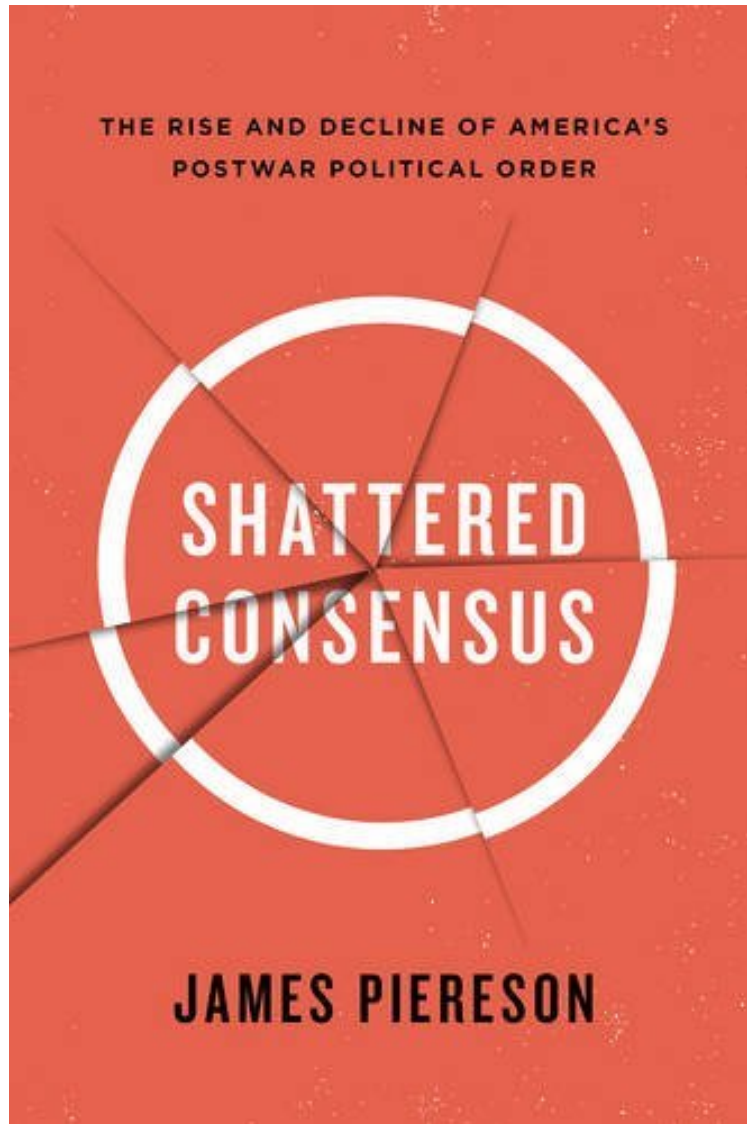


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Shattered Consensus: The Rise and Decline of America's Postwar Political Order

James Piereson

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James Piereson : Shattered Consensus: The Rise and Decline of America's Postwar Political Order before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shattered Consensus: The Rise and Decline of America's Postwar Political Order:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. OKAY ... BUT NOW WHAT ???By Robert Steven Thomas("The challenges of public debt, the retirement of the ldquo;baby boomrdquo; generation, and slow economic growth have reached a point where they require profound changes in the role of government in American life. At the same time, the

widening gulf between the two political parties and the entrenched power of interest groups will make it difficult to negotiate the changes needed to renew the system.")While the author displays a satisfactory understanding of our nations present state of crisis and what has led us to this path, I believe the incidents leading up to this crisis, as described by him in this book, are too simplified, vague and without sufficient support. Yes ... our nation is digging itself steadily deeper and deeper into a vast hole ... but what, EXACTLY, is it going to take to get us all to stop the shoveling? In final analysis, I found this book too "politically correct" (so as to not overly ideologically offend either political party left or right) and too short on workable solutions and remedies. 21 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Insightful and Frightening
By Ray F
Excellent book detailing the nature of the divided Country we live in today. The author relies on his expertise in political science and economics to explain in detail how we got to where we are and the challenges on how to change it. If you are looking for quick solutions, this is not your book since the author claims there can not be any. While the book reads sometimes like a text book, I found it extremely insightful and frightening. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. We are in a dismal place, and likely to stay there
By Hunter Hastings
The United States of America has arrived at a dismal place in history. All the promise of the Revolution, all the ideas of Locke and Paine and Jefferson, all the potential reported by de Tocqueville, all the entrepreneurial brilliance of Ford and Edison and Jobs have been undermined. Instead of a shining city on a hill illuminated by individual values of liberty, courage, initiative and resilience, we live in a dark administrative state in which individual achievement and voluntary collaboration have been replaced by the sacrifice of achievement to appease the needy and discontented. The author tracks the antagonism between the two sets of ideas represented by what he calls liberalism and conservatism, and which he equates with politics and the Republican and Democratic parties. He expresses some optimism (if that's the right word) that the Democratic consensus is unsustainable - that unlimited government spending and unrepayable debt, slow growth and bad demographics will bring down the distributional coalitions that, by government fiat, redistribute to collectivist dependents the rewards that should accrue to individual effort. However, he also points out that the protagonists for individualism have failed to articulate the morality and values that will provide a convincing and broadly persuasive impetus for a shift away from collectivism. This book will not leave you hopeful about the future.

The United States has been shaped by three sweeping political revolutions: Jefferson's "revolution of 1800," the Civil War, and the New Deal. Each of these upheavals concluded with lasting institutional and cultural adjustments that set the stage for a new phase of political and economic development. Are we on the verge of another upheaval, a "fourth revolution" that will reshape U.S. politics for decades to come? There are signs to suggest that we are. James Piereson describes the inevitable political turmoil that will overtake the United States in the next decade as a consequence of economic stagnation, the unsustainable growth of government, and the exhaustion of postwar arrangements that formerly underpinned American prosperity and power. The challenges of public debt, the retirement of the "baby boom" generation, and slow economic growth have reached a point where they require profound changes in the role of government in American life. At the same time, the widening gulf between the two political parties and the entrenched power of interest groups will make it difficult to negotiate the changes needed to renew the system. Shattered Consensus places this impending upheaval in historical context, reminding readers that Americans have faced and overcome similar trials in the past, in relatively brief but intense periods of political conflict. While others claim that the United States is in decline, Piereson argues that Americans will rise to the challenge of forming a new governing coalition that can guide the nation on a path of dynamism and prosperity.

"This collection of James Piereson's lapidary essays secures his place among America's leading conservative intellectuals and cultural critics."—George F. Will
"James Piereson's insights into various aspects of America's current political order are always well-grounded and well-argued, often unconventional, and sometimes alarming. This is one of the most thought-provoking volumes I've read in a long time."—William Kristol, editor of The Weekly Standard
"The timeliest of books, Shattered Consensus is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the 2016 election campaign. The book is also crucial reading for those who seek to gain a better understanding of our financial crises, both past and future."—Amity Shlaes, author of Coolidge and The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression
"James Piereson reminds us that so much of what we have been told by modern-day economists is flat-out wrong. America needs to relearn how economies really work, and reading this book is a good start."—Stephen Moore, chief economist at the Heritage Foundation