

**America's Future: Will It Thrive or Decline?**

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### **Abstract**

When discussing whether or not a country will remain as the number one nation for a long period of time is a true topic to consider. By going through and analyzing in detail the three schools of thought, it is clear that only a few percent of individuals believe that America will remain number one by the year 2075. The declinist school of thought is what will most be relating to this paper as it shares the same beliefs for America not being the number one nation by the year 2075. America continues to go through similar hardships and does not seem to want to get out of that loop throughout history. As this country continues to decline, other countries will rise to the occasion and take over as the leaders. Our only hope is that our country will not fall apart when the realization hits.

## **America's Future: Will It Thrive or Decline?**

### **Three Schools of Thought**

The world of comparative politics introduces many questions that those studying it constantly ask themselves. It is clear that in the world, more countries have better resources and power than other countries, but what is unclear is why these empires tend to fall after a certain amount of time. The United States has had a lot of power for quite some time, as other countries look at America in a leadership sort of way. As a country, America tends to start trends that other countries slowly follow after it has already been discovered. "The actual power of particular institutions often changes over time as well, as changing socioeconomic and cultural factors give greater resources to one or another institution, or a particular leader helps strengthen or weaken an institution" (Drogus & Orvis, 2022, p. 130). Although America might have the most power currently, things often do not stay the same. The power and influence that America will have in the future might not have the same influence compared to the influence that America currently has. When other countries start to grow economically and even technologically, these can drastically shift the power of current leading countries and give the countries that do not have as much of an advantage some more power in the long run.

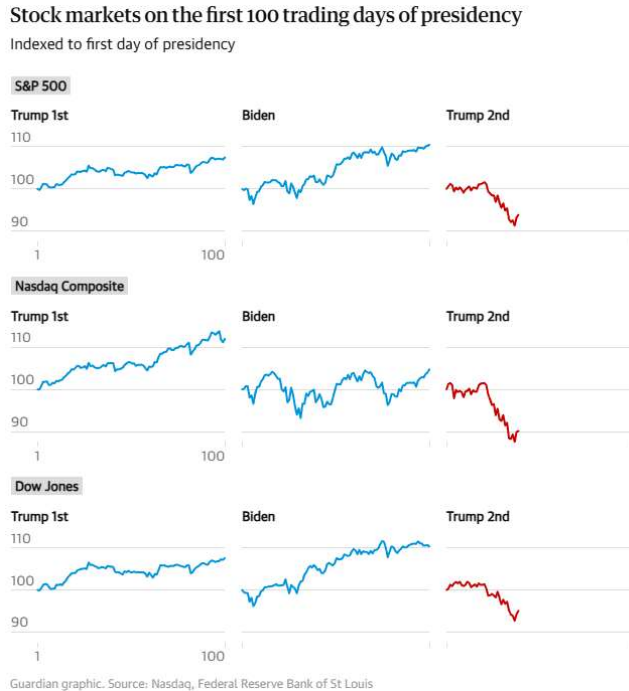
Along with cultures, shifting constantly can lead to an influence in power to those who agree with the changed values instead of the original values that might have been once before. Resources are important as well because if a country, for example, ends up having more resources, it could make other countries with weaker resources want to align with the more powerful countries so that they can work together on getting what they need to benefit both sides. The leadership role someone has when ruling a country is important, as a leader should guide a country toward success rather than toward failure. Weak governments end up leading

countries with stronger governments to have advantages and end up taking over the weaker government if they choose to. This is why citizens need to elect a strong leader who can lead their country towards greatness and not allow the country to fall. When analyzing America's future with the current leadership that we have, it does not seem that we are going to end up doing well. Our resources are already being taken away from us, which leaves us in a weak position. Other countries, such as China and Russia, are starting to see the commonalities between one another, which could end up in a bad result for America. "A political culture is a set of widely held attitudes, values, beliefs, and symbols about politics" (Drogus & Orvis, 2022, p. 17).

