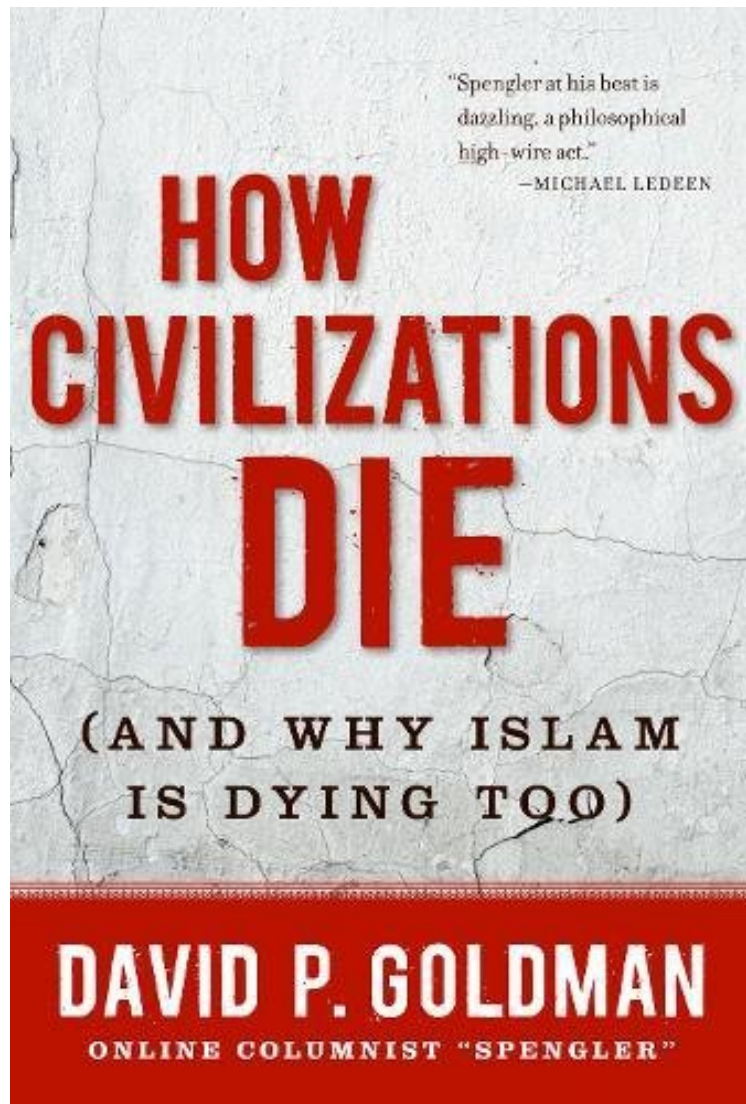


[Free] How Civilizations Die: (And Why Islam Is Dying Too)

## How Civilizations Die: (And Why Islam Is Dying Too)

David Goldman

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**David Goldman : How Civilizations Die: (And Why Islam Is Dying Too)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How Civilizations Die: (And Why Islam Is Dying Too):

199 of 208 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read! Goldman is an absolute gem! By ReidDavid P. Goldman, aka Asia Times Online's 'Spengler' columinist, is the single most insightful writer in America today. Goldman's new book 'How Civilizations Die' is an absolute gem as he dispenses with conventional wisdom and gives the reader unique geopolitical insight in a cultural and historical tour de force. Goldman may as well be the originator of the phrase "Demographics is Destiny" because he has argued for years (and in this book) that demographics can go

a long way into explaining nations' economic and cultural rise and fall. But then what explains demographics? In the introductory part of the book, Goldman explores why people in the developed world choose to have children and why they don't. His answer seems to be that having children is often an act of religious faith, or at least an article of faith in the future. Those developed societies (read: Europe) that fail to reproduce at replacement rate have lost faith. Not surprisingly, only two developed countries, Jewish Israel, and Judeo-Christian America, currently have birth rates above the 2.1 replacement rate. The next part of Goldman's book takes the reader deep in the heart of Islam and explores how and why Islam is literally convulsing before our eyes despite its religious facade. Who knew that the world had never before seen a drop in birth rates as it sees in Iran today? Who knew that Turkey too faces a demographic crisis in the near future and that native Kurds might soon outnumber native Turks in Turkey? The reader will be shocked as Goldman goes through the numbers and explains the cultural and economic consequences of an Islamic world on the brink. The second part of the book titled 'Theopolitics' takes the reader through history and examines cultures that failed: Prehistoric Greek civilization, Hellenistic civilizations and ancient Rome. Goldman then explains why Islam is soon to be the fourth failed civilization. The focus then shifts to Europe as Goldman explains how a once great continent no longer has a desire to live. This leads into a discussion of my favorite part of the book, a chapter titled 'How Christianity Failed in Europe.' I had always wondered how it was possible that the formerly most powerful nations, who fought for centuries under the nominal faith of Christendom could be so lacking in faith today. As Goldman explains, while the European nations were nominally Christian, they really practiced a form of paganism in that they worshipped themselves. And this was their downfall. In an awesome intellectual journey, Goldman takes the reader through the first Thirty Years' War in Europe (1618-1648) and discusses how that war eventually led to the modern nation state, the death of Christianity in Europe, and eventually the horrors of the second thirty year war in Europe (1914-1945). The final part of the book explains why America is different and how modern Judeo-based Christianity has survived only in America. By examining America's religious roots Goldman contrasts living America with dying Europe and shows why America will thrive, but also why its uniqueness cannot necessarily be transferred to other nations. This of course has foreign policy consequences for us today as we seek to export American democracy (can't be done, Goldman argues). Goldman concludes by offering his foreign policy advice based on 'The Morality of Self Interest' which should be required reading for our policymakers. Goldman is quite literally a polymath. The former head of Fixed Income Research (ie. smartest guy at the firm) at Bank of America, Goldman is a master of not only geopolitics and history, but also of high finance and macroeconomics. The breadth of his knowledge is breathtaking and combined with the writer's fine sense of humor makes for a gem of a book. I cannot recommend this book highly enough - simply an intellectual tour de force!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fertility trumps civilization

