

## **SYLLABUS**

### **What Made America Great - and how do we regain that?**

#### **Michael Baker**

Dr. Michael Baker is a retired general surgeon and trauma surgeon. He just recently returned from a second trip to Ukraine to teach Advanced Trauma Life Support (care of the injured patient) to medical personnel.

He has also retired from the U.S. Navy with the rank of Rear Admiral after 30 years of uniformed service to his country. He was awarded his third Legion of Merit which he wears proudly alongside his US Marine Corps Combat Action ribbon and his Officer in Charge Riverine Warfare Pin. He has experience in contingency planning, operations, and multinational exercises. He has taught combat casualty care, triage, trauma care, and response to complex disasters and humanitarian emergencies. He has published over 80 peer reviewed articles and has lectured at numerous national and international conferences. He currently teaches political science and the use of the military for the University of California at Berkeley, Dominican University, and Cal State East Bay Osher LifeLong Learning programs, and serves on the Board of the World Affairs Council of Northern California.

### **What Made America Great - and how do we regain that?**

The last hundred years was clearly the “American Century.” The USA became so powerful that it won two World Wars, came to dominate the global economy, powered tremendous innovation in science and industry, and promoted governance utilizing participatory democracy. Yet American democracy is now seemingly at war with itself: leadership has been eroded, institutions have been denigrated, there is a huge partisan divide, facts and truth do not matter to some, and we seem to have lost our mojo. These lectures will examine those elements of a state’s effectiveness that made America great and led to the American Century. I will look at some of the reasons we are struggling as a nation and suggest some areas that we can fix so that America can once again unite as a strong democracy, regain a prominent role in world leadership, and be a model for success.

#### **LECTURE TITLES**

1. Elements Leading to a State's Effectiveness
2. Technology and Innovation
3. The Technology revolutions
4. Government, Voting, and the Rule of Law
5. Making America Better than Before

## 6. What Steps to Take Moving Forward

### **RAMBLING THOUGHTS AND NOTES LEADING TO THIS LECTURE SERIES**

- I. HOW TO SHAPE AMERICA FOR THE FUTURE – WHAT ARE THE LESSONS OF HISTORY
- II. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THAT HISTORY
- III. AND WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES?
- IV. WHAT IS WRONG TODAY ? 7 Sins of America Today
  - a. Crumbling infrastructure
  - b. Poor educational performance
  - c. Splintered Health care system
  - d. Military Industrial Complex
  - e. Inability to implement crucial legislation
  - f. Polarization / Trust/ Anti-science/disinformation
  - g. Rising vitriol and violence

## Lecture 1: Elements Leading to a State's Effectiveness

1. NATURAL ELEMENTS
2. INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY
3. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
4. GOVERNMENT
5. SOCIAL / IDEOLOGICAL ELEMENTS
6. EXTERNAL ELEMENTS

### 1. NATURAL ELEMENTS

- A. GEOGRAPHY
- B. NATURAL RESOURCES
- C. POPULATION

#### A. GEOGRAPHY

- b. OCEANS
  - A. LOCATION – LOCATION – LOCATION
  - B. ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS
  - C. DISCOURAGE INVASION

#### c. Waterways

- Nutrition / Irrigation source
- Promote commerce and trade
- Speed migration

Building the Erie Canal -- <https://youtu.be/iLfGSXuHu5g>

Changed The Speed and Trajectory of The Nation

Provided Access to Great Lakes and Midwest Resources

COAL

OIL AND GAS

TIMBER

METALS – IRON, GOLD, COPPER, SILVER

<https://www.theheritageportal.co.za/article/short-history-steel>

#### B. NATURAL RESOURCES

- a. Iron and Coal from the Great Lakes Sped the Industrial Revolution
  - i. Stoked the world's heavy industries
  - ii. Iron + steel essential for a strong industrial base
  - iii. Bridges, railroads, buildings, cars, tools, etc
  - iv. Propelled the U.S. economy into the 20th century
- b. FOSSIL FUELS
  - i. First commercial U.S. oil well in Pennsylvania in 1859
  - ii. Large deposits found in western Texas, Panhandle, Oklahoma, and Kansas

