

# thomas friedman that used to be us

Thomas Friedman That Used to Be Us: Exploring the Impact and Ideas Behind the Book

**thomas friedman that used to be us** is more than just a phrase; it's a gateway into understanding one of the most influential books on America's economic and cultural landscape. Co-authored by Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum, *\*That Used to Be Us\** delves into the challenges faced by the United States in a rapidly changing global environment. If you've ever wondered why America, once considered the undisputed global leader, seems to be grappling with its position, this book offers a compelling analysis and a call to action.

In this article, we'll explore the key themes of *\*That Used to Be Us\**, discuss the insights Friedman presents, and reflect on how these ideas resonate with today's socio-economic realities. Whether you're a student, a policy enthusiast, or simply curious about the future of the U.S., understanding the perspectives of Thomas Friedman that used to be us is essential.

## Understanding the Premise of Thomas Friedman That Used to Be Us

At its core, *\*That Used to Be Us\** argues that America is at a crossroads. Friedman and Mandelbaum identify four major challenges confronting the nation: globalization, the revolution in information technology, the nation's chronic deficits and debt, and the gap between the country's educational system and the needs of a 21st-century economy.

## The Four Major Challenges

- **Globalization:** The world has become more interconnected than ever before, and America must adapt or risk falling behind.
- **Information Technology:** Advances in technology have transformed industries, creating new opportunities but also disrupting traditional jobs.
- **Deficits and Debt:** Economic mismanagement threatens the country's financial stability and long-term growth.
- **Education Gap:** The U.S. education system is not adequately preparing workers for the demands of a competitive global economy.

By framing the discussion around these challenges, the book encourages readers to consider not just the problems but the potential solutions that can restore American competitiveness and innovation.

## **Thomas Friedman's Perspective on Globalization and Technology**

One of the most striking aspects of Thomas Friedman that used to be us is the emphasis on globalization and technology as double-edged swords. Friedman, well-known for his earlier work *\*The World is Flat\**, explores how the flattening of the world has created intense competition but also extraordinary possibilities.

### **The Flattened World and Its Implications**

Friedman argues that the “flattening” of the world means that companies and individuals from anywhere can compete for the same jobs and markets. This leveling of the playing field is exciting but requires America to rethink its economic strategies and workforce development.

### **Embracing Innovation While Managing Disruption**

The book stresses the importance of embracing innovation, especially in fields like information technology and clean energy. However, Friedman and Mandelbaum also caution that the disruption caused by these technological changes can lead to job losses and social unrest if not managed with thoughtful policies.

## **Addressing Economic Challenges: Deficits, Debt, and Education**

Beyond globalization and technology, Thomas Friedman that used to be us shines a light on America's fiscal health and educational system. These two areas are portrayed as critical to sustaining the country's long-term prosperity.

### **The Economic Tightrope: Balancing Deficits and**

## **Investment**

The authors highlight how persistent budget deficits and a growing national debt limit the government's ability to invest in infrastructure, research, and education—all vital for economic growth. They urge policymakers to prioritize fiscal responsibility while maintaining investments in future-oriented sectors.

## **Reforming Education for Global Competitiveness**

Education reform is another major focus. Friedman and Mandelbaum argue that the U.S. must overhaul its educational system to promote critical thinking, creativity, and STEM skills. Preparing students for a technology-driven economy is essential if America wants to maintain its leadership role.

## **Lessons from Thomas Friedman That Used to Be Us for Today's America**

Though *That Used to Be Us* was published in 2011, its messages remain highly relevant. The book offers valuable lessons for individuals, educators, business leaders, and policymakers alike.

## **Individual Adaptability in a Changing World**

One takeaway is the importance of lifelong learning and adaptability. In an era where industries evolve rapidly, individuals must be willing to acquire new skills and embrace change to remain competitive.

## **Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Growth**

Friedman and Mandelbaum's policy recommendations include investing in clean energy, improving education systems, and fostering innovation ecosystems. These remain crucial areas for ensuring that America can compete and lead in the global economy.

## **Encouraging Civic Engagement and Responsibility**

A unique aspect of the book is its call for civic engagement. The authors believe that restoring America's greatness requires not just economic reforms but also a renewed sense of responsibility among citizens to participate

actively in democracy and community building.

