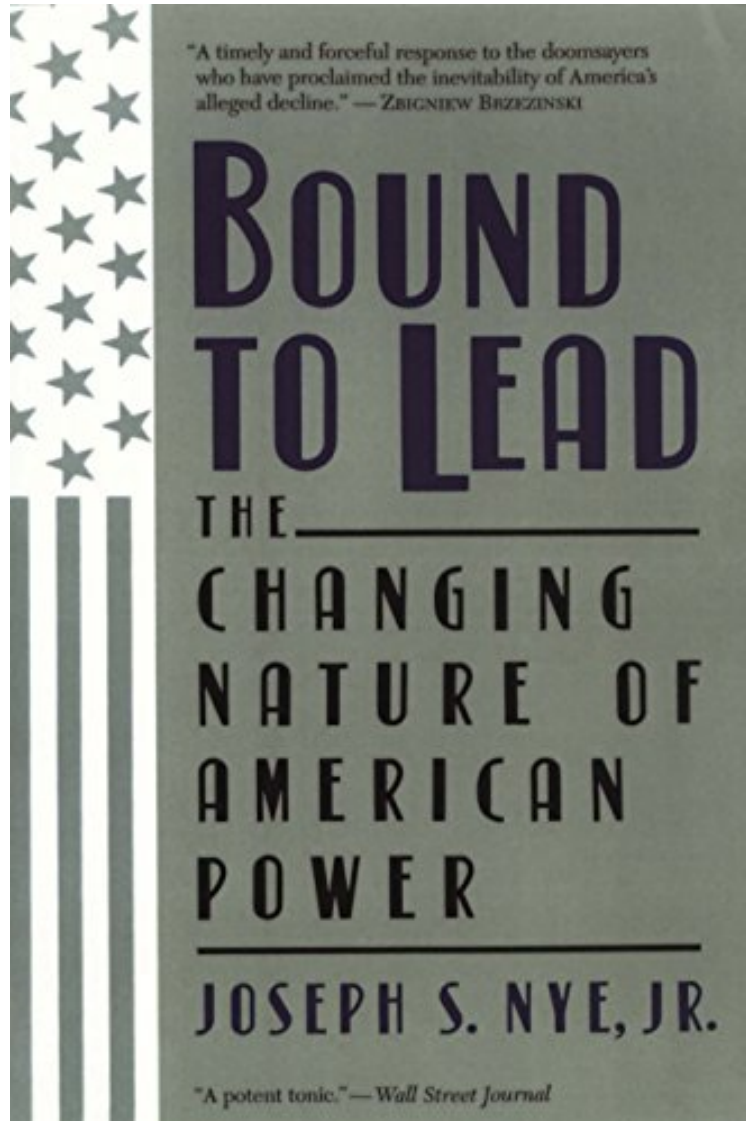


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Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power

Jr., Joseph S. Nye

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Jr., Joseph S. Nye : Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Still a great read on US powerBy David L HenryThe author's foresight is amazing. This book was published in 1990. A bit dated but still a good read. Had issues with it on a Mac reader, but kindle worked fine.8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Nye, soft power and new challenges...By B. AlcatAre the theories of decline regarding USA's power correct?. In "Bound to lead", Nye tackles

that question, and many more. According to the author, USA is still the main superpower, but it will have to change its strategies if it wants to go on being one, due to the fact that the nature of power has changed. Nye distinguishes two faces of power. The first face is command or "hard power", and with it "you get other states to do what you want". The main source of "hard power" is military power. On the other hand, you have the second face of power, co-optive or "soft power", and with it "you make others want what you want". The main sources of soft power are intangible power resources like national cohesion, culture, ideology and influence on international institutions. Both faces of power are necessary, and they coexist, but soft power is becoming increasingly important as years go by. If USA wants to be able to control its political environment, and to "get other nations to do what it wants", it will need to keep that in mind, and react accordingly. In my opinion, one of the main ideas in "Bound to lead" is that in the XXI century USA won't face new challengers: it will need to deal with new challenges. A good example of those "new challenges" is the transformation of power I already mentioned: soft power is becoming essential to USA if it wants to attain its goals. It is evident that power is becoming less fungible, less coercive and less tangible. The real question is if USA will understand that, or if it will try to achieve its objectives without paying attention to the legitimacy in the eyes of other states that the second face of power can lend to its actions...Nye, who is nowadays dean of the Kennedy School for Government at Harvard University, wrote this excellent book in 1990. His main recommendation regarding USA's policy was then to invest more in soft power resources, because they help to provide co-optive behavioural power. It is relevant to highlight that that recommendation is as valid today as it was in 1990, if not more so. I believe that most people who want to know more about what is happening in the world will enjoy "Bound to lead". You don't need to know about the subject beforehand: the book is clear, and repeats some basic concepts that those who have read more about the subject already know. Notwithstanding that, this book will be interesting even for them: Nye's book is rather unpretentious, but it has a lot to contribute to their knowledge of International Relations. In this case, simplicity doesn't mean triviality. All in all I can strongly recommend this book to you. I think it is a classic, more than well worth your time and money...Belen Alcat

Is America still Number 1? A leading scholar of international politics and former State Department official takes issue with Paul Kennedy and others and clearly demonstrates that the United States is still the dominant world power, with no challenger in sight. But analogies about decline only divert policy makers from creating effective strategies for the future, says Nye. The nature of power has changed. The real-and unprecedented-challenge is managing the transition to growing global interdependence.

From Library Journal Nye, an eminent scholar of international relations and author of Nuclear Ethics (LJ 5/1/86), joins the debate on the decline of American power with a blend of contemporary policy analysis and academic theory accessible to the informed general reader. He first explores the very concepts of power and decline before analyzing America's position relative to major competitors and our nation's outlook for the future. Nye concludes that the United States never enjoyed the degree of hegemony some now fear to be waning and, contrary to Paul Kennedy's hypothesis in The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers (LJ 12/87), that the United States will remain the dominant actor of the world scene if it adapts to the new power realities of an increasingly interdependent world. Highly recommended.- James R. Kuhlman, Univ. of Georgia Lib., Athens Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover Is America still Number 1? A leading scholar of international politics and former State Department official takes issue with Paul Kennedy and others and clearly demonstrates that the United States is still the dominant world power, with no challenger in sight. But analogies about decline only divert policy makers from creating effective strategies for the future, says Nye. The nature of power has changed. The real-and unprecedented-challenge is managing the transition to growing global interdependence. About the Author Joseph S. Nye, Jr., Dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, was Chairman of the National Intelligence Council and Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Clinton administration. He is the author of several books, including The Paradox of American Power: Why the World's Only Superpower Can't Go It Alone and Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power. PublicAffairs also published his political thriller, The Power Game.