- iii. Colossal reserves off the Gulf Coast of eastern Texas and Louisiana
- iv. And more eventually in Alaska
- v. Now FRACKING

The U.S. produced two-thirds of the world's oil during World War II  
This steady supply was crucial to the Allied victory

#### c. INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

- i. Products were no longer made solely by hand but by machines
- ii. Shifted U.S. from an agrarian economy to a manufacturing economy
- iii. This led to increased production and efficiency – assembly lines
- iv. lower prices, more goods
- v. Sped migration from rural areas to urban areas

#### d. Coal + Iron = Steel / Steel + Commerce = Railroads

- i. Improves Commerce
- ii. Speeds further industrialization
- iii. Then comes the California Gold Rush
- iv. Leads to the Transcontinental Railroad
- v. Communication follows the Railroad with the Telegraph
- vi. Then comes the Panama Canal

#### e. Roads Connecting America

- i. The first macadam road was constructed between Hagerstown and Boonsboro, Maryland in 1823
- ii. Each state in the U.S. built roads to serve its special needs
- iii. (and special interests, haha)
- iv. There were no uniform standards for size, width, grading
- v. No uniform standards for bridges or tunnels
- vi. The U.S. Army and General Pershing felt national security required better roads
- vii. Sends LtCol Eisenhower to evaluate in 1919
- viii. – 62 days to drive across U.S.
- ix. Later General Eisenhower becomes President
- x. – Interstate Highway System is born 1956

#### f. Bridges

- i. Brooklyn Bridge
- ii. San Francisco Bay Bridges

#### g. Dam the Rivers = Generation of Power

- A. Hoover Dam
- B. Tennessee Valley Authority
- C. Rural Electrification Administration (REA)

## C. PEOPLE

18<sup>th</sup> Century – English and Scots-Irish  
 African Slaves arrive in large numbers  
 Irish began arriving in large numbers after 1845, driven by the Great Famine  
 5 million Germans came to the U.S., many making their way to the Midwest  
 Chinese 1850  
 1880-1920 – Immigration from Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe  
 1960's Southwest Asians  
 The role of immigration in economic growth

## REFERENCES:

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<https://www.americanwaterways.com/industry-impact>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_history_of_the_United_States)

### NATURAL RESOURCES:

<https://academic.oup.com/book/1669/chapter/141232739>

<https://news.stanford.edu/pr/96/961216minerals.html>

### USA Resources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdEfF9ruEOk>

<https://www.theheritageportal.co.za/article/short-history-steel>

### Industrial Revolution

<https://ushistoryscene.com/article/second-industrial-revolution/>

<https://oxfordre.com/americanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-327>

[//">https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States/Industrialization-of-the-U-S-economy //](https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States/Industrialization-of-the-U-S-economy)

<https://www.theheritageportal.co.za/article/short-history-steel>

### Roads:

1919 Road Trip [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cv6s\\_bd-JsE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cv6s_bd-JsE)

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/THE-INTERSTATE-HIGHWAY-SYSTEM-AT-50-America-in-2516919.php>

Highway Act [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwhRUiE3a\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwhRUiE3a_4)

Dams: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoover\\_Dam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoover_Dam)

### **Railroads:**

<https://www.history.com/topics/inventions/transcontinental-railroad>

[https://www.history.com/news/transcontinental-railroad-changed-america?li\\_source=LI&li\\_medium=m2m-rcw-history](https://www.history.com/news/transcontinental-railroad-changed-america?li_source=LI&li_medium=m2m-rcw-history)

### **Power**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural\\_Electrification\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rural_Electrification_Act)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/science/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/mr-carmody-we-want-lights-tennessee-valley-authority-and-rural-electrification-under-new-deal#:~:text=Striving%20to%20implement%20some%20of,areas%2C%20most%20especially%20family%20farms>