## **Why Thomas Friedman That Used to Be Us Still Matters**

In a world where geopolitical shifts, technological breakthroughs, and economic uncertainties continue to shape the future, revisiting the insights from Thomas Friedman that used to be us provides clarity and inspiration. The book encourages us to look beyond nostalgia for past achievements and focus on proactive strategies to build a resilient and dynamic America.

Whether you're interested in economic policy, education reform, or the impact of globalization, \*That Used to Be Us\* offers a thought-provoking roadmap. It challenges readers to think critically about how to navigate the complexities of the modern world and asserts that America's best days can still lie ahead—if it chooses to act wisely.

Engaging with the ideas in \*That Used to Be Us\* is not just an academic exercise; it's an invitation to participate in shaping the future of a nation that has long been a beacon of innovation and opportunity. Through understanding these challenges and embracing the solutions Friedman and Mandelbaum propose, we can better appreciate the evolving story of America and our role within it.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main theme of Thomas Friedman's book 'That Used to Be Us'?**

'That Used to Be Us' discusses the challenges the United States faces in the 21st century, including globalization, technology, and political dysfunction, and argues for renewed innovation and cooperation to maintain its global leadership.

### **Who co-authored 'That Used to Be Us' with Thomas Friedman?**

Michael Mandelbaum co-authored 'That Used to Be Us' with Thomas Friedman.

### **When was 'That Used to Be Us' published?**

'That Used to Be Us' was published in 2011.

## **What are the four major challenges outlined in 'That Used to Be Us'?**

The four major challenges are: globalization, the revolution in information technology, the nation's chronic deficits and debt, and the energy and environment crisis.

## **How does Thomas Friedman suggest the US can regain its competitive edge in 'That Used to Be Us'?**

Friedman suggests the US must invest in education, infrastructure, energy innovation, and political reform to adapt to global changes and restore economic vitality.

## **What role does education play in 'That Used to Be Us'?**

Education is emphasized as critical for preparing the workforce of the future and maintaining the US's competitive advantage in a globalized economy.

## **Does 'That Used to Be Us' discuss the impact of technology on the US economy?**

Yes, the book discusses how rapid technological advancements are reshaping industries and the importance of adapting to these changes to stay competitive.

## **What is Thomas Friedman's perspective on American political leadership in 'That Used to Be Us'?**

Friedman critiques political gridlock and calls for bipartisan cooperation to address the country's pressing economic and social issues.

## **How does 'That Used to Be Us' address environmental concerns?**

The book highlights the urgent need for the US to develop sustainable energy sources and address environmental challenges to ensure long-term prosperity.

## **Is 'That Used to Be Us' optimistic about America's future?**

While acknowledging significant challenges, the book maintains a cautiously optimistic tone, believing that with the right policies and efforts, America can reclaim its leadership role.

## Additional Resources

**\*\*Thomas Friedman That Used to Be Us: An Analytical Review of Globalization and American Identity\*\***

**thomas friedman that used to be us** reflects an important dialogue about the transformation of American society and economy in the age of globalization. The phrase evokes the central themes from Thomas Friedman's influential book, *\*That Used to Be Us\**, co-authored with Michael Mandelbaum, which critically examines the challenges faced by the United States as it navigates a rapidly changing global landscape. This article delves into Friedman's analysis, unpacking the core arguments, and exploring the broader implications for America's future competitiveness and identity.

## Understanding "That Used to Be Us": Context and Core Arguments

Published in 2011, *\*That Used to Be Us\** arrived at a crucial moment when the United States was grappling with the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, rising global competition, and shifting geopolitical power dynamics. Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum present a compelling narrative: America's dominance, once seemingly unassailable, faces significant threats from economic, technological, and political forces.

The book's thesis revolves around four key challenges—what Friedman terms the “four horsemen” of America's decline: globalization, the information technology revolution, chronic deficits and debt, and energy consumption coupled with environmental concerns. Friedman's insights are rooted in his extensive experience as a foreign affairs columnist and his deep understanding of international trends.

## Globalization and Its Impact on American Jobs

One of the most significant themes in *\*That Used to Be Us\** is the impact of globalization on the American workforce. Friedman argues that the outsourcing of jobs, especially manufacturing and middle-income positions, has eroded the traditional economic base of the United States. He points out that countries such as China and India have leveraged globalization to build competitive advantages, creating a more multipolar economic order.

