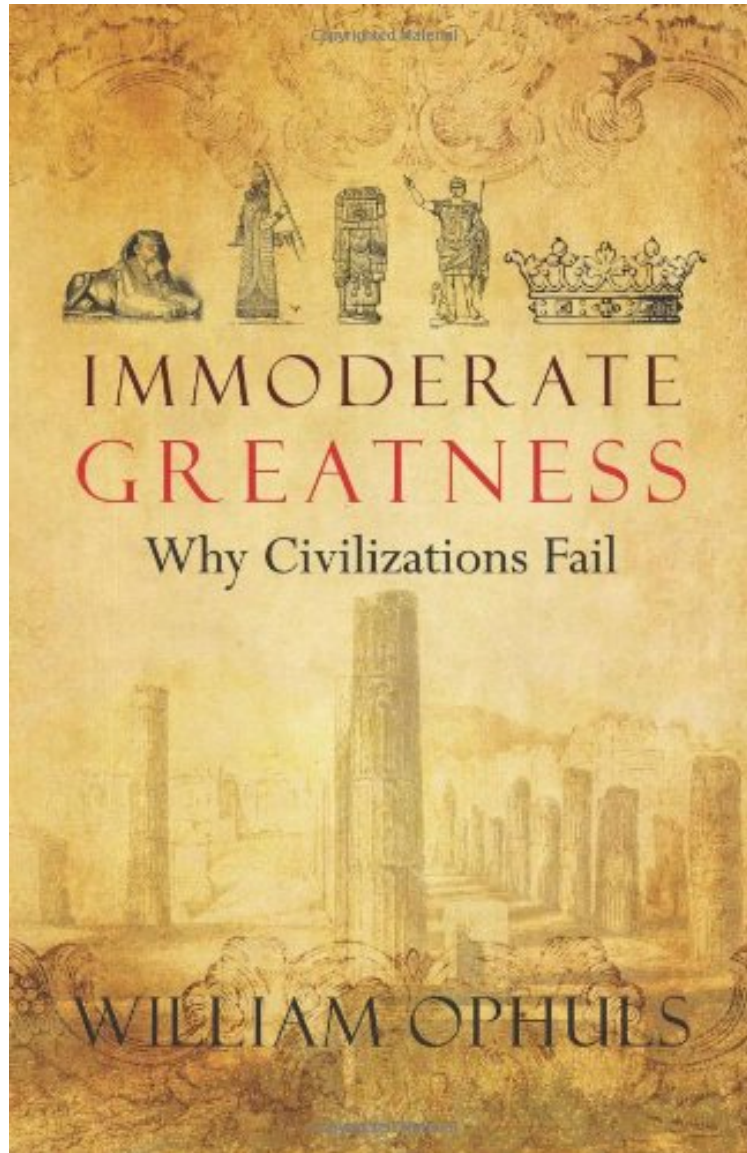


[Ebook free] Immoderate Greatness: Why Civilizations Fail

Immoderate Greatness: Why Civilizations Fail

William Ophuls

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William Ophuls : Immoderate Greatness: Why Civilizations Fail before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Immoderate Greatness: Why Civilizations Fail:

41 of 44 people found the following review helpful. concise and powerful! By Jay Hanson IMMODERATE GREATNESS is a powerful little book. William Ophuls has avoided jargon while explaining how ecological exhaustion, exponential growth, entropy (net energy), complexity, moral decay and practical failure are cause

civilizations -- including ours -- to collapse. Moreover, Ophuls sees no solution to these problems because the root of these problems is our evolved nature. I have been studying these problems for 20 years and found nothing here that I disagree with. This book is concise and aimed at a wide audience. It should be read by everyone who cares about the future. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Short and Powerful! By John Dewitt A must read for anyone who cares about history and truth. This isn't about the sky is falling, it's about a simple premise that all civilizations grow then die. Only so much tinkering by humans can postpone the inevitable. Are we at our end? Yes, very likely but is that next year or in the next 50 years? Ultimately this book is for the few who care. Those that warn all the while knowing that the masses always ignore those warnings and repeat the same mistakes over and over and over again. You may disagree with some of his reasoning or some of his evidence but you can't argue with the conclusion no matter how much you fear it. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Must Read! By Jason Bonomo Amazing! Mr William Ophuls has done an immense and unsurpassed work. He took a subject as broad and multifaceted as civilization collapse and distilled it down to the bare essentials. While at the same time giving it a unrelenting pace and scope that it is impossible to stop reading. Clear and concise to a degree unsurpassed, the book pulls no punches on the fundamentally flawed nature of civilization and the ultimately immutable results that must accompany these flaws.

Immoderate Greatness explains how a civilization's very magnitude conspires against it to cause downfall. Civilizations are hard-wired for self-destruction. They travel an arc from initial success to terminal decay and ultimate collapse due to intrinsic, inescapable biophysical limits combined with an inexorable trend toward moral decay and practical failure. Because our own civilization is global, its collapse will also be global, as well as uniquely devastating owing to the immensity of its population, complexity, and consumption. To avoid the common fate of all past civilizations will require a radical change in our ethos, wit, the deliberate renunciation of greatness lest we precipitate a dark age in which the arts and adornments of civilization are partially or completely lost.

From Kirkus: Ophuls' clear writing, thorough research and elegant logic make his treatise a thoughtful, discussing-provoking work. "Ophuls superbly synthesizes a huge amount of literature and presents the synthesis in an easily accessible format with beautifully clear prose. He doesn't sugarcoat his message. There's no false optimism here. The patient (modern human civilization) is critically and perhaps terminally ill, and Ophuls explains why with enormous skill." Thomas Homer-Dixon, University of Waterloo, author of *The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization*. About the Author: William Ophuls spent eight years in the U. S. Foreign Service, serving in Washington, Abidjan, and Tokyo, before receiving a PhD in political science from Yale University in 1973. In 1977, he published **Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity**. It won two prizes and was instrumental in establishing the field of environmental politics. After teaching briefly at Northwestern University, he became an independent scholar and author. He has since published three books on the ecological, social, and political challenges confronting modern industrial civilization. When not at his writing desk, he spends his time rambling in nature, either in his native California or in the mountains of Europe.