

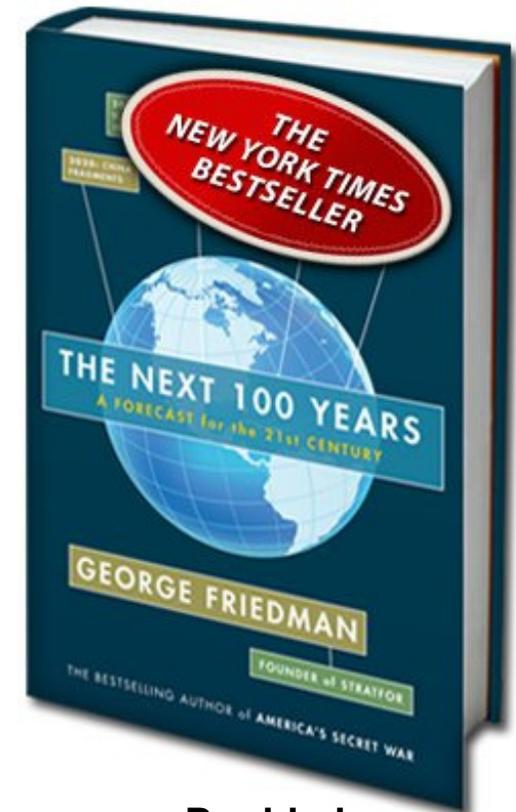
# **The Next 100 Years**

**George Friedman © 2009**

**Adviser and geopolitical futurist George Friedman ambitiously takes on the challenge of predicting the future for the next 100 years.**

**While not expecting perfect success, he believes geography and mankind's tendency to organise into and stay loyal to groups (politics), help predict how history will move forward.**

**Not surprisingly his work has caught the interest of readers around the world and governments. It may however be just too long a horizon to input into your investment strategy?**



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<http://www.stratfor.com/next100years>

## America will continue to rise

For the past 500 years global power originated in Atlantic Europe (Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, France, England)

- However Europe exhausted itself in endless civil wars : “... while Europe dominated the world, it failed to dominate itself”

The US emerged after WWII industrially strong after suffering only 1% of war casualties

US' five geopolitical goals (past & present)

1. Dominate North America (Battle of New Orleans 1814, defeat of Mexican army)
2. Eliminate power in South America (imperative to stop foreign power bases)
3. Control maritime approaches to US (via strong navy, acquired Hawaii & Alaska)
4. Dominate world's oceans ( to monitor and secure trade, exert power)
5. Prevent any other nation from challenging US (naval) power
  - It doesn't need to win wars to do this, just destabilize

“Any attempt to forecast the 21<sup>st</sup> century that does not begin with the recognition of the extraordinary nature of American power is out of touch with reality”

Current financial crisis will bring “deep discomfort” (like stagflation of 1970s or sharp crisis of 1870s) but not profound agony of 1930s – aging crisis will take over as next big issue

US is like a powerful adolescent – can become disproportionately emotional  
It's “huge margin of error” (eg. strength, safe borders) means it can be more  
careless exercising global power, and it is efficient for it to do so

## Some future predictions

**Population will bust not boom : decline in birth-rates will see population start to decline by 2100**

- **“As the sophistication of industry advanced, the economic value of children declined. In order to become economically useful, children had to go to school to learn. Rather than adding to family income, they consumed family income.” ... “It took a while for reality to sink in, but eventually it became clear that most children wouldn’t die and that children were extremely expensive to raise.”**
- **Unstoppable demographic change drove feminism (as women spent less time rearing children) and explains US social conservative movement (these objecting traditionalists will fade away)**
- **Advanced countries will compete for immigrants around 2030-2050 as they battle age crisis**

**Robots will fill labour gap (not just an idle fascination by an aging Japan) and play more a part in war**

**Hydrocarbon energy crisis will be solved by space-based solar power by 2060s; the moon will be mined**

**Control of space will be militarily important like the sea – expect space-to-earth missile platforms**

**The US Jihadist war will be (or has been) won by the US**

- **Better to create chaos in the Islamic world, including if it fosters animosity to US, then allow a regional superpower to coalesce**
  - **“So long as the Muslims are fighting each other, the US has won its war”**

**Wars will continue**

- **Russian expansion via cold & hot wars from 2010-2030? Japan /Turkey vs US around 2050? Mexico vs US in 2080?**

## **(re) emerging regional powers and conflicts**

### **Russia**

- **Will become increasingly wealthy over next decade (via resources) but geographically insecure**
- **Russia will seek to regain its “buffers” (boundaries of old Soviet Union esp. in West & South-West)**
  - **“Russia’s future actions will appear aggressive but will actually be defensive”**

### **Turkey**

- **By around 2020 Turkey will be a surging, stable economic and military power – a re-emerged empire!**
- **“Turks will be instrumental in America’s anti-Russian strategy”**

### **Poland**

- **Similarly, Poland will look to and get support from US (not Europe) to protect its precarious position**

### **China**

- **“I don’t share the view that China is going to be a major world power. I don’t believe it will hold together as a unified country” ... “China is held together by money not ideology”**
- **An alliance between wealthy coastal regions and Japan could confront power of Beijing**
- **Nationalism will be fostered to limit disintegration arising from regional conflicts**

### **Japan**

- **Japan’s large economy will continue to need resources and labour**
- **Instability in China and Russia will see it take steps to increase its presence in East Asia**
- **It’s isolation has fostered internal stability – it will move away from pacifism by 2020/2030**

### **Mexico**

- **Will re-emerge by late century to challenge American territory (War of 2080?)**
- **Triggered by immigration conflicts and links with growing, connected US Latino population**

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