Friedman's analysis is supported by data showing a decline in manufacturing employment in the U.S. from approximately 17 million in 1979 to about 12 million in 2010, while emerging economies have seen growth in industrial output. This shift underlines the urgent need for America to reinvent its workforce through education and innovation.

# **The Information Technology Revolution and Educational Challenges**

Thomas Friedman emphasizes how the information technology revolution has transformed economic competition. The rise of the digital economy requires a workforce skilled in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). However, Friedman highlights a persistent gap in American education, where insufficient emphasis on STEM education puts the country at risk of falling behind in innovation.

The book stresses the necessity for educational reform, advocating for policies that enhance science and technology learning from early childhood through higher education. Friedman's perspective aligns with trends showing that countries like South Korea and Finland outperform the United States in STEM assessments, which could have long-term consequences for economic leadership.

## **Economic and Political Dimensions in Friedman's Analysis**

### **Fiscal Responsibility and National Debt**

Another critical aspect of Friedman's argument concerns the United States' fiscal health. The authors warn that chronic deficits and mounting national debt threaten economic stability and global confidence in American financial institutions. At the time of publication, the national debt had already surpassed \$14 trillion, with concerns about entitlement spending and government inefficiencies.

Friedman urges bipartisan cooperation to address these fiscal challenges, suggesting that failure to do so could undermine America's ability to invest in innovation and infrastructure, further weakening its global position.

### **Energy Policy and Environmental Sustainability**

Energy consumption and environmental sustainability form the fourth pillar of Friedman's framework. He critiques the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and the lack of a coherent energy policy that balances economic growth with environmental responsibility.

The authors advocate for investment in renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and technological breakthroughs to reduce carbon emissions. This approach, they argue, is not only vital for combating climate change but also

for creating new industries and job opportunities, thereby strengthening the economy.

## **Critiques and Counterarguments**

While Friedman and Mandelbaum's work has been praised for its thorough analysis and urgent call to action, it is not without criticism. Some economists argue that globalization's benefits have been underestimated, pointing out that international trade and technological advancements have lowered consumer prices and created new markets.

Others contend that the book's emphasis on government intervention and educational reform underestimates the complexity of geopolitical forces and cultural factors influencing America's trajectory. Additionally, critics highlight that the data cited in *\*That Used to Be Us\** reflects a particular period, and subsequent developments may have altered the landscape in unforeseen ways.

## **Balancing Globalization with Domestic Interests**

A recurring debate sparked by Friedman's analysis concerns how America can balance the pressures of globalization with protecting domestic jobs and industries. Policymakers face the challenge of fostering open markets while implementing measures that mitigate the adverse effects on vulnerable communities.

Friedman's approach suggests that innovation and adaptability are key, but this requires significant investment in workforce retraining and social safety nets—topics that continue to generate political contention.

## **Legacy and Continued Relevance of "That Used to Be Us"**

Nearly a decade after its publication, *\*That Used to Be Us\** remains a vital reference for understanding the broader narrative of American decline and renewal. Friedman's insights into the interconnectedness of economic policy, education, energy, and globalization continue to resonate in discussions about America's place in the world.

The book's influence extends into academic circles, policy debates, and media discourse, often cited in analyses of globalization's winners and losers. Its forecast of increasing global competition and the need for American adaptation has been borne out by developments such as the rise of China as a technological powerhouse and ongoing debates over trade policies.

# Lessons for Future Policy and Economic Strategy

For policymakers and business leaders, the themes in *\*That Used to Be Us\** underscore the importance of long-term strategic thinking. Investing in human capital, fostering innovation ecosystems, and committing to sustainable energy are not merely idealistic goals but practical necessities.

Friedman's work also invites reflection on national identity and values in an interconnected world. The tension between preserving traditional American strengths and embracing global change remains a central challenge.

## Integrating Thomas Friedman's Insights into Contemporary Discussions

In recent years, the global landscape has evolved with new technological breakthroughs, shifting geopolitical alliances, and the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on supply chains and labor markets. Revisiting the ideas encapsulated by "thomas friedman that used to be us" offers a framework for evaluating current policies.

The emphasis on education reform has intensified, with renewed calls for STEM education and digital literacy. Additionally, energy policies are evolving rapidly, with more aggressive commitments to renewable energy and carbon neutrality goals worldwide. These developments echo Friedman's vision of a proactive, forward-looking America.