### **PEOPLE**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBJcqxl7kas>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=behsmaHh2bg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEXFuNBma28>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3nKgKswISA>

[https://www.ted.com/talks/nalini\\_krishnankutty\\_how\\_immigrants\\_shape\\_d\\_the\\_united\\_s\\_tates](https://www.ted.com/talks/nalini_krishnankutty_how_immigrants_shape_d_the_united_s_tates)

<https://thesciencebehindit.org/how-does-immigration-affect-the-u-s-economy/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=373fXlciZTM>

<https://www.uschamber.com/on-demand/immigration/how-immigration-reform-will-drive-economic-growth>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ttDUGM-1mU>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYee\\_nQL34](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYee_nQL34)

## LECTURE 2. Technology and Innovation

- TECHNOLOGY
- INNOVATION
- INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY
- AGRICULTURAL CAPACITY
- MILITARY STRENGTH

Steel  
 Steam engine  
 Railroads  
 Telegraph  
 Telephone  
 Lightbulb  
 Phonograph  
 Movies  
 Typewriter  
 Plastics and Polymers  
 Petroleum Refining  
 Combustible engine  
 Assembly Line  
 Airplanes  
 Rockets

### A. Steel

- i. STRUCTURAL STEEL HAD GREATER STRENGTH
- ii. WHICH ALLOWED FOR HIGHER BUILDINGS
  1. Skyscrapers
  2. <http://jhenniferamundson.net/arc-331/skyscrapers/>
  3. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=903632113642755>
  4. Elevators / Brake
  5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNL094jbrGU>
- iii. AND STRONGER BRIDGES
- iv. BESSEMER STEEL BUILT THE RAILROADS
  1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hU5rJz8Tr5k>
  2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEwKa4zKnhk>
  3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUmD0jFTnCA>
  - 4.

### B. Telegraph

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNhinA8ajol>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZJF-igNvY0>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNoOYeS0qs0>

### C. Telephone

<https://www.britannica.com/video/180119/Overview-invention-telephone-focus-work-Alexander-Graham>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/top-significant-industrial-revolution-inventors-104725>

#### **D. Light Bulb and Electricity**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbiCLHneyaA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fti-sq2-6Q4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wkjlSZt0ko>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/george-westinghouse-and-electricity-4077908>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BUpF\\_h-IY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BUpF_h-IY)

#### **E. Plastics and Polymers**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GMbRG9CZJw>

<https://thisisplastics.com/plastics-101/155-years-of-plastic/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2019/05/28/726326078/how-everything-became-plastic>

#### **F. Petroleum Refining**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wwKENHogMg>

<https://encrypted->

<vtbn0.gstatic.com/video?q=tbn:ANd9GcQmV7czgpiGznJO92PY4GpLyo3882Yyhget5A>

#### **G. Assembly Line**

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/one-hundred-and-three-years-ago-today-henry-ford-introduced-assembly-line-his-workers-hated-it-180961267/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFbsDARAWj8>

<https://www.pbs.org/video/american-experience-ford-assembly-line/>

#### **H. Rubber**

<https://interestingengineering.com/culture/charles-goodyear-the-father-of-vulcanization>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6CJ6ojMT0A>

#### **I. Airplane**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZcuJN0Yyi0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBnjeBEsvtA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kjRL-Q-KBc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSIPgdqiecw>

#### **J. Rockets**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwWCFbC6aeo>



<https://aerospaceengineeringblog.com/history-of-rocket-science/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGZZ2QHprHw>

### **K. Nuclear Power**

<https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-the-atomic-the-manhattan-project-1991237>

<http://www.atomicheritage.org/history/who-built-atomic-bomb>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Bmgk3WIkCE>

<https://todayinhistory.com/2022/01/21/january-21-worlds-first-nuclear-submarine-launched-at-groton-4/>

<https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/nations-first-small-modular-reactor-plant-power-nuclear-research-idaho-national>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KncekYvqyWs>

