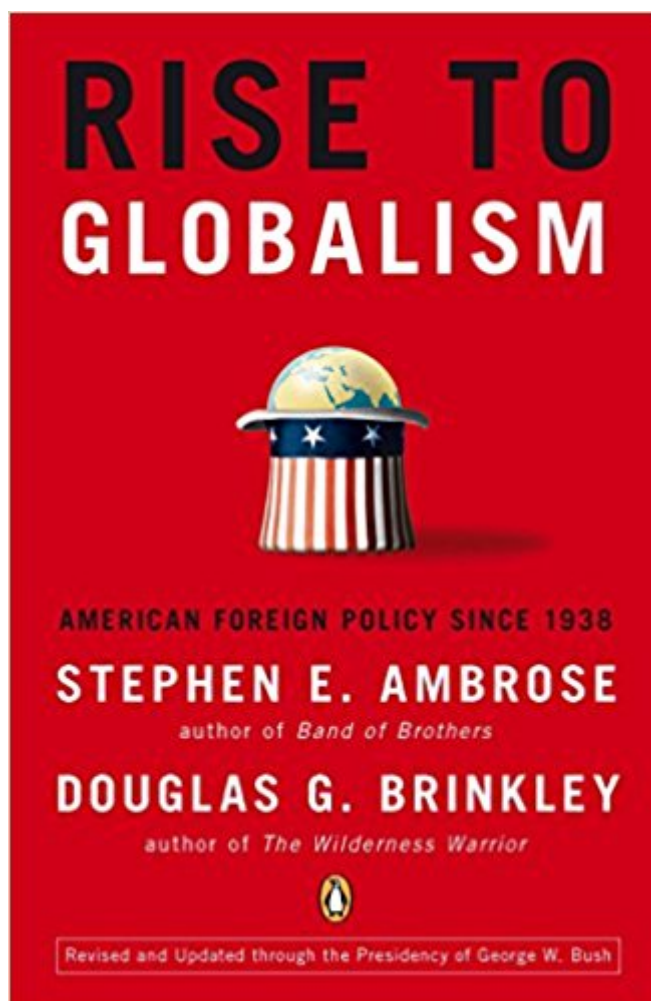


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Rise To Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938



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

An excellent survey of U.S foreign policy * Library Journal *

Stephen E. Ambrose is Director Emeritus of the Eisenhower Center, retired Boyd Professor of History at the University of New Orleans, and president of the National D-Day Museum. He is the author of over twenty books including the bestsellers *Undaunted Courage*, *Citizen Soldiers*, and *D-Day*, multiple biographies of Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard Nixon, and his compilation of 1,400 oral histories from American veterans.

Good general overview of American Foreign Policy, particularly in terms of significant events and

turning points. That said: read critically! There are interjections of political preference and implied right/wrong pronouncements - not entirely unjustified, just something the reader should be aware of. More troubling however is the at-times sloppy research and writing. I would have given this 4 stars or better, had the research & commentary been better. So many mis-spellings: really? And as a military veteran, so many errors on basic ranks, structure, military protocol etc. show carelessness - particularly egregious since the U.S.'s foreign policy heavily involves military affairs. All in all a recommended read, but read carefully & critically.

Comprising a book on American foreign policy on the period between the conclusion of WWII, the end of the Cold War and Clintons and Bush's presidency is difficult to do within such a small book. One could publish numerous volumes to record this era in history. In this case this book was extremely successful drawing on the most relevant information available. It focuses largely (in fact exclusively almost) on American foreign policy. One may see it at often times critical to the US, but it is not critical in the sense as it portrays America as the "bad guy" in the Cold War, but rather it is critical from an American or an insider perspective. A reformist perspective if you will. It gives the US, Credit where it is due and also criticism where it is due. Given that a lot of the foreign policy conducted by American administrations has put America in a worse off position and has largely been a failure (i.e. Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Carter and Reagan) the book dishes out a fair bit of critical overview. However, it paints the presidency of Eisenhower, George H. Bush and even Clinton (at times, but largely being critical of Clinton) in a positive light. Which is more than fair. The book is worth the read, especially if one wishes to read this as an introduction to US foreign policy.

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.

The first two-thirds of this book, which is through approximately Carter's presidency, the book reads quite well. Starting with Reagan, it appears as though a toddler took over. There are incredibly annoying typographical errors in just about, every page or two. In addition the analysis, Decreases

and the book begins to read like a 1st copy draft of a 2-nd graders' history test.

Interesting and informative. If you love U.S. military history this is the perfect compliment, it colors in everything that was happening outside the battle-picture. My only complaint is there were quite a few typos in this edition, but they never made the writing unclear. I guess it's to be expected for a 500 page volume that's constantly revised.

Informative and interesting, the authors do a good job both presenting the material and conveying it in a clear way.

Ambrose has done little of worth apart from this book, but this book alone gives him a solid place in the canon of solid survey historians who paint with a broad brush, perhaps doesn't get all the details clear, but nonetheless does a great job laying a foundation for future learning. I read this in high school then again in college; a useful and thought-provoking survey (that I just bought again for somebody interested in brushing up on foreign policy matters for an exam).

Since the work first appeared in the '60s, it remains a clear and concise view of the underpinnings of American foreign policy and the unfortunate turns taken in misperceptions of realities. How the Cold War started, involvement in Viet Nam after the French colonial debacle in the '50s, and various machinations in the internal affairs of Middle-eastern, Asian, and South American countries which led the United States to be perceived as a patronizing colonial power serving its own parochial interests.

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