- **Globalization's ongoing influence:** Despite setbacks such as trade wars and protectionist policies, globalization continues to shape economic realities.
- **Technological innovation:** Artificial intelligence, automation, and digital platforms are reshaping industries faster than anticipated.
- **Fiscal and environmental challenges:** National debt concerns persist alongside increasing urgency for climate action.

By analyzing these trends through the lens of Friedman's work, stakeholders can better assess the opportunities and risks facing the United States.

**Thomas Friedman that used to be us** encapsulates a critical moment of self-examination for America. It challenges citizens and leaders alike to confront uncomfortable truths and work collaboratively toward a future that harnesses innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability. As the global order continues to evolve, the lessons from *\*That Used to Be Us\** remain an essential guide for navigating the complexities of the 21st century.

## Thomas Friedman That Used To Be Us

**thomas friedman that used to be us: That Used to Be Us** Thomas L. Friedman, Michael Mandelbaum, 2011-09-05 America is in trouble. We face four major challenges on which our future depends, and we are failing to meet them—and if we delay any longer, soon it will be too late for us to pass along the American dream to future generations. In *That Used to Be Us*, Thomas L. Friedman, one of our most influential columnists, and Michael Mandelbaum, one of our leading foreign policy thinkers, offer both a wake-up call and a call to collective action. They analyze the four challenges we face—globalization, the revolution in information technology, the nation's chronic deficits, and our pattern of excessive energy consumption—and spell out what we need to do now to sustain the American dream and preserve American power in the world. They explain how the end of the Cold War blinded the nation to the need to address these issues seriously, and how China's educational successes, industrial might, and technological prowess remind us of the ways in which that used to be us. They explain how the paralysis of our political system and the erosion of key American values have made it impossible for us to carry out the policies the country urgently needs. And yet Friedman and Mandelbaum believe that the recovery of American greatness is within reach. They show how America's history, when properly understood, offers a five-part formula for prosperity that will enable us to cope successfully with the challenges we face. They offer vivid profiles of individuals who have not lost sight of the American habits of bold thought and dramatic action. They propose a clear way out of the trap into which the country has fallen, a way that includes the rediscovery of some of our most vital traditions and the creation of a new thirdparty movement to galvanize the country. *That Used to Be Us* is both a searching exploration of the American condition today and a rousing manifesto for American renewal.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: Quicklet On That Used To Be Us** Karen Lac, 2011-12-07 ABOUT THE BOOK *That Used to Be Us* is a book about America. Authors Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum borrow the title from the American phrase used when confronted with the successes and progresses made by other countries. The most obvious country that we compare ourselves to is China. In a few short years, China has transformed itself from a largely peasant agrarian society to a global economic powerhouse with enviable economic growth and a growing middle class. According to the Central Intelligence Agency, China now has the third highest gross domestic product (GDP) in the world

**thomas friedman that used to be us: A Review of Thomas L. Friedman's 'That Used to Be Us' with Comparative Reflections on Science & Education Policy in the US, China and Egypt** Tarek H. Selim, 2020 With an American-colored cover and content, the book by Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum: *That Used to Be Us: What Went Wrong with America and How it Can Come Back* was able to catch more than a million eyebrows on the shelves of journalists and political historians across the globe. A polished part of President Barack Obama's speech on November 3, 2010 reads before the Preface: "It makes no sense for China to have better rail systems than us, ... And we just learned that China now has the fastest supercomputer on Earth - that used to be us". The entire substance of the book has basically the China now emphasis with a comparative perspective on historical US performance: politically, socially, economically, and with additional comparative insights on the roots of technology: science. A reflection on the book's content regarding education, science, and innovation in the US, China, the international landscape, and Egypt's new paradigm post-revolution: Egypt now. Basically: where is Egypt now?, and where should we go?

**thomas friedman that used to be us: Entzauberung: Skizzen und Ansichten zu den USA in der Ära Obama** Tobias Endler, Martin Thunert, 2015-11-16 Die letzte Supermacht der Erde durchlebt stürmische Zeiten, und die Erschütterungen sind auch auf unserer Seite des Atlantiks zu