## Lecture 3: Innovation and The Modern Technologic Revolution

GPS  
Transistor  
Robot  
Calculator

### A. CALCULATOR

<https://www.historyofinformation.com/detail.php?id=636>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGk9W65vXNA>

### B. TRANSISTOR

<https://www.computerhistory.org/revolution/digital-logic/12/273>

### C. COMPUTER

<https://dougengelbart.org/content/view/309/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/gallery/2016/apr/01/40-years-of-apple-in-pictures>

[https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah\\_334371](https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_334371)

### D. INTERNET

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ARPANET>

<https://www.darpa.mil/about-us/timeline/arpamet>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-ethernet-robert-metcalfe-4079022>

### E. SEARCH ENGINES

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Google](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Google)

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/inventions/who-invented-google.htm>

### F. CELL PHONES

<https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/the-history-behind-the-invention-of-the-first-cell-phone>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IV1js6\\_mMoE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IV1js6_mMoE)

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/steve-jobs-debuts-the-iphone>

<https://www.vox.com/2017/6/26/15821652/iphone-apple-10-year-anniversary-launch-mobile-stats-smart-phone-steve-jobs>

## **G. GENETIC ENGINEERING**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDB8TRHKewk>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_genetic\\_engineering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_genetic_engineering)

<https://www.genome.gov/Pages/Education/GeneticTimeline.pdf>

## **H. 3-D PRINTING**

<https://www.thoughtco.com/who-invented-3d-printing-4059854>

<https://www.asme.org/wwwasmeorg/media/ResourceFiles/AboutASME/Who%20We%20Are/Engineering%20History/Landmarks/261-Stereolithography.pdf>

## **I. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

<https://www.livescience.com/49007-history-of-artificial-intelligence.html>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/gilpress/2016/12/30/a-very-short-history-of-artificial-intelligence-ai/>

## **J. ADVANCED ROBOTICS**

<https://www.wired.com/story/wired-guide-to-robots/>

<https://cs.stanford.edu/people/eroberts/courses/soco/projects/1998-99/robotics/history.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoC2ZGRI8a8>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/timeline-of-robots-1992363>

AI 8cf5e450-2c33-4eb3-92f1-7ca097d94be6.png

Mechanical production

b1153f71-beb9-48da-bc18-9fcc2b5647d4.png

Immigration <https://usa.usembassy.de/etexts/oecon/chap3.htm>

WorldAtlas <https://www.worldatlas> Table 2: U.S. Nobel Prize Winners in Chemistry, Medicine and Physics: 1901-2020

<https://www.icc-cpi.int/>

Source: National Foundation for American Policy, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, George Mason University Institute for Immigration Research.

[https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v2\\_rul\\_rule28](https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v2_rul_rule28)

## LECTURE 4: GOVERNMENT, VOTING, AND THE RULE OF LAW

Eligibility to vote in the U.S. is governed by the Constitution and grants the states the power to set voting requirements

1789: The Constitution initially limited this right to property-owning or tax-paying white males (about 6% of the population)

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/voting-rights-act>

<https://www.carnegie.org/our-work/article/voting-rights-timeline/>

<https://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-8-1-b-who-voted-in-early-america>

### EMANCIPATION FROM SLAVERY

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/13th-amendment>

<https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/amendments/amendment-xiv>

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/fourteenth-amendment>

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/fifteenth-amendment>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/15th-amendment-united-states-constitution/>

### JIM CROW and RECONSTRUCTION

<https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws>

### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

<https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/19th-amendment-1>

<https://www.npr.org/2020/08/26/904730251/yes-women-could-vote-after-the-19th-amendment-but-not-all-women-or-men>

### CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-v3\\_y3EbRIU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-v3_y3EbRIU)

### IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1924

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNGJ-dPVQNM>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4\\_eMNi9wJyo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_eMNi9wJyo)

### JAPANESE INTERNMENT EXEC ORDER 9066

<https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/japanese-american-internment>

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/fdr-signs-executive-order-9066>