While everyone has different values and beliefs, that should not allow it to ruin a country and make a country unsafe for citizens to live in just because a leader does not approve of how it was run before. This does not mean that people are not allowed to have different beliefs because that would be discriminating against what they believe in, but if someone, especially a leader, believes in hurting the citizens of their country, then the true problem begins to happen. The political culture tends to shape citizens and creates multiple groups of politics. As time goes on, different political parties influence what individuals tend to vote for. If citizens make the wrong choice, a country is at risk of going through difficult times. As stated before, America is in that current position due to Trump being elected as President once again, and because of that, he is ruining the current state of America as a whole. America was trying to fix the problems that he caused before, and things were slowly starting to seem hopeful, but one should not be hopeful when trying to fix problems that do not seem to want to be fixed. It is an ongoing pattern that never seems to end, as Americans constantly seem to be going through the same issues just in different generations. Other countries that were once in good graces with America are now

starting to stop being allies with a country that has a leader who is trying to ruin every current resource that we have for his gain. As a country, the United States had a good run when things seemed to be in a better time, but as time goes on, more mistakes seem to be happening, even when citizens of this country do not want these mistakes or even the resources we had to be gone. “Understanding political developments and disputes around the world has never seemed more important than it does today,” (Drogus & Orvis, 2022, p. 1).

In the current state of the world, we have never been more disconnected from other countries until now. When countries change politically, one small change can have a ripple effect that changes even more across the entire globe. We are all on the same planet, but in different regions of the world. Leaders seem to forget that we are all human beings and end up ruining our connections to other countries. The 2024 election, when Trump was elected, was the turning point. Everyone knew the damage that could be made under his leadership, yet half of American citizens decided to elect Trump as our president without thinking of the consequences that could result from him being elected again. It has not even been five months yet, and he has managed to ruin our economy with raising tariffs on simple items, reverse President Biden’s previously made policies and start to deal with immigrants in an unfortunate way again. Citizens in the United States do not seem to understand how Trump is ruining this country and how that will play a part in democracy. Trump is constantly talking nonsense about what he is going to do with the United States, but even though he talks nonsense, citizens still need to be informed due to the impact a statement can make in the media, even if it is a small comment. There is no time for joking at the current state our country is in. People need to be well educated and prepared for what is going to happen with this presidency. The future of America’s economy seems to be going into decline based on this graph from The Guardian.



This shows in comparison how

Trump's second run is forcing America to go into decline already compared to his first run, and especially Biden's presidency. A simple decision that is made could lead to a larger issue in the long run, which seems to be the current state that America is turning to. While stocks might not seem much to the normal eye, they heavily impact on the economic growth a country can have. The stock market is at a positive incline shows that a country has a well-balanced economy, but at the current state of the stock market, it seems as if America is entering into a red wave era where the stock market is progressively declining. It is unclear if this progress will continue to be as terrible as it currently is, but it seems that the United States is going to end up having a lot of trouble in the long run. This country's stock market is known to be watched from around the world, and if it continues to decline, then that could not only result in a recession, but it could end up influencing international markets. Influencing other markets around the world is another effect that would be caused by America. America already has a heavy influence, but even a

declining influence within the international markets would not end up benefiting anyone, as things would get worse compared to before.

The United States is known to have multiple resources that attract other countries to want to become allies with a country as powerful as the United States. As Kennedy stated, cited in Gray (1988), “Decision-makers in Washington must face the awkward and enduring fact that the sum total of the United States’ global interests and obligations is nowadays far larger than the country’s power to defend them all simultaneously” (Gray 1988). The specific phrase at the end of the quote “power to defend them all simultaneously” goes into how difficult it is as a country to protect all the interests the United States has at the same time. Kennedy is suggesting that the resources the United States has, whether it is the military or economic resources, should be extended when trying to solve challenges all over the world. While it is beneficial to have multiple allies, that could also end up resulting in difficult situations over time, as America does not have certain resources anymore. If America stops providing these resources to other countries, then they would not necessarily want to be in our good graces, as we would not have what they are looking for. When Kennedy goes into using words like “awkward” and “enduring,” this shows how uncomfortable it truly is when leaders of countries have to make decisions upfront. A small decision is not an easily solved problem, nor is it a temporary solution. A lot of countries are interested in what America has to offer, which is why America has lasted this long with being one of the most powerful countries in the world. If multiple countries want the same resources, then that is when it would start being difficult while trading, especially in times like these, where the economy is not doing the best, and there is a political division in our own country.