spüren – und nicht minder im Pazifik. Doch was bedeutet das für die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika, und was für Deutschland? Tobias Endler und Martin Thunert nehmen die aktuellen Entwicklungen unter die Lupe. Entzauberung nimmt die amerikanische Sicht auf die Dinge als Ausgangspunkt. Die Autoren haben über 30 Experteninterviews geführt, unter anderem mit Joseph Nye (Harvard), Michael Dukakis (ehemals Präsidentschaftskandidat der Demokraten), Saori Katada (UCLA) und John Micklethwait (The Economist). Diese und weitere Einschätzungen aus erster Hand werden kritisch verarbeitet. Zahlreiche Gespräche, an der Ost- und Westküste der USA, im Süden und in der Gegend um die Großen Seen geführt, vermitteln ein umfassendes Bild davon, wie Amerikas führende Denker während Obamas zweiter Amtszeit auf ihr Land schauen – und was sie für die Zukunft erwarten. Entzauberung bietet auch eine tiefgreifende Analyse der internen Mechanismen des heutigen Amerika. Die Autoren zeigen, wie inneramerikanische Faktoren (die polarisierte politische Landschaft, zentrale Politikfelder wie Energie, Bildung oder Einwanderung) Amerikas globale Macht und Autorität in der Ära Obama bedingen. Entgegen der europäischen Neigung dieser Tage, Amerika im Niedergang zu sehen, heben Endler und Thunert die enorme Widerstandsfähigkeit der Weltmacht hervor – wenn sich auch die Bedingungen der heutigen Welt geändert haben. Entzauberung erklärt, was es damit auf sich hat, und was Amerikas neues Portfolio für alle anderen bedeutet.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: That Should Still Be Us** Martin Sieff, 2012-03-08  
Chronicles the damage Thomas Friedman's flat wrong, Flat Earth ideas have caused to the American economy As Martin Sieff convincingly argues, Thomas Friedman's prescriptions have played a major role in causing America's economic decline, yet many executives and politicians, including President Obama, still look to him as their guru. Sieff exposes Friedman fallacies on the nature of globalization, the information technology revolution, political paralysis in Washington, and energy consumption. He documents how China is investing far more in locking up the world's oil and gas reserves than in developing the ineffective green technologies Friedman claims they love. He exposes Friedman's most acclaimed ideas as retreads of naïve fantasies widely believed and exposed as useless a century ago. Convincingly refutes Thomas Friedman's fantasies and many fallacies in his best-selling books, *The World Is Flat* and *That Used to Be Us*, and presents a radically different vision and road map for America's economy and its future Offers a practical trade and energy strategy to restore American prosperity and industrial strength in the twenty-first century Explains why America's economy will soon depend on producing low-carbon footprint natural gas, reviving its manufacturing sector, and protecting its industry from unfair foreign competition and artificially manipulated exchange rates Written by veteran journalist Martin Sieff, a regular contributor to FoxNews.com and Chief Global Analyst at The Globalist Research Center

**thomas friedman that used to be us: Summary: That Used to Be Us** Businessnews Publishing, 2017-01-30 The must-read summary of Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum's book: *That Used to be Us: How America fell behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back*. This complete summary of *That Used to Be Us* by Friedman and Mandelbaum, both renowned writers and experts in different fields, outlines the authors' argument that after the Cold War four big challenges faced America and that how the nation responds to these challenges will define the country's future. Added-value of this summary: - Save time - Understand the threat posed to America by globalization and what they can do about it - Expand your knowledge of American politics and international relations To learn more, read *That Used to Be Us* and discover how globalization has created some of America's problems, and how the author suggests to respond to these challenges.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: American Exceptionalism in the Age of Obama** Stephen Brooks, 2013 The election of President Obama in 2008 and the apparent decline of American power in the world has rekindled an old and important debate. Is the United States exceptional in its values and institutions, as well as in the role that it is destined to play in world affairs? In this book, Stephen Brooks argues that American exceptionalism has been and continues to be real. In making this argument he focuses on five aspects of American politics and society that are most crucial to an understanding of American exceptionalism today. They include the

appropriate relationship between the state and citizens, religion, socio-economic mobility, America's role in the world, and ideas about the Constitution. American exceptionalism matters in domestic politics chiefly as a political narrative around which support for and opposition to certain policies, values and vision of American society coalesce. But in world affairs it is not the story but the empirical reality of American exceptionalism that matters. Although the long era of America's global economic dominance has entered what might be called a period of diminished expectations, the United States remains exceptional--the indispensable nation--in world affairs and is likely to remain so for many years to come.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: Understanding American Politics, Second Edition**

Stephen Brooks, Douglas Koopman, J. Matthew Wilson, 2013-05-06 Understanding American Politics provides a unique introduction to the contemporary political landscape of the United States by using as its core organizing feature the idea of American exceptionalism, a concept that is at least as old as Tocqueville's study of American democracy. The second edition of Understanding American Politics maintains the unique strengths of the first edition while offering improved coverage of political institutions. A single omnibus chapter on institutions has been reorganized and split into three separate chapters on Congress, the presidency, and the courts. A new chapter on public opinion has also been included, and the chapter on religion and politics has been completely rewritten with a deeper appreciation of religion's influential role. The book has been revised throughout, taking into account the dramatic changes that have emerged since the 2010 congressional elections and the 2012 presidential election. The text also pays close attention to what is seen as the irreversible decline in America's global influence. Visit [www.utpamericanpolitics.com](http://www.utpamericanpolitics.com) for additional resources.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: Understanding American Politics**

Stephen Brooks, Douglas L. Koopman, J. Matthew Wilson, 2013-01-01 The second edition provides a very strong introduction to political institutions and includes a new chapter on public opinion. The entire book has been revised throughout, taking into account the dramatic changes that have emerged since the 2010 congressional elections, as well as incorporating the results of the 2012 presidential election. It also pays close attention to what is seen as the irreversible decline in America's global influence.--Pub. desc.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: A History of Modern Jewish Religious Philosophy**

Eliezer Schweid, 2025-01-20 Schweid concludes his history of modern Jewish thought by narrating two major progressions in Diaspora Jewish thought of the early twentieth century: (1) the varied responses of ultra-Orthodox Diaspora Jewish thinkers to the Holocaust (Wasserman, Shapira, Ashlag, Dessler, Teichthal, Rokeach, and Yosef Yitzhak Schneersohn) and (2) the formative thinkers of the major movements in American Jewish thought (Kohler, Schechter, Kaplan, Herberg, Strauss, Soloveitchik, and Heschel).

**thomas friedman that used to be us: Going to War with the Other: A Study of U.S.**

**Foreign Policies of Violence** Evan O. Renfro,

**thomas friedman that used to be us: American Foreign Policy and Its Thinkers**

Perry Anderson, 2015-03-01 Since the birth of the nation, impulses of empire have been close to the heart of the United States. How these urges interact with the way the country understands itself, and the nature of the divergent interests at work in the unfolding of American foreign policy, is a subject much debated and still obscure. In a fresh look at the topic, Anderson charts the intertwined historical development of America's imperial reach and its role as the general guarantor of capital. The internal tensions that have arisen are traced from the closing stages of the Second World War through the Cold War to the War on Terror. Despite the defeat and elimination of the USSR, the planetary structures for warfare and surveillance have not been retracted but extended. Anderson ends with a survey of the repertoire of US grand strategy, as its leading thinkers-Brzezinski, Mead, Kagan, Fukuyama, Mandelbaum, Ikenberry, Art and others-grapple with the tasks and predicaments of the American imperium today.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: The Vanishing Neighbor** Marc J. Dunkelman,

2014-07-28 A sweeping new look at the unheralded transformation that is eroding the foundations of American exceptionalism. Americans today find themselves mired in an era of uncertainty and frustration. The nation's safety net is pulling apart under its own weight; political compromise is viewed as a form of defeat; and our faith in the enduring concept of American exceptionalism appears increasingly outdated. But the American Age may not be ending. In *The Vanishing Neighbor*, Marc J. Dunkelman identifies an epochal shift in the structure of American life—a shift unnoticed by many. Routines that once put doctors and lawyers in touch with grocers and plumbers—interactions that encouraged debate and cultivated compromise—have changed dramatically since the postwar era. Both technology and the new routines of everyday life connect tight-knit circles and expand the breadth of our social landscapes, but they've sapped the commonplace, incidental interactions that for centuries have built local communities and fostered healthy debate. The disappearance of these once-central relationships—between people who are familiar but not close, or friendly but not intimate—lies at the root of America's economic woes and political gridlock. The institutions that were erected to support what Tocqueville called the township—that unique locus of the power of citizens—are failing because they haven't yet been molded to the realities of the new American community. It's time we moved beyond the debate over whether the changes being made to American life are good or bad and focus instead on understanding the tradeoffs. Our cities are less racially segregated than in decades past, but we've become less cognizant of what's happening in the lives of people from different economic backgrounds, education levels, or age groups. Familiar divisions have been replaced by cross-cutting networks—with profound effects for the way we resolve conflicts, spur innovation, and care for those in need. The good news is that the very transformation at the heart of our current anxiety holds the promise of more hope and prosperity than would have been possible under the old order. *The Vanishing Neighbor* argues persuasively that to win the future we need to adapt yesterday's institutions to the realities of the twenty-first-century American community.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: *The China Fallacy*** Donald Gross, 2012-11-08 American critics who deeply fear a China threat have unduly influenced government policy. China hawks believe China intends to push the United States out of Asia and dominate the world. Protectionists argue that China threatens American jobs and prosperity. This authoritative work examines why and how the U.S. should stabilize and improve its relations with China. It first assesses the threat posed by China, addressing such issues as military capability, Taiwan, the trade deficit, human rights and democracy. It then discusses the rationale for rapprochement between the two countries in order to achieve a stable peace. It makes the case for a fundamental shift in U.S. policy and efforts by both countries to increase their cooperation. It analyzes the benefits to the United States of this policy shift along with the potential impact on Japan, Taiwan, and both Koreas. This significant work on U.S.-China relations will be an essential resource for the academic and policy community as well as of interest to the general reader on a topic of great public concern.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: *A New Deal for the Humanities*** Gordon Hutner, Feisal G. Mohamed, 2015-11-11 Many in higher education fear that the humanities are facing a crisis. But even if the rhetoric about “crisis” is overblown, humanities departments do face increasing pressure from administrators, politicians, parents, and students. In *A New Deal for the Humanities*, Gordon Hutner and Feisal G. Mohamed bring together twelve prominent scholars who address the history, the present state, and the future direction of the humanities. These scholars keep the focus on public higher education, for it is in our state schools that the liberal arts are taught to the greatest numbers and where their neglect would be most damaging for the nation. The contributors offer spirited and thought-provoking debates on a diverse range of topics. For instance, they deplore the push by administrations to narrow learning into quantifiable outcomes as well as the demands of state governments for more practical, usable training. Indeed, for those who suggest that a college education should be “practical”—that it should lean toward the sciences and engineering, where the high-paying jobs are—this book points out that while a few nations produce as many technicians as the United States does, America is still renowned worldwide for its innovation and creativity, skills

taught most effectively in the humanities. Most importantly, the essays in this collection examine ways to make the humanities even more effective, such as offering a broader array of options than the traditional major/minor scheme, options that combine a student's professional and intellectual interests, like the new medical humanities programs. A democracy can only be as energetic as the minds of its citizens, and the questions fundamental to the humanities are also fundamental to a thoughtful life. A New Deal for the Humanities takes an intrepid step in making the humanities—and our citizens—even stronger in the future.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: *The Making of an Alliance*** David Tal, 2022-01-06 Laying the foundation for an understanding of US-Israeli relations, this lively and accessible book provides critical background on the origins and development of the 'special' relations between Israel and the United States. Questioning the usual neo-realist approach to understanding this relationship, David Tal instead suggests that the relations between the two nations were constructed on idealism, political culture, and strategic ties. Based on a diverse range of primary sources collected in archives in both Israel and the United States, *The Making of an Alliance* discusses the development of relations built through constant contact between people and ideas, showing how presidents and Prime Ministers, state officials, and ordinary people from both countries, impacted one another. It was this constancy of religion, values, and history, serving the bedrock of the relations between the two countries and peoples, over which the ephemeral was negotiated.

**thomas friedman that used to be us: *Emerging Powers in a Comparative Perspective*** Vidya Nadkarni, Norma C. Noonan, 2013-02-14 The book examines the rising influence of emerging powers in global politics, with a special focus on the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China). Chapters contributed by international scholars first look at the changing status of the US in the 21st century and at the EU as both an emerging and innovative power. China's rising power status, India's regional and global influence, Russia's re-emergence, and Brazil's growing regional and international role are then analyzed comparatively to explain how the BRIC states are poised to become vital players not only in politics and economy, but also in key international concerns such as terrorism, globalization, and climate change. The book provides a detailed analysis of political, economic, security, and foreign policy trends in the BRIC countries to address such questions as to whether they will seek to revise the international order or work within it and how they will deal with transnational global problems. Using a unique comparative approach, the text will appeal to undergraduate students in world politics, international relations, and foreign policy.

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