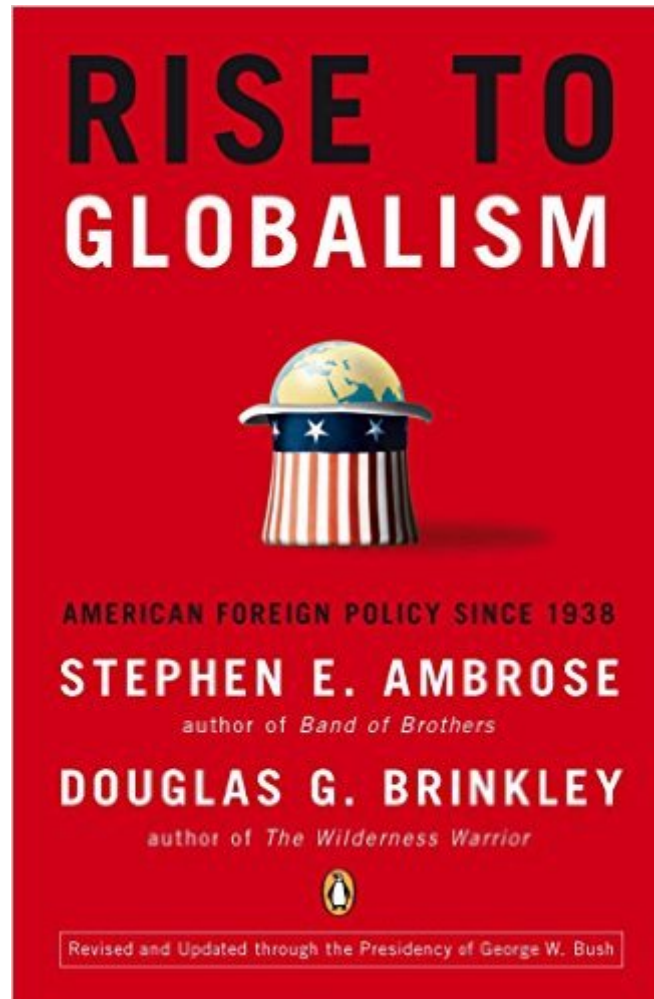


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Rise To Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938



Synopsis

Since it first appeared in 1971, *Rise to Globalism* has sold hundreds of thousands of copies. The ninth edition of this classic survey, now updated through the administration of George W. Bush, offers a concise and informative overview of the evolution of American foreign policy from 1938 to the present, focusing on such pivotal events as World War II, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam, and 9/11. Examining everything from the Iran-Contra scandal to the rise of international terrorism, the authors analyze-in light of the enormous global power of the United States-how American economic aggressiveness, racism, and fear of Communism have shaped the nation's evolving foreign policy.

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Customer Reviews

This book is an excellent jumping off point for any student of international relations and is quite possibly the best book available for someone who simply wants to know more about American history in the 20th century. The latest edition of this book (up through Clinton's first term as president) covers roughly 58 years of American foreign policy in 428 pages; since an entire set of books could easily be written about this period there is going to be a good deal that Ambrose glosses over and skips. If you are looking for detail about any one period in American history, look elsewhere. But if you simply want a map of what has been going on in foreign policy then you will be hard pressed to do better than this book. "Rise to Globalism" is definitely written from an historical perspective; it reads like a narrative and as such has only the smallest bit of analysis. While this

book rates very highly in providing a sense of what has been happening, there is not much to inform you about the political theory, ideology, or trends that underlied decisions that American leaders made in foreign policy. This is not so much a criticism of "Rise to Globalism" (as there is only so much that can be fit into one book); instead take it as a way to differentiate this book from other worthy foreign policy titles that you may be choosing from. Ambrose's prose is excellent and engaging; often I would read large chunks of this book in one sitting. Admittedly a lot has been going on in world politics and to his credit Ambrose knows what is substantial enough to include, and what details to leave to the reader to seek for herself. This helps the book immeasurably, as it rarely gets bogged down in unnecessary detail. An overlooked but extremely helpful part of this book is the extensive bibliography. For each chapter, Ambrose includes a lengthy list of books that the reader can examine to more deeply probe anything that has been included in "Rise to Globalism." While anyone can benefit from this feature, the bibliography will be especially useful for students as it is an excellent way to quickly find other high quality books on foreign relations (especially useful if one needs information for term papers). Basically, if you are in any way interested in American foreign policy this book is a must have. And if you have no interest whatsoever in American foreign policy this book is still highly recommended as it reads very well as a narrative.

This is a classic! Simply the best single volume account of American Foreign Policy I have ever read. Ambrose writes in a clear and concise way, leaving nothing out yet avoiding dry, dull text. His analysis is superb, his conclusions lucid and thought provoking. This is the book to read if you want a comprehensive overview of America's foreign policy of the past 60 years.

I first read Rise to Globalism in college, then again in grad school. It is worth revisiting every few years. The narrative is sweeping and reflects the conclusions and judgements of the author without apology. This is not a scholarly text in a rigorous, academic sense. It is well researched and the author is an authority, but the goal of the text is to tell the story of America's Rise to Globalism. The gentle narrative voice draws the reader into the experience, as interpreted by the author, in a way that uniquely conveys the ethos of the times. It's not Toynbee and it shouldn't be. It is worth reading and revisiting for what it is. Every American should be familiar with our country's Rise to Globalism.

I read the 7th edition (published in 1993) while I was in college taking a U.S. Foreign Policy Course. I am nowadays a High School History teacher. The book is filled with useful information laid out in a clear and understandable way. I've seen many an interview with Ambrose, and I could almost hear

his voice reading it to me. However, there are obvious biases toward an agenda (which I am still not sure what the agenda is.) Ambrose rips apart basically every President since World War II. He basically holds them responsible for not having 20/20 hindsight. In other areas, he criticizes them for over-reaction...and then will criticize them for not doing enough. You can't have it all ways. He also tends to rely on looking at short-term outcomes instead of long-term. He spends most of the book criticizing containment...but ends the book by saying that the Truman Doctrine was correct. Ambrose seems to have a serious distaste for Reagan and Johnson. He seems to believe Carter was an ideological idiotic President that ended up doing the exact opposite of everything he stood for. Believes Kennedy was naive and being led/misled by the people around him. (He attributes similar things to Reagan.) He seems to have the most admiration for Nixon. I don't get the feeling he liked Nixon as a person, but as a President, his administration was probably most up to the task of running a super-power. I also found the Reagan chapter interesting. He bashes Reagan for spending on defense (weapon spending) at the expense of the deficit. BUT...in the next chapter he claims that Bush didn't spend enough on defense and that defense spending has been falling too much. He then makes reference to the fact that we were spending less on defense in 1989 than 1981 and this is a problem. WAIT A SECOND!!! You just spent the previous chapter bashing Reagan for spending on defense and now you say he cut spending on defense and shouldn't have? My head was spinning. Use the book as a very good primer. But there is inherent danger in using it as an end all be all. Having re-read it again recently (11 years after it came out) it is amazing how off the mark his final chapter was. I guess his hindset isn't 20/20.

I read the first edition of this book in 1989 as part of required reading in college. I've never been interested in history before I read this book. This book taught history in such a way that you will realize that past is important to move forward. I read it with the same enthusiasm I always have for good fiction. A must read for anyone who wonder how the USA become a major power broker in the world.

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