

A FUTURISTS VIEW OF AMERICA

All alone and more paranoid by the day, President George W. Bush is getting it from all sides, and despite his bravado, which some people call a defensive, adolescent swagger, he can't trust anybody, not even his mother. (Especially not his mother.) His detractors blame him for the state the world is in. Extremists go one further and say the world is coming to an end. Most of us in this country just want gas prices to go down, the dollar to go up, and America to go back to the good old days. Futurists can tell you that that's not going to happen, but that, no matter what, we'll never go broke either.

America is and always has been about property, taxes, and land ownership. Conveniently, we forget that when the early settlers arrived they took one look around and said to the Indians, "What a gorgeous place you've got here! Get out!" Territory is everything, and if anyone tells you that the essence of the American Dream is just about liberty and freedom, don't kid yourself. It's about mortgage rates. But are we, in the end, ruthless imperialists doomed to be brought down by our degenerate culture? That is the question. The seeds that were sown back in the 1770s are sprouting. However you were conducting business or your personal life, that's over. Finito. Kaput. You can't look ahead. You can't be impatient. Most of all, you shouldn't be afraid, because in the end there is nothing to fear. You just have to surrender to the mysterious process of complete and total transformation. This is about to happen to the United States. We will all be touched in business as well as in our personal lives, no matter what sign we were born under.

Lets Look At What History Has to Say About This!

Sometime in the 1760s, pamphlets began to circulate in the colonies, exploring new ideologies and belief systems concerning individual liberty and personal freedom. Harmless enough. Just philosophers spouting rehashed versions of ancient Greek and Roman notions. But the Crown over in England looked upon such doings as seditious. Mother England, once the great protector, was beginning to be the great drag. She wanted payback for all the protection she'd provided. That was when the colonists came to resent their mother's hold on them. She was getting a little too bossy. And greedy.

A transformation was taking place. Something similar is happening again, 230 years later. This time, however, it's the American government that is putting the squeeze on the people. Events that seem at first random and explosive don't come out of nowhere. They have been brewing and simmering for years. While many people will probably be nervous wrecks during the two turbulent decades ahead, many old hippies will come joyfully out of retirement, thankful that the revolution they quit their jobs for 40 years ago may finally be happening. And their kids, born in the 60s and 70s, who grew up embarrassed by their hippie parents, may be shocked to see how right their parents were.

In September of this year, the religious zeal, or madness, that has taken hold since 1994 will reach a crescendo. Our "dialogue" with radical Islam has only just begun. Over the next 19 years or so, the nation will have to deal with troubling confrontations and competition such as it has never known, as well as an internal political struggle, all of which will shake us to our very core.

It clearly represents the deep streak of conservatism that has always existed in the United States but that seems to be ascendant at the moment. If you think that things are tough now, and that privacy and other personal liberties are being infringed upon, just wait. During the next 19 years, things are going to get much tighter. Controls and laws will become more stringent, some will demand conformity, born out of fear that different is dangerous. The more resistance to government protection, the more protection the government will try to provide. The words "patriot" and "treason" will lose their meaning, and in some cases they will become interchangeable. What is treason to one person will be patriotism to another - just as it was back in the 1760s and 70s. The country's mood will become darker and much more conservative. It's not going to be a matter of Democrat or Republican anymore, because the new ideologies will bleed across party lines.

Sometime between 2009 and 2011 the dam is going to break. The last time this happened was at the end of the 1920s. Then it will spell the end of an era. People will figure, "Aw, the hell with it. The end is coming anyway, so give me a double martini." As we get closer to that time, people will put all their chips on the table. The stakes will get higher. Metaphorically, culturally, and sometimes even literally, it can seem like a torrential flood that comes out of nowhere. Everything that has piled up and been swept under the rug comes spilling out. To the apocalypse crowd, it will seem like the wrath of God, because lots of people are going to be headed toward self-indulgence, turning up the music and dancing, even hurrying the end, much as they did in America during the 1920s.

Even the Pope could have a stroke over the upheaval the world will find itself in. The only thing that saves you is the ability to surrender to the inevitable shift. A whole segment of the population is going to rise up. When the government becomes business and business becomes government, the people will fight back, and the ensuing struggle will lead to the eventual transformation and rebirth of America. It is going to change America from the inside out, threaten our very existence, challenge our economy, and divide the country politically. The government is going to be so paranoid during those years that it doesn't really matter who gets in in 2008. It means the ascendance into overt power of corporations in relation to the government. But that situation will change at the end of the 2020s. It is going to be the 1960s all over again. The greatest time of upheaval will be between 2015 and 2019, when it will create the seeds of revolution everywhere. Forces of repression are going to clamp down even harder on those who want to speak their minds. Then, in the years 2023-25, it will reach a climax. Just as the British Empire began enduring sunsets after the fledgling colonies won their independence, our turn may be coming. 2025 will demand a redefinition of the United States and create the ultimate identity crisis. We will have to put ourselves on the line, as we did in the 1770s. The period of turbulence that lies before us all in America is not God's wrath or the work of radical Muslims, and it has nothing to do with the hole in the ozone layer. It is a necessary and inevitable step in the evolution of this country that will result in a reworking of the Constitution in the last half of the 2020s. This political, social, cultural, and economic change will mark the rebirth of the United States as a more global nation-a member of the world, if not the leader of the world. This is a threatening challenge to the notions of land ownership, security, wealth, and supremacy

our nation has enjoyed for more than two centuries. The dollar will not likely go back to its post- W. W. II strength. Other countries will reject our exploitation and demand instead our cooperation. We'll never go totally broke or hungry. We will, however, have to play ball with the rest of planet Earth as we never have before. From now on it's cooperate, or else.

No one is really to blame. We've brought ourselves to this crisis, through a combination of individual freedom and economic gain, as well as a blind, isolating grandiosity. America is a fabulous place to live: you can come here, think up something you want to do, and be successful at it. But we've gotten fat and we've gotten lazy. So don't blame George Bush or Bill Clinton or any of the elected officials in Washington. A country gets the leaders it deserves, and when we're ready to rise from the ashes of a fallen empire, we will find the leaders to help us do so. It will happen, but not in 2008.

Note: A futurist is typically a member of The World Future Society located in Bethesda, M.D. The society represents the philosophy and science of Buckminster Fuller, The famous engineer and philosopher of the 1970's and 80's.

This particular paper was formulated by a matrix combining the;

- Classification concepts of Aristotle
- The Ethos of Abraham Maslov
- The systems approach of Ilya Prigogene
- The Wholism of David Bohm.
- The Relativity of Albert Einstein.

By combining all of these concepts into a single template, accurate projections are indeed possible.