

Rising in the East. Setting in the West.

THE NEXT GREAT CLASH CHINA AND RUSSIA VS. THE UNITED STATES by Michael L. Levin reads like a history book and that, actually, is a scary thing. Scary because this book lays out in convincing detail how a major global confrontation has been building for years, and how it will take place in the not too distant future. Though the book seems to be imbued with prescience or be the stuff of science fiction, the author has uncovered the hard facts that make it clear we will very likely see another pandemic conflict in most of our lifetimes. Before the United States loses its primacy in the world through a major clash across two continents, the United States must understand how the country came to this cliff and how it climbs back away from the precipice of war. **THE NEXT GREAT CLASH** clearly explains the historical buildup and the current perilous situation.

How is it that **RED** is the new **BLACK**? How is it that magazines and newspapers are suddenly turning to the East to see the Rising Sun? The answer is that big things are happening and happening fast in Asia. A recent *Newsweek* cover article states: “The China that will appear on the world’s TV screens in 2008 may (as the Chinese never tire of telling you) be centuries old, but it’s been made anew in just the last three decades...what may well be the fastest, most far-reaching national metamorphosis in human history.”

One can’t just look due east to see what is going on however. A little further north an old vestige of the Soviet Union has reawakened. Perhaps the light from the rising sun made the sleeping beast stir. One thing is for certain, under Vladimir Putin, the Russian nation has come out of hibernation with a vengeance. *Time* reports: “Russia’s revival is changing the course of the modern world. After decades of slumbering and underachievement, the Bear is back...Moscow exerts international influence not just with arms but also with a new arsenal of weapons: oil, gas, timber. On global issues, it offers alternatives to America’s waning influence....”

What does this mean for America and its “waning” global influence? With a population of 1.3 billion, the size and potential strength of China is matched only by its desire to be the world’s most powerful country for the new millennium. Having felt neglected, shamed, and disgraced over the past 100 years, China is now in transformation. With Moscow’s oil and guns, a new China is set to become the world’s most dominant nation in matters of international business, global policy and sheer might.

As China and Russia are forging ahead and becoming more powerful and more capable of exerting their will globally, the United States has lost its edge as the global hegemon. Historically, this set of circumstances leads to war. Author Michael L. Levin explains, “While this gathering storm of global systemic trends points to conflict between the United States and China, recent developments in U.S. foreign policy, combined with historic debt levels and emerging demographic patterns, are sapping America’s ability to respond to China’s rise.”

THE NEXT GREAT CLASH is no wild theory based on dubious research and spurious experts. Levin looks at the impending causes for a major global confrontation through economic, political, cultural, and historical lenses. As Levin states, “This book is the result of years of academic research combined with almost a decade of my overseas experience in Asia; as a result, I am able to present the reader with history as seen through the eyes of China and Russia; this is not an America-centric book.”

Of special interest is how Russia, America’s Cold War enemy, has deftly positioned itself as the “swing player” in this real world game of Risk. Though the Soviet Union has fallen, Russia has much to gain by nurturing the East’s conflict with the West, while, at the same time, it fears an all powerful China on its southeastern border. Describing its 2007 Man of the Year, *Time* magazine states “Putin is, above all, a pragmatist, and has cobbled together a system-not unlike China’s-that embraces the free market (albeit with a heavy dose of corruption) but relies on a strong state hand to keep order.” Levin carefully examines the fragile 400-year relationship between these awkward neighbors and the strategic partnership that has developed between them.

The author's main hope is that *The Next Great Clash* will raise awareness before the conflict becomes inevitable. By understanding the issues from all sides, it is hoped that China, Russia, and the United States will find a way to avoid World War III. However, time is running out for America. With the reawakened Russia providing economic partnerships, natural resources, and unprecedented military cooperation, the reborn China will succeed if the United States does not begin to act. The East will rise; the West will set.

Significant international events will take place in 2008 including elections in Taiwan, Russia, and the United States that make this book very relevant. Billions of eyes will be focused on Beijing during the 2008 Summer Olympics. China will hold the world's attention in the palm of its hands, and as Tiananmen Square reminds us all, that hand can easily become a bloody fist.

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