



Why America Failed: The Roots of Imperial Decline

Morris Berman

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Why America Failed shows how, from its birth as a nation of "hustlers" to its collapse as an empire, the tools of the country's expansion proved to be the instruments of its demise. Why America Failed is the third and most engaging volume of Morris Berman's trilogy on the decline of the American empire. In *The Twilight of American Culture*, Berman examined the internal factors of that decline, showing that they were identical to those of Rome in its late-empire phase. In *Dark Ages America*, he explored the external factors--e.g., the fact that both empires were ultimately attacked from the outside--and the relationship between the events of 9/11 and the history of U.S. foreign policy. In his most ambitious work to date, Berman looks at the "why" of it all. Probes America's commitment to economic liberalism and free enterprise stretching back to the late sixteenth century, and shows how this ideology, along with that of technological progress, rendered any alternative marginal to American history. Maintains, more than anything else, that this one-sided vision of the country's purpose finally did our nation in. Why America Failed is a controversial work, one that will shock, anger, and transform its readers. The book is a stimulating and provocative explanation of how we managed to wind up in our current situation: economically weak, politically passe, socially divided, and culturally adrift. It is a tour de force, a powerful conclusion to Berman's study of American imperial decline.

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