There certainly is a historical pattern that seems to happen where great countries that have a lot of power end up struggling to keep their influence, as challenges and harsh competitors start to emerge. Every country wants to have as much of an impact on the world as America currently does, and a few of them can obtain that impact, but it is still not as strong as the impact America has. It is unclear how the United States' current leadership globally will end up coming to a fall, but it is clear that it is starting to happen sooner rather than later. America has had a great run as one of the most powerful nations in history, but all good things must come to an end. As a country, the economic strain and denial about the fact that the elites are taking over are important facts that back up the theory that America is no longer having all of the power it currently has. An important thing to notice is that in history, nations tend to engage in excessive use of military campaigns without having the funds to back up the military. “The US is escalating an arms race with Russia and China. This may create the mirror image of President Reagan forcing Russia to spend so much on its military that it aided in the break-up of the Soviet Union. The US economy cannot handle more military spending, worsening austerity when most people in the US are in financial distress.” If there is a continuation of competition between militaries, then this could lead to more struggles with the United States in the economic world, as it did with the Soviet Union once before. Many citizens of America are currently struggling with financial difficulties, which contribute to the economic challenges that are faced in this country. The United States is not in a good economic place to manage increasing military spending, as the more money that goes to the military, leads to less resources for the citizens. “As of now, the Pentagon and US leadership are in denial and not ready to face reality. The people of the United States, in solidarity with people of the world, must act now to end the war culture and convince US leadership that a new path is necessary.” (Flores, 2018).

As a country, the government is in denial about the current state of how we are. This disconnects people from being educated on the issues that are happening in the United States. If America continues to go down this same path of repeating history, then the country will soon fall as other empires have done so before. There needs to be a new way of leadership and who takes care of the citizens in the country, because at this current state of time, America is doomed.

There are good leaders in the world, and then there are bad leaders, but it is rare to find a good leader, as they often end up losing elections. The election that happened in 2016 made it known that chaos was about to happen in the United States, as Trump ended up winning. "In the phrase that he tried to trademark in 2012 and with which he launched his presidential campaign in 2015 -- "Make America Great Again" -- he caught a deeply felt sense among millions of Americans that the empire of chaos had indeed arrived on our shores and that, like the Soviet Union a quarter-century ago, the U.S. might ever so slowly be heading into an era in which (minus him, naturally) "greatness" was a goner." As Trump ended up influencing a sense of decline and chaos, this ended up positioning him as a savior to those who ended up voting for him. By stating he wanted to "Make America Great Again," he was indicating that the America before him was a problem he needed to fix, but the truth is, America started becoming more of a problem once he got elected. Instead of being the solution to a problem, he ended up being one of the main causes of it. From Trump saying this quote showed how many Americans at the time were frustrated with how the country was being run. This suggested that there was a larger belief among those who thought the country was heading in the wrong direction before electing Trump as president and needed to restore that "Greatness" which was supposedly taken away from the country. "As our first declinist candidate for president, Donald J. Trump did at least express something new and true about the nature of our country." (Engelhardt 2016).

Trump did end up proving to the nation that he was a declinist candidate. His campaign was mainly built on the fact that, as a country, the United States was not powerful enough or as great of a country as it once was before. This ended up leading to voters who agreed with his thoughts and joined the “Make America Great Again” campaign. His success ended up being a result of this statement, as so many American citizens thought with him on how America was the problem and that he could end up being the solution, which, in this case, he continued to bring issues to America. When it comes to destroying America, it is clear that the elite cause most of the damage. Even though the elite cause the problems that America faces, they are the ones who get away and end up not suffering the consequences. It should be clear to citizens that if a certain group does not pay for what they have done while hurting other people, it hurts the country more and causes it to decline more easily. Citizens are known to fear social change and their country ending up in a declining state. That fear can be a good thing as it results in people starting to wake up and fight for a change instead of sitting back and doing nothing but being in a state of constant fear can also result in bad things. “Sometimes anxiety about decline can lead toward nationalistic and protectionist policies that do us more harm than good.” (Nye, Jr., 2024). Having anxiety about a future decline could result in policies being changed. It can include many changes that citizens would not agree with and make them feel less confident about what the country will turn out to be like in the future. This does not necessarily put focus on oneself but rather tends to put focus on the person's nation specifically, instead of caring about multiple nations at a time.