## Civil Rights Fights in our Lifetime (Hard For Me To Wrap My Head Around)

**Brown v Board of Education:**

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/brown-v-board-of-education>

### **Little Rock 9:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0d0lEmUg2g>

### **24<sup>th</sup> Amendment:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txFQNMy69Ps>

<https://history.house.gov/HistoricalHighlight/Detail/37045>

### **1964 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT**

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-act>

<https://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/research/civil-rights-commemoration.html>

<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/add-on/resource/amex26-soc-64ntpassage/passage-of-the-civil-rights-act-1964/en/>

### **VOTER SUPPRESSION**

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/5-egregious-voter-suppression-laws-2021>

<https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/voter-suppression-in-minority-communities-learning-from-the-past-to-protect-our>

### **2ND AMENDMENT AND WHITE NATIONALISTS**

<https://www.bradyunited.org/reports/january-6-gun-extremism>

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-116hrg36563/html/CHRG-116hrg36563.htm>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/exploring-hate-how-antisemitism-fuels-white-nationalism>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2021/far-right-symbols-capitol-riot/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pv17J\\_JOkMk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pv17J_JOkMk)

## Lecture 5

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/07/podcasts/america-decline-capitol-riot.html>

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<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-10-reasons-the-u-s-education-system-is-failing/2015/08>

SOURCE: KFF Health Care Debt Survey (Feb. 25-Mar. 20, 2022) PNG

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-10-reasons-the-u-s-education-system-is-failing/2015/08>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/best-countries-for-education>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/why-are-finlands-schools-successful-49859555/#:~:text=Ninety%2Dthree%20percent%20of%20Finns,student%20than%20the%20United%20States>

<https://leverageedu.com/blog/finland-education-system/>

<https://www.theedadvocate.org/10-reasons-the-u-s-education-system-is-failing/#:~:text=Our%20schools%20are%20overcrowded.&text=A%20study%20by%20the%20National,for%20teachers%20to%20be%20effective>

<https://www.german-way.com/history-and-culture/education/the-german-school-system/>

<https://www.thetechadvocate.org/20-reasons-why-the-american-education-system-is-failing/>

<https://www.publicschoolreview.com/blog/the-15-biggest-failures-of-the-american-public-education-system>

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/is-our-healthcare-system-broken-202107132542>

<https://www.soa.org/globalassets/assets/files/resources/research-report/2020/nhe-analysis.pdf>

<https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/whats-the-latest-on-medicare-drug-price-negotiations/>

Eric C. Schneider et al., Mirror, Mirror 2021 — Reflecting Poorly: Health Care in the U.S. Compared to Other High-Income Countries (Commonwealth Fund, Aug. 2021). <https://doi.org/10.26099/01DV-H208>

<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2021/aug/mirror-mirror-2021-reflecting-poorly>

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/is-our-healthcare-system-broken-202107132542#:~:text=High%20cost%2C%20not%20highest%20quality,%2C%20suicide%2C%20and%20maternal%20mortality>

<https://policyadvice.net/insurance/insights/health-insurance-companies-us/>

<https://jamanetwork.com/channels/health-forum/fullarticle/2760129#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20report%2C%20%E2%80%9CWhere,per%20premium%20dollar%20as%20profits.>

<https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/whats-the-latest-on-medicare-drug-price-negotiations/>

<https://howmanytimeshasthehousevotedtorepealobamacare.com/>

<https://www.medifind.com/news/post/problems-us-healthcare-system>

#### **BOOKS ON DISASTERS AND DOMESTIC TERRORISM**

The Devil Never Sleeps – Juliette Kayyam

Bring the War Home – Kathleen Belew

#### **LECTURE 5: A WAY FORWARD – RECAPTURING THE LEGACY OF THE GREATEST GENERATION**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/07/podcasts/america-decline-capitol-riot.html>

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/infrastructure-categories/#:~:text=The%202021%20grades%20orange%20from,first%20grade%3A%20a%20di sappointing%20D>

ROADS AND BRIDGES

AIRPORTS

WATER WAYS



**POWER GRIDS****WATER SYSTEMS****BROADBAND**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/cea/written-materials/2021/11/15/the-time-is-now-to-modernize-u-s-infrastructure/>

<https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/operations/our-insights/reimagining-infrastructure-in-the-united-states-how-to-build-better>

[https://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwilrKyDnYn7AhUEK60GHWpyCFkYABABGgJwdg&ohost=www.google.com&cid=CAESbeD2yh0llmTjc4\\_-n7Tc7eOfIrrYuJz5jLGP3DNmk7fpP8vgL8tTruLuiUu3hC4avWy-MjLEJGHtG5n0FmmqNfLoedh3alYBGXbpo566fjDqkSqSrasVQl-PO8U7e0spVdJEOc9yzzkxssDo8Mw&sig=AOD64\\_22m-z77rUmd57d2Mi2MIL\\_lq7wDQ&q&adurl&ved=2ahUKEwj9tqGDnYn7AhXuKkQIHfzbCakQ0Qx6BAgHEAE](https://www.googleadservices.com/pagead/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwilrKyDnYn7AhUEK60GHWpyCFkYABABGgJwdg&ohost=www.google.com&cid=CAESbeD2yh0llmTjc4_-n7Tc7eOfIrrYuJz5jLGP3DNmk7fpP8vgL8tTruLuiUu3hC4avWy-MjLEJGHtG5n0FmmqNfLoedh3alYBGXbpo566fjDqkSqSrasVQl-PO8U7e0spVdJEOc9yzzkxssDo8Mw&sig=AOD64_22m-z77rUmd57d2Mi2MIL_lq7wDQ&q&adurl&ved=2ahUKEwj9tqGDnYn7AhXuKkQIHfzbCakQ0Qx6BAgHEAE)

**SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION**

<https://soeonline.american.edu/blog/5-ways-policy-makers-can-improve-the-quality-of-education>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robynshulman/2020/07/05/8-ways-we-can-improve-schools-today-for-a-better-future-tomorrow/>

<https://www.oecd.org/education/school/50293148.pdf>

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-10-reasons-the-u-s-education-system-is-failing/2015/08>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/best-countries-for-education>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/why-are-finlands-schools-successful-49859555/#:~:text=Ninety%2Dthree%20percent%20of%20Finns,student%20than%20the%20United%20States>

<https://leverageedu.com/blog/finland-education-system/>

<https://www.theedadvocate.org/10-reasons-the-u-s-education-system-is-failing/#:~:text=Our%20schools%20are%20overcrowded.&text=A%20study%20by%20the%20National,for%20teachers%20to%20be%20effective>

<https://www.german-way.com/history-and-culture/education/the-german-school-system/>

<https://www.thetechadvocate.org/20-reasons-why-the-american-education-system-is-failing/>

<https://www.publicschoolreview.com/blog/the-15-biggest-failures-of-the-american-public-education-system>

**U.S. HEALTH CARE**

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/improving-quality-and-value-in-the-u-s-health-care-system/>

<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/improving-health-care-quality>

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ecpe/an-update-on-united-states-healthcare-quality-improvement-efforts/>

Eric C. Schneider et al., Mirror, Mirror 2021 — Reflecting Poorly: Health Care in the U.S. Compared to Other High-Income Countries (Commonwealth Fund, Aug. 2021).

<https://doi.org/10.26099/01DV-H208>

<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2021/aug/mirror-mirror-2021-reflecting-poorly>

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/is-our-healthcare-system-broken-202107132542#:~:text=High%20cost%2C%20not%20highest%20quality,%2C%20suicide%2C%20and%20maternal%20mortality>

<https://policyadvice.net/insurance/insights/health-insurance-companies-us/>

<https://jamanetwork.com/channels/health-forum/fullarticle/2760129#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20report%2C%20%E2%80%9CWhere,per%20premium%20dollar%20as%20profits>

<https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/whats-the-latest-on-medicare-drug-price-negotiations/>