By Desert Rat Goldman (aka "Spengler") contends that every industrialized society except Israel and America are doomed to collapse by the end of the century. The reason is that birth rates are below replacement level. For example: if current birth and death rates continue the will be no German speakers remaining in two hundred years. Islam, he claims, is similarly doomed since Muslim women once they are a educated and enter the modern workforce nearly stop having children. In traditional agricultural societies children have value as productive income earning assists for the nuclear family. In modern industrial / post-industrial they are an expense that reduce their parent's standard of living. The only thing that overcomes this, in the author's view, is a religion based belief in life beyond present. Hence, traditional Jews and evangelical Christians continue to have children at a rate beyond replacement. He also mentions in passing that there is something similar going on with Hinduism and India. A time traveler jumping a century ahead (assuming no large scale nuclear war, comet/asteroid impact, etc) would discover a world dominated by three civilizations Israel, USA, and India. The "good guys" win. However, Goldman is concerned that dying civilizations will feel to take the rest of the world with then hence nuclear catastrophe is more like in balance of this century than it was in the 20th. There may be some holes in Goldman's analysis. The last time I read something on the topic the US fertility rate was break even at best and falling - only immigration was making up the difference. Thus I would like to see more corroboration of the rates cited. His predictive model is to take a recent trend (fertility rates in this case) and assume they continue indefinitely. This technique has a poor track record otherwise we should all be starving, living in standing room only and covered by glaciers. Nonetheless, I don't think Goldman should be totally ignored. Fertility rates should be watched by national security planners since it is just as dangerous to assume that the current world demographic mix will continue. Finally, despite my skepticism the book is very readable and the authors arguments should not be dismissed.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Exceptionally interesting.

By Seneca This book argues that, contrary to the prevailing view concerning the fertility of Muslim women and the consequent expansion of Islam, Islam is in a crisis. What causes the crisis is a fall, in Islamic societies, in the birth rate almost as dramatic as the one which got under way in non-Islamic ones a generation or two earlier. The difference is that the wealthy West can afford to support the vast numbers of the elderly; most Islamic countries, being much poorer, can not. The outcome is likely to be serious disturbances, perhaps revolution and war. Qui bono? The only two developed countries that do have children: the U.S and Israel. Is the author right? Time will tell. Meanwhile, he has written an exceptionally interesting book.

You've heard about the Death of the West. But the Muslim world is on the brink of an even greater collapse. WILL WE GO DOWN IN THE IMPLOSION? Thanks to collapsing birthrates, much of Europe is on a path of willed self-extinction. The untold story is that birthrates in Muslim nations are declining faster than anywhere else at a rate never before documented. Europe, even in its decline, may have the resources to support an aging population, if at a terrible economic and cultural cost. But in the impoverished Islamic world, an aging population means a civilization on the brink of total collapse something Islamic terrorists know and fear. Muslim decline poses new threats to America, challenges we cannot even understand, much less face effectively, without a wholly new kind of political analysis that explains how desperate peoples and nations behave. In *How Civilizations Die*, David P. Goldman, author of the celebrated Spengler column read by intelligence organizations worldwide, reveals how, almost unnoticed, massive shifts in global power are remaking our future. Goldman reveals: How extinctions of peoples, cultures, and civilizations are not unthinkable but certain. How for the first time in world history, the birthrate in the West has fallen below replacement level. Why birthrates in the Muslim world are falling even faster. Why the Arab Spring is the precursor of much more violent change in the Islamic world. Why looming demographic collapse may encourage Islamic terrorists to go for broke. How the United States can survive the coming world turmoil. In *How Civilizations Die*, David P. Goldman has written an essential book for understanding what lies in the future for America and the world.

Praise for *How Civilizations Die* In *How Civilizations Die*, David Goldman muses on population trends and religion with a breathtaking depth, originality, and panache. Some of his startling but documented predictions: Europe is in its death throes. Muslim demographic collapse will undercut Islamic triumphalism. The United States and Israel will emerge triumphant. And that's just the start. DANIEL PIPES, President of the Middle East Forum and Taube Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University. Oswald Spengler's *Decline of the West* was required reading when I was a college student and David Goldman's contemporary argument should be required reading today. HERB LONDON, President Emeritus of the Hudson Institute. David Goldman has explored the political implications of demography with rare insight. *How Civilizations Die (and Why Islam Is Dying Too)* is a mind-expanding peek into the likely political future of our planet. MARY ANN GLENDON, Learned Hand Professor of Law, Harvard University