

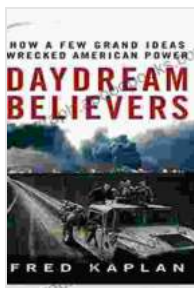
# How Few Grand Ideas Wrecked American Power: A Sobering Look at the Decline of a Superpower

The United States has long been the world's preeminent superpower. But in recent years, there are growing concerns that America's power is in decline. In his new book, "How Few Grand Ideas Wrecked American Power," historian and political scientist Samuel Huntington argues that this decline is due in large part to the failure of American policymakers to adhere to a few basic principles.

Huntington identifies four grand ideas that have guided American foreign policy since the end of World War II:

- **The idea of American exceptionalism:** The belief that the United States is a uniquely virtuous and powerful nation, destined to lead the world.
- **The idea of globalism:** The belief that the United States should promote free trade and democracy around the world.
- **The idea of interventionism:** The belief that the United States should use its military power to protect its interests and promote democracy abroad.
- **The idea of neoconservatism:** The belief that the United States should use its power to promote democracy and human rights in the Middle East.

Huntington argues that these grand ideas have led the United States to overextend itself, and that this overextension has weakened the country. He points to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as examples of how these ideas have led to disastrous results.



## Daydream Believers: How a Few Grand Ideas Wrecked

**American Power** by Mike Freeman

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1309 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 207 pages



The idea of American exceptionalism is a belief that the United States is a uniquely virtuous and powerful nation, destined to lead the world. This idea has been a central part of American identity since the country's founding.

American exceptionalism has led to a number of foreign policy decisions, such as the decision to intervene in World War II and the decision to launch the Cold War. However, Huntington argues that American exceptionalism has also led to a number of mistakes, such as the decision to invade Iraq.

Huntington argues that American exceptionalism has blinded American policymakers to the limits of American power. He believes that the United States has overextended itself by trying to be the world's policeman. He

also believes that American exceptionalism has made the United States arrogant and dismissive of other countries.

The idea of globalism is the belief that the United States should promote free trade and democracy around the world. This idea has been a central part of American foreign policy since the end of World War II.

Globalism has led to a number of positive developments, such as the creation of the World Trade Organization and the spread of democracy in Eastern Europe. However, Huntington argues that globalism has also led to a number of problems, such as the rise of China and the decline of American manufacturing.

Huntington argues that globalism has undermined American sovereignty. He believes that the United States has become too dependent on other countries for trade and security. He also believes that globalism has led to a loss of American identity.

The idea of interventionism is the belief that the United States should use its military power to protect its interests and promote democracy abroad. This idea has been a central part of American foreign policy since the end of World War II.

Interventionism has led to a number of successes, such as the defeat of Nazi Germany and the liberation of Kuwait. However, Huntington argues that interventionism has also led to a number of failures, such as the Vietnam War and the Iraq War.

Huntington argues that interventionism has overextended American power. He believes that the United States has become too involved in the affairs of

other countries. He also believes that interventionism has made the United States a target for terrorism.

The idea of neoconservatism is the belief that the United States should use its power to promote democracy and human rights in the Middle East. This idea has been a central part of American foreign policy since the end of the Cold War.

Neoconservatism has led to a number of positive developments, such as the spread of democracy in the Middle East and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. However, Huntington argues that neoconservatism has also led to a number of problems, such as the rise of ISIS and the destabilization of the Middle East.

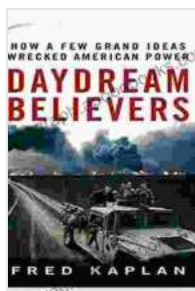
Huntington argues that neoconservatism has been based on a false belief that the United States can easily transform the Middle East into a democracy. He believes that the United States has underestimated the power of Islam and the difficulty of building stable democracies in the Middle East.

In his book, "How Few Grand Ideas Wrecked American Power," Samuel Huntington argues that the decline of American power is due in large part to the failure of American policymakers to adhere to a few basic principles. He identifies four grand ideas that have guided American foreign policy since the end of World War II: American exceptionalism, globalism, interventionism, and neoconservatism.

Huntington argues that these grand ideas have led the United States to overextend itself, and that this overextension has weakened the country.

He points to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as examples of how these ideas have led to disastrous results.

Huntington's book is a sobering look at the decline of American power. He argues that the United States needs to reassess its grand ideas and adopt a more realistic foreign policy. Otherwise, he believes, the United States will continue to decline.



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