

Book Synopsis: THE NEXT GREAT CLASH

Chapter 1

The author explains how he came to love books, acquired a thirst for knowledge, and began a quest to travel. He realized that from books came knowledge. With knowledge he was able to escape the confines of his youth and become a citizen of the world.

Chapter 2

Seven disparate theories all leading to a similar result—the pending clash with China—are explained here. The theories are economic innovations (historical cycles), economic modernization (power transition model), the nation-state/market-state, global political imbalance (offensive realism), clash of civilizations (cultural), colonization and decolonization, and resource scarcity.

Chapter 3

The current state of U.S foreign policy with the author’s perspective on how the U.S. arrived at this position is examined in this chapter. Particular attention is given to military deployment, domestic and international defense spending, and the ballooning budget deficit in the U.S.

Chapter 4

This chapter focuses on the historical cycles of Chinese unification and fragmentation, its “century of humiliation” legacy, its use of military force, and shifts in primary alliances. The recent evolution of China’s military strategy is also illuminated.

Chapter 5

China’s “sacred obligation” to reclaim Taiwan may be the tripwire that escalates the conflict to a global level. The author explains how military events, political maneuverings and treaties over the past 120 years have made Taiwan the rope in a global tug-of-war.

Chapter 6

The author explains the constrained relationship between Russia and China from the 1600s to the early 1900s. This chapter illustrates how the border between these countries changed, in tandem with the ebb and flow of each country’s relative power.

Chapter 7

Chapter 7 details the Chinese-Russian relationship between 1911 and 1949. World War I and II and the Bolshevik Revolution are some of the major events that shape this era.

Chapter 8

The author begins the chapter with a look into the relationship between Mao and Stalin and the emerging Communist dynasty in Eurasia. As the timeline of the chapter moves forward, the actions of Khrushchev, Nixon, and Gorbachev are also discussed.

Chapter 9

After the collapse of the U.S.S.R., Russia became more and more dependent on China to hold up its economy. In recent years many business ventures and alliances have been formed.

Chapter 10

The author lays out the other pieces of the global puzzle and how other countries fit in the big picture in the present time. Iran, Iraq, Korea and Sudan are discussed.

Chapter 11

The final chapter examines how countries or groups of countries could form additional political and geographic alliances that could ultimately create a global balance of power between the West and the Sino-Russian behemoth. The countries of Europe as a whole and India could be the stabilizing factors in preventing the next great clash.