<https://howmanytimeshasthehousevotedtorepealobamacare.com/>

<https://www.medifind.com/news/post/problems-us-healthcare-system>

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/is-our-healthcare-system-broken-202107132542>

<https://www.soa.org/globalassets/assets/files/resources/research-report/2020/nhe-analysis.pdf>

<https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/whats-the-latest-on-medicare-drug-price-negotiations/>

## **POSSIBLE FIXES:**

UNIVERSAL COVERAGE v SINGLE PAYOR OPTION

OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE PREMIUM COVERAGE

UNIFORM GUIDELINES + POLICIES ACROSS STATE LINES

NATIONAL MEDICAL LICENSING

EVIDENCE BASED ALGORITHMS FOR CARE

NEGOTIATING DRUG PRICES

TRAIN, HIRE, PAY MORE, AND VALUE TEACHERS

## LECTURE 6: WHAT TO DO NEXT

### ■ HOW TO IMPROVE OUR DEMOCRACY AND RECLAIM INFLUENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS

<https://www.history.com/topics/france/alexis-de-tocqueville>

[https://www.googleservices.com/pagead/acik?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwic89O7oYn7AhXTFn0KHfXkCjYYABAAGgJwdq&ohost=www.google.com&cid=CAESbeD2ODEVNyxQY9\\_H6tWKvromPCVXgXuvyy-3WGzIBC2Jd2byaZptySj-CUMnviD\\_Y4XkFzRjnhnV4w1qFUdHsipzIEELMr32TmVsVbKUsudgZ7Fn16nn5fdGkFKfko6qRk-zSIM0\\_ZMKTSQJyo&sig=AOD64\\_26l-ihMXvuG5mXBofOYGEjSnonQ&q&adurl&ved=2ahUKEwiGjMi7oYn7AhVcMEQIHQc4CxUQ0Qx6BAgGEAE](https://www.googleservices.com/pagead/acik?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwic89O7oYn7AhXTFn0KHfXkCjYYABAAGgJwdq&ohost=www.google.com&cid=CAESbeD2ODEVNyxQY9_H6tWKvromPCVXgXuvyy-3WGzIBC2Jd2byaZptySj-CUMnviD_Y4XkFzRjnhnV4w1qFUdHsipzIEELMr32TmVsVbKUsudgZ7Fn16nn5fdGkFKfko6qRk-zSIM0_ZMKTSQJyo&sig=AOD64_26l-ihMXvuG5mXBofOYGEjSnonQ&q&adurl&ved=2ahUKEwiGjMi7oYn7AhVcMEQIHQc4CxUQ0Qx6BAgGEAE)

### PROJECTING NATIONAL POWER

DIPLOMATIC POWER

MILITARY POWER

ECONOMIC POWER

CULTURAL POWER -- attributes, ideas, and policies that make a nation attractive or foster good will

### BECOME YOUR OWN LEADER

[https://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/ibreak\\_pae\\_final96.pdf?m=1621260597](https://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/ibreak_pae_final96.pdf?m=1621260597)

<https://time.com/6049270/2020-election-young-voters/>

### CITIZENSHIP

Vote

Pay your taxes

Follow the laws

Participate on jury duty / be a poll worker

Serve

Volunteer to help others

<https://unitedwestay.org/fixing-immigration-starts-with-this-easy-step/>

### SKIN IN THE GAME – NATIONAL SERVICE

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service\\_national\\_universe1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_national_universe1)

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/amicorps/what-amicorps>

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/>

<http://www.avfforum.org/home.html>

<https://www.brookings.edu/essay/a-new-contract-with-the-middle-class-respect/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service\\_national\\_universel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_national_universel)

## **PROMOTING AMERICA’S FUTURE**

### **FOR THE PEOPLE ACT - H.R. 1**

<https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/ensure-every-american-can-vote/voting-reform/people-act-democracy-reform>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1>

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/policy-solutions/congress-must-pass-people-act>

