

FREE THE FOURTH TURNING: AN AMERICAN PROPHECY PDF



William Strauss, Neil Howe | 382 pages | 05 Oct 1998 | Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group Inc | 9780767900461 | English | New York, United States

The Fourth Turning

With startling originality, *The Fourth Turning* illuminates the past, explains the present, and reimagines the future. Most remarkably, it offers an utterly persuasive prophecy about how America's past will predict its future.

William Strauss and Neil Howe base this vision on a provocative theory of American history. The authors look back five hundred years and uncover a distinct pattern: Modern history moves in cycles, each one lasting about the length of a long The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy life, each composed of four eras--or "turnings"--that last about twenty years and that always arrive in the same order.

First comes a High, a period of confident expansion as a new order takes root after the old has been swept away. Next comes an Awakening, a time of spiritual exploration and rebellion against the now-established order. Then comes an Unraveling, an increasingly troubled era in which individualism triumphs over crumbling institutions. Last The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy a Crisis--the Fourth Turning--when society passes through a great and perilous gate in history. Together, the four turnings comprise history's seasonal rhythm of growth, maturation, entropy, and rebirth.

Strauss and Howe locate s America as midway through an Unraveling, putting us currently in the era of Crisis. In a brilliant The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy of the post-World War II period, they show how generational dynamics are the key to understanding the cycles of American history. They draw vivid portraits of all the modern generations: the can-do G. Placed in the context of history's long rhythms, the persona and role of each generation become clear--as does the inevitability of a Crisis.

Whatever your stage of life, The Fourth Turning offers bold The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy about how all of us can prepare, individually and collectively, for America's next rendezvous with destiny. Scared the bejeezus out of me. This is a horror movie masquerading as a book. Written in ! The mystery of why things happened and when they happened in American History always seemed blank in various studies and classes. . . . Just numbers and names and little compelling detail as to the causes William Strauss Neil Howe.

Strauss is the cofounder and director of the Capitol Steps, a political cabaret. Howe, a historian and economist, is a senior advisor for the Concord Coalition. They both live in the Washington, D.

Strauss–Howe generational theory - Wikipedia

Subscriber Account active since. Steve Bannon. In the book, authors William Strauss and Neil Howe theorize that the history of a people moves in to year cycles called "saecula. This era The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy change is known as the Fourth Turning, and Bannon, like Strauss and Howe, believes we are in the midst of one right now.

Before that, it was the Revolutionary War. All these were marked by periods of dread and decay in which the American people were forced to unite to rebuild a new future, but only after a massive conflict in which many lives were lost. It all starts with a catalyst event, then there's a period of regeneracy, after that there is a defining climax in which a war for the old order is fought, and then finally there is a resolution in which a new world order is stabilized.

This is where Bannon's obsession with this book should The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy concern. He believes that, for the new world order to rise, there must be a massive reckoning. That we will soon reach our climax conflict. In the White House, he has shown that he is willing to advise Trump to enact policies that will disrupt our current order to bring about what he perceives as a necessary new one. He encourages breaking down political and economic alliances and turning away from traditional American principles to cause chaos.

Bannon has never been secretive about his desire to use Trump to bring about his vision of America. He told Vanity Fair last summer that Trump was a "blunt instrument for us Perhaps not, but putting a Fourth Turning lens on Trump's policies certainly give them a great deal of context. Bannon believes that the catalyst for the Fourth Turning has already happened: the financial crisis. So now we are in the regeneracy. Howe and Strauss describe this period as one of isolationism, The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy of infrastructure building and of strong, centralized government power, and The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy reimagination of the economy.

Of course it's important not to lose sight of the end here. Bannon believes in authoritarian politics as preparation for a massive conflict between East and West, whether East means the Middle East or China. From Time:.. This The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy 'a global existential war' that likely will become 'a major shooting war in the Middle East again.

This conviction is central to the Breitbart mission, he explained in November 'Our big belief, one of our central organizing principles at the site, is that we're at war.

Ultimately, the danger of writing about the past at the same time one writes about the future is that it can be hard for an author to separate the two.

The steps and missteps of the past seem so easily repeatable that the future seems to march in lockstep. But this is not what history has shown us. The catastrophes of every era have always materialized in their own unique ways. It is here where Strauss and Howe fail in their work, and here where Bannon gets caught in their failure. The authors mention in passing that the event that brings us into a crisis could be "as ominous as a financial crisis or as ordinary as a national election.

This makes sense. But Strauss and Howe fail to recognize that difference in their description of the Fourth Turning The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy come.

They forget that no two Turnings are alike; instead, they get trapped thinking that the last catalyst — the Great Depression, a financial crisis — was the next one as well, and Bannon does too. This is why he believes that the Great Financial Crisis of was the catalyst of our crisis, just as the Great Depression was the catalyst in the previous saeculum.

But the two are not comparable. In the government acted fast to prevent a full global meltdown, and it did not allow the situation to deteriorate the way President Herbert Hoover and his administration did for two years.

Instead of all of America suffering as one, what the financial crisis brought on was an exacerbation of the inequality growing in the world for the 40 years before it. So when President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his inaugural address in 1933 was describing a picture that all Americans were seeing.

The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy the other hand Trump, in his inaugural, described a dark "American carnage" that many did not recognize. That lack of recognition marked our deep division as a country.

President Trump gives his inaugural address on January 20. So perhaps there is a Fourth Turning to come, but Bannon is not an architect of its initiation. According to Howe and Strauss, unity is the defining feature of the regency. It is what allows leaders during a crisis to become "authoritarian, severe, unyielding" The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy commanding resources in order to rebuild society. This is what allowed FDR to command the full force of government to put people back to work.

But unity is less apparent in American society than it has been in years. Quite the contrary, our society is showing division as never before. The stars of the "Fourth Turning" are baby boomers and millennials.

Boomers are the ideologues who lead our country into conflict through folly; millennials are cast as the young heroes that bring them out of it.

Once the catalyst event takes place, Strauss and Howe describe a situation in which America coalesces under one leader — a boomer "Gray Warrior" — who will "urgently resist the idea that a second consecutive generation might be denied the American Dream.

No matter how shattered the economy Pew Research Center If Bannon believes that he is working for this Gray Warrior, then he's missing a very important point: Millennials are the ones who lead the way forward out of crisis in this story, but considering the needs of the young has never had any place under Trumpism.

Trump's words appealed most to older generations who felt like something had been taken away from them, not to younger generations who felt like they were never given a chance at the American Dream in the first place. The majority of young people who voted in voted against President Trump and even more millennials chose to stay home.

That is, in part, because Trump never offered young people anything. In July, at the Republican National Convention, the national head of the young Republicans, Alexandra Smith, warned her The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy about this. Most do not share Bannon's vision for ethnic conflict. The authors describe it as the natural course of history, as something that just falls into place. Instead, what we are seeing, with Trump's travel ban and his threats against Mexico and China, is the creation of enemies, enemies many Americans don't want to have.

Instead of uniting us, Bannon's belief in "The Fourth Turning" is dividing us. This is dangerous, uncharted territory. