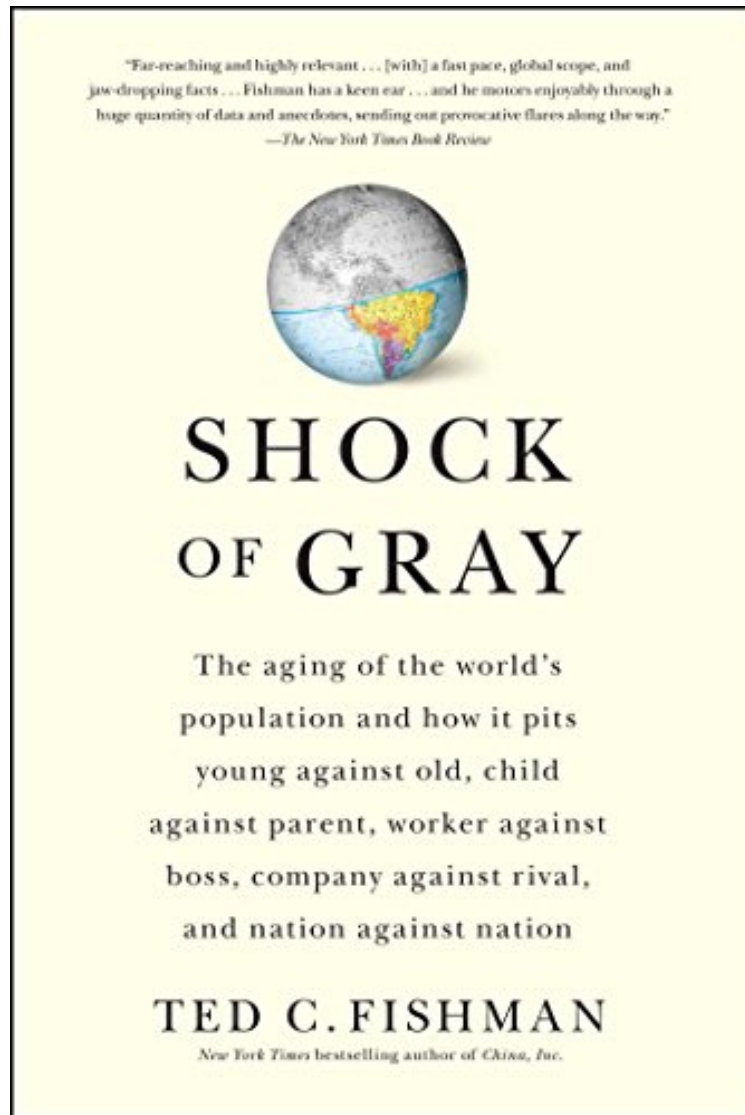


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# Shock of Gray: The Aging of the World's Population and How it Pits Young Against Old, Child Against Parent, Worker Against Boss, Company Against Rival, and Nation Against Nation

Ted Fishman

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**Ted Fishman : Shock of Gray: The Aging of the World's Population and How it Pits Young Against Old, Child Against Parent, Worker Against Boss, Company Against Rival, and Nation Against Nation** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shock of Gray: The Aging of the World's Population and How it Pits Young Against Old, Child Against Parent, Worker Against Boss, Company Against Rival, and Nation Against Nation:

35 of 36 people found the following review helpful. A Look at Our Future By Orrin R. Onken The book does not present a lot that is new unless you are new to the subject. I thought to myself as I read that it was a Cliff's notes version of year's worth university study in gerontology. The book is good for a beginner, or as a refresher, but does not have a lot to offer to someone already familiar with the discipline. The book is strongest in its examination of the economics and sociology of an aging world population. It looks at Spain and Japan, because the problems of an aging population have already arrived there. The problems in those country foreshadow our own. Fishman looks at China because that country is a powerful economic engine, and looks at the United States because we live here. The discussion of the physiology of aging is shorter but interesting. The chart of normal physical decline by decade accurately summarizes current thought and makes for entertaining reading. No discussion of the physical side of aging is complete without looking at what lets us live longer. The book delivers again the message that most of the decisions which determine how long we live are made at the societal level (pure water, uncontaminated food, decent sewers, and literacy). Some were made by our parents, but for those of us who don't smoke or go to war, there isn't much we can, as individuals, do about our longevity. Fishman writes well about the social and economic aspects of aging. I think he gave the short end of the stick to the psychological aspects. He talks a lot about dementia and loss of cognitive capacity, but doesn't address any of the theories of adult development. He talks about the physical declines we see in our thirties, forties, fifties, but does not talk about the psychological responses and defenses that we use to adapt to the physical decline. I think that the book would have been better with more discussion of current thought in that area. Fishman is a reporter, not an academic. Attempting to make the facts and statistics palatable he uses case studies--beginning with a person, or a family, or country--thereafter expanding from the specific to the general. After a few chapters of that, I found the technique tedious. I didn't want to meet another fascinating elder, or interesting town, or developing country. I wanted to get to the facts and figures. I was generally pleased with the book. The subtitle is inflammatory--to sell books I suppose--but the text is not. We are facing problems as our population ages, but they are problems that arise from our self-interested decisions to quit living in poverty and seek fulfilling lives. The problems will require solutions that will change the societies we live in, but in many respects those changes will be for the better. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great information but a little scary By Geves The author has pulled together a huge amount of information about the problems associated with the relatively short term economic rotation from having a relatively small elder population being supported by lots of young workers to having a population where the support ratio is nearly 1:1. Solutions are nowhere near as plentiful as the problems. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Go read it By Lore Grossman Even if you-- at the beginning-- feel it is not for you. If you are the least bit interested what the future holds this is a MUST read. I would think that any Parent or Grandparent would want to know what is coming the way for their offspring. I admire the author for assembling an amount of research which I did not think possible one person could do. Well written Ted ! P.S. I had read this book last year, but bought it now for my kindle library !

The New York Times bestselling author of *China, Inc.* reports on the astounding economic and political ramifications of an aging world. The world's population is rapidly aging--by the year 2030, one billion people will be sixty-five or older. As the ratio of the old to the young grows ever larger, global aging has gone critical: For the first time in history, the number of people over age fifty will be greater than those under age seventeen. Few of us understand the resulting massive effects on economies, jobs, and families. Everyone is touched by this issue--parents and children, rich and poor, retirees and workers--and now veteran journalist Ted C. Fishman masterfully and movingly explains how our world is being altered in ways no one ever expected. What happens when too few young people must support older people? How do shrinking families cope with aging loved ones? What happens when countries need millions of young workers but lack them? How do companies compete for young workers? Why, exactly, do they shed old workers? How are entire industries being both created and destroyed by demographic change? How do communities and countries remake themselves for ever-growing populations of older citizens? Who will suffer? Who will benefit? With vivid and witty reporting from American cities and around the world, and through compelling interviews with families, employers, workers, economists, gerontologists, government officials, health-care professionals, corporate executives, and small business owners, Fishman reveals the astonishing and interconnected effects of global aging, and why nations, cultures, and crucial human relationships are changing in this timely, brilliant, and important read.