

How a lost war ended the America Empire

Posted At : October 4, 2012 7:40 PM | Posted By : Michael Smith

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Nice future [story](#) of how the American Empire ended

The narrative takes place at some unspecified point in the next two decades; it's probably necessary to say outright that is not how I think the end of America's empire *will* happen, simply one way that it *could* happen—and thus a model that may help expose some of the vulnerabilities of the self-proclaimed hyperpower currently tottering toward history's compost bin.

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"Dammit, we need that oil." The president turned and walked over to the window.

He was right, of course, and "we" didn't just refer to the United States. Jameson Weed won the White House the previous November with a campaign focused with laser intensity on getting the US out of its long and worsening economic slump. Winning the country a bigger share of imported oil was the key to making good on that promise, but that was easier said than done; behind what was left of the polite fiction of a free market in petroleum, most oil that crossed national borders did so according to political deals between producer countries and those consuming countries strong and wealthy enough to compete. These days, more often than not, the US lost out—and the impact of that reality on Weed's upcoming reelection campaign was very much on the minds of everyone in the room.

"There's one option," said the president's national security adviser. "Regime change."

President Weed turned back from the window to face the others. The Secretary of Defense cleared his throat. "Sooner or later," he said, "the Chinese are going to stand and fight."

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