As we are seeing currently in America, a good example is the rise in tariffs on daily items that cause citizens to worry more about whether they can afford basic needs. Putting the prices up does not help the situation at all, as it will just hurt the economy in the long run. These tariffs

do not affect the elite as they set it up so it will only benefit them, but most of the citizens will end up suffering due to not being able to afford things they need in their lives. A state of decline tends to start when the economy crashes, and currently, Americans are seeing the economy crash. For leaders to only care about one group instead of every citizen in their country is the wrong thing to do. It shows that they are not a good leader with their morals souring towards the average person. While the country of America is not over, the leadership that it has had for many years is certainly slowly becoming over.

By the year 2075, America will not be the number one country, instead, another country will take over as being number one. Now, the question that everyone is asking is which country is going to become the new leader once America steps down. China seems to be one of America's competitors as they have multiple strengths, but they also have their weaknesses. When looking at the facts, America has five advantages over China. It is clear from this graph that over the years China has learned from America to spend more money on the military. While Russia is also included in this graph, the focus is on China because not a lot of countries spend millions of dollars into their military services like how America does. The more China spends on their military, the more America and other militaries are at risk if China continues to make these advantages. While there is no telling what would happen if China was to ever overtake America on military spending, it is a worry to some as a stronger military can lead to a better chance if there ever was a battle. Most people typically do not worry about how strong one's country's military can be but it definitely is a resource advantage that not many are able to say they have. More people should take into account how other countries are rising with their resources while America potentially falls behind. The main advantages that America as a country has over China are the population size of the country and the country's location on the map. "All told, the U.S.

holds a strong hand in the great power competition, but if we succumb to hysteria about China's rise or to complacency about its "peak," we could play our cards poorly." (Nye, Jr., 2024).

Even though we have these advantages over China, they are growing more quickly in getting better resources and working with America's enemies. As America continues to lose its alliances, other countries can benefit from it by working together against us instead of working with us. The more our government ruins our alliances with other countries will just end up hurting us in the future. There is no known fact for how the future is going to be like for America but clear facts are pointing towards a state of decline as the American government constantly continues to ruin the chances of surviving in the future. This country is only a few months into the second elected term of Trump, and we have already lost so much. It should be clear that what is happening right now in America is not how a country should be run. As a country, we should not be separated as citizens, and we should all be working together on trying to go back to how things were before. Before this presidency, things were not as good as they had been previously but at least it was better than the current state of this country. If the United States wants to keep up being the number one nation in the world, then an important thing to have is strong alliances, but getting rid of these alliances we have with others is starting to become a mistake. It would likely end up in the future that China is going to become the number one nation in the world, as England already had its run of being on top.

The United States still has a potential of being a powerful nation in the future if the government learns to use the resources that they have correctly but if the resources do not get used or even get damaged then that starts to become an issue. America currently has too many problems and will continue to have them as they will not go away quickly, but as we continue to fight together, perhaps there will be a way to save this country from the damage it has been

through. The state of America has been entering an era of decline for a while, but it has just been simmering over time. There is no direct date when everything will start revealing itself, but slowly things are starting to be revealed as our government is showing its true colors. In the early 2000s, signs were pointing towards America's downfall as the political system started to reveal how corrupt they are. While there are a few good politicians in the government, most are in the hands of Trump, who does not know what he is talking about majority of the time. "In 2010, I predicted that US international power would decline by 2025 thanks to a right-wing president. With President-elect Donald Trump taking office this January, it seems I was correct," (McCoy 2024). It seems as if multiple people also agreed that if Trump was elected as president, then the United States' international power would severely decline with a leader like him. There is a thought on what this country would look like if Trump had never run for anything in politics. Perhaps America would still be the number one nation for a longer amount of time instead of slowly coming to an end. Instead of focusing on the what ifs of the situation, we should focus on the facts on how to save our country together. While we do have good progress with citizens starting to see the truth being revealed about the United States government, there needs to be more done if citizens want to save this country from decline. Even though it is not necessarily a bad thing if America is no longer the number one nation, others might think otherwise since America has been in the lead for so long. At this rate, if the government keeps destroying our chances at keeping the country going, then there is no telling what will happen in the future.

Trump's election was one of the worst decisions that American voters could have made. Better candidates were running for president in comparison to him, but people would rather be uneducated and not do the work of looking into who they should vote for than see the truth revealed in front of their eyes. Living in delusion is not the best way to go about life when trying

to avoid problems at hand. Instead of avoiding problems, people should focus on what they can do to solve them. “His second term may further erode US global leadership until a rising China overtakes it, ending the ‘American Century’” (McCoy 2024). There have been many facts that state China is to be the next number one nation after America steps down. Even though there's evidence to prove this fact, a few people would not be happy with the idea of America losing the leadership that it currently has. Now it is true that most citizens would not care about who is going to take over as the next leader, but America's government does care, as the government fights for America to be the best at everything, which currently, it is not the best country to be in as of now. A rising in China is clearly starting to happen over the years, which is highlighting how China has been seen to grow in its economic state from previous times before, and even in its military. As China advances in its resources, this leaves a challenge to America, as we might not have the current strength that China has. The more a nation grows that is not America, we will end up suffering the consequences. China's recent rise in power is starting to show signs of the potential overtake of America as the next number one nation. While one might not notice the shift in how China is gaining an advantage over the United States, there is evidence leading towards their rise in power. As for the potential rise of China overtaking the United States, this could shift the global power dynamics and lead to multiple changes in alliances between other nations. If America wants to continue to be the number one nation, then the government needs to stop ruining our chances as a country by getting rid of our resources. Instead of changing policies for the worst, the government should focus on changing policies for the better, and that will help the United States in the future rather than damaging it. The future of this country relies on their hands, and it is not going to go in any successful direction if these issues keep rising. For over an entire decade, there has been a clear analysis of the prediction that the United States' global

dominance is coming to an end. Even though there is evidence pointing towards the end of the United States being the number one nation, there are some who think otherwise. “There are still no other global players to rival it” (Stevenson 2023). This statement is saying how powerful the United States is as a country, despite all the challenges it has gone through. The United States still has a powerful military and economic influence that other countries cannot compare to. While other countries are rising to the occasion, America seems to be in a good position for a while. If another country, such as China, takes over, America will still have the resources that it currently has if the government does not continue to destroy the resources that this country has access to.

The election of Trump in 2016 has been noticed by multiple people that it was in fact “Another omen of American decline” (Stevenson 2023). As he was elected, his presidency had America in a period of uncertainty within the country and for those around us. This is clearly happening again, as all he is doing is causing chaos in the White House while American citizens have to suffer from his decisions. His policies that he continues to make show that America will not rise to the fact of being the number one nation in the future. Trump is destroying this country, and people need to notice that he will not stop unless he is forced to. There have been bad leaders in the past before he became president, but no one has been a worse leader than Trump has been to this country. As Trump's presidency continues, there will be a clear indicator that in the year 2075, a new country will become the world's number one nation. The citizens of the United States are starting to wake up and see how the government is truly treating us. There is no need to sugar coat anything now as the country seems to be falling apart. America had a good run of taking over for a long time, but with the current changes in the country, it is noted that the time will soon come to an end. There is no telling for what the future will hold for the citizens of

America. Perhaps there is no light at the end of the tunnel currently but in the future, there is hope for this country yet. The end of America's top run can be disappointing to see, but most citizens would think otherwise, as it is known that all good things must come to an end.

### **Conclusion**

The three schools of thought have shown out a way of possible ways that America's time of being the number one nation will come to an end. There is no telling for what will happen until we reach that moment of time in the future. The United States has been known to run things globally and have multiple resources in the military and economically. Even though this country has many great things, the election of Trump in 2016 showed a clear turning point for how America's future is going to be. Trump's presidency both issued a time of uncertainty and chaos leading people to question whether or not America truly is number one. As the United States continues to go through these hardships, the rise of other countries, such as China, shows fierce competition when trying to go against the United States to have the title of being the number one nation. The United States needs to balance its resources well instead of taking away all the good allies that we have. It's better for a country to fight together strongly than to fight all alone with no one backing them up. If the future of America wants to continue with being number one then policies must be thought out in strategic ways. While other countries advance and the United States stays behind is not a good quality to have. We need to continue advancing along with other countries if there is even a slight chance to fight for our power to remain the same. The path forward is difficult to predict, but there is also clear evidence towards America losing its current leadership. The future of America only lies in the hands of our government as the citizens of any country can only do so much. The United States is at serious risk of other countries taking over by the time of the year 2075. The government of the United States needs to show that they

are for the people instead of being against the people because only they can control the outcome of the future.

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