### **JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021**

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/honor-john-lewis-and-protect-right-vote>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Lewis\\_Voting\\_Rights\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Lewis_Voting_Rights_Act)

## **VOTING**

<https://braverangels.org/organizing-with-better-angels/>

[https://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/ibreak\\_pae\\_final96.pdf?m=1621260597](https://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/ibreak_pae_final96.pdf?m=1621260597)

<https://time.com/6049270/2020-election-young-voters/>

## **CITIZENSHIP**

<https://unitedwestay.org/fixing-immigration-starts-with-this-easy-step/>

## **THE FUTURE --sometimes I need Inspiration**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVEiskNv1hs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YNmNd2ncw0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BEhKgoA86U>

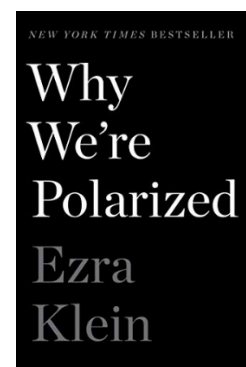
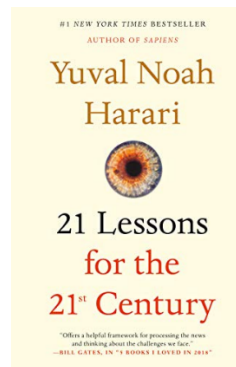
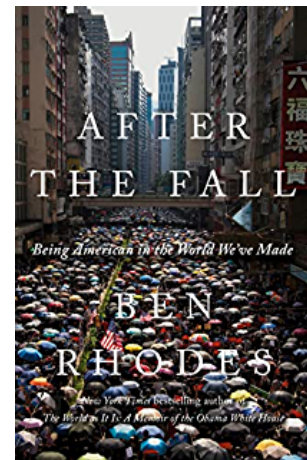
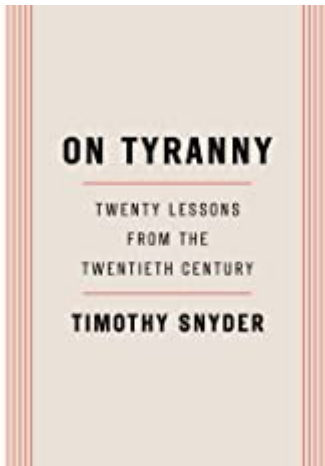
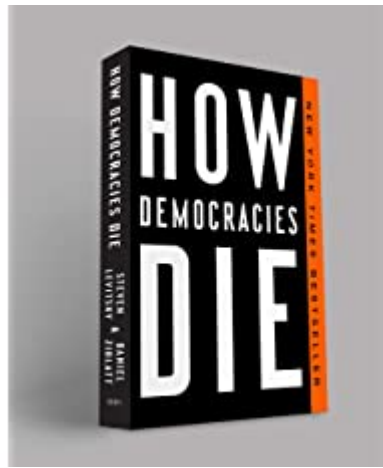
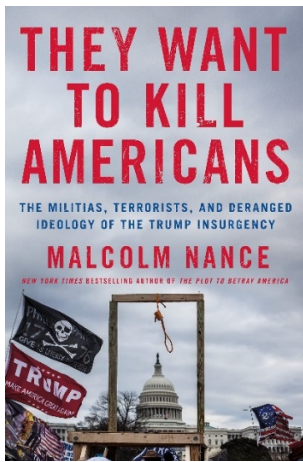
<https://youtu.be/m7fxbmrcM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wDU-oYQN04>

## **SUGGESTED READING**

Savage Century – Therese Delpeche

# War is a Racket by Marine Major General Smedley Butler, 1935



Like War: The Weaponization of Social Media, by P. W. Singer and Emerson T. Brooking

Future War: Preparing for the New Global Battlefield, Robert Latiff

Exercise of Power: American Failures, Successes, and a New Path Forward in the Post-Cold War World, by Robert Gates

Skin in the Game, Poor Kids and Patriots – Maj Gen Dennis Laich

The Greatest Generation – Tom Brokaw

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