

The Collapse of America: What History Teaches Us About the Rise and Fall of Empires. Prof. Alfred McCoy

By [Michael Welch](#) and [Prof Alfred McCoy](#)

Global Research, August 21, 2022

Region: [China](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#),
[History](#), [Oil and Energy](#), [Science](#), [US NATO](#)
[War Agenda](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the “Translate Website” drop down menu on the top banner of our home page (Desktop version).

Visit and follow us on Instagram at [@crg_globalresearch](#).

(Originally published Nov 20, 2021)

“I wonder if the Emperor Honorius watching the Vizigoths coming over the seventh hill truly realized that the Roman Empire was about to fall. This is just another page in history isn't it? Will this be the end of our civilization?”

- Captain Jean-Luc Picard, Star Trek the Next Generation [1]

LISTEN TO THE SHOW

[Click to download the audio \(MP3 format\)](#)

As thousands of civilian contractors and hundreds of soldiers [hustled to get out of Afghanistan](#) by August 31 of this year, and as the formerly defeated Taliban [began to re-establish their toe hold](#) in the locations they once inhabited, there is one inescapable conclusion one could come to. And I can assure you that after nearly two decades of the U.S. occupation there, over a trillion dollars in military spending, and over 100,000 civilians killed or injured, the first word out of a sane individual's mouth will not be victory! [2]

Afghanistan would only be the latest in a series of military accomplishments that have proved expensive both in terms of money and in terms of bloodshed. Iraq has proven to be a [disaster](#) where President George W Bush early on [declared it victory](#). They are [still at it in Syria](#) ten years after the beginning of the civil war there was initiated with U.S. help. U.S. - led NATO is still [failing to set up a neo-colonial government in Libya](#), an advanced African country turned into a calamity of economic devastation, human rights abuses and gangster rivalry. In Latin America, [Maduro is enduring](#) in spite of years of sanctions and a failed attempt to sink the government with one of their sock puppets Juan Guaido.

There are accelerating tendencies in recent years to pick fights with Russia and China,

however they seem to be surviving the [sanctions](#), the increased [war training](#), and the diplomatic rhetoric quite well.

This spectacular run of defeats suggest that the age of the U.S. dominating the world as its one remaining superpower is now at a cross-roads. It suggests that the fearsome spectre of violent military might is losing its fangs.

It seems the era of the U.S. Empire is coming to an end.

To get a more comprehensive understanding of what fate may befall the once mighty “City on a Hill” as it fades from glory, we need to put the story of their decline through the lens of history. How did other empires win the gold of imperialism and how did they ultimately lose it overtime? This will be the approach of this week episode of the Global Research News Hour.

Joining me for the duration of the program is Alfred W McCoy. A historian and educator based in Madison-Wisconsin, he will be guiding us through his book, in stores as of this past week, entitled *To Govern the Globe: World Orders and Catastrophic Change*.

Professor McCoy will go back seven centuries to the Black Death and the rise of the Portuguese and Spanish empire and guide us through the British and later the American era of empire. He also points to the features these imperial ages had in common, the world orders of ethics that transcribed each separate age in transition. And he also points to the reality of climate change as the current catastrophe from which China, will make its debut as a successor to America.

Alfred W. McCoy is a [TomDispatch regular](#) and the Harrington professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the author of [The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia: CIA Complicity in the Global Drug Trade](#) (Harper & Row, 1972) and of [In the Shadows of the American Century: The Rise and Decline of U.S. Global Power](#) (Dispatch Books, 2017). His latest book is [To Govern the Globe: World Orders and Catastrophic Change](#) (Dispatch Books, 2017). He is also published frequently at Global Research.

(Global Research News Hour Episode 333)

LISTEN TO THE SHOW

[Click to download the audio \(MP3 format\)](#)

The [Global Research News Hour](#) airs every Friday at 1pm CT on [CKUW 95.9FM](#) out of the University of Winnipeg. The programme is also podcast at [globalresearch.ca](#) .

Other stations airing the show:

CIXX 106.9 FM, broadcasting from Fanshawe College in London, Ontario. It airs Sundays at 6am.

WZBC 90.3 FM in Newton Massachusetts is Boston College Radio and broadcasts to the greater Boston area. The Global Research News Hour airs during Truth and Justice Radio which starts Sunday at 6am.

Campus and community radio [CFMH 107.3fm](#) in Saint John, N.B. airs the Global Research News Hour

Fridays at 7pm.

CJMP 90.1 FM, Powell River Community Radio, airs the Global Research News Hour every Saturday at 8am.

Caper Radio CJBU 107.3FM in Sydney, [Cape Breton](#), Nova Scotia airs the Global Research News Hour starting Wednesday afternoon from 3-4pm.

[Cowichan Valley Community Radio CICV 98.7 FM](#) serving the [Cowichan Lake](#) area of Vancouver Island, BC airs the program Thursdays at 9am pacific time.

Notes:

1. Star Trek the Next Generation (1990), 'The Best of Both Worlds'
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-47391821>

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Michael Welch](#) and [Prof Alfred McCoy](#), Global Research, 2022

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Michael Welch](#)
and [Prof Alfred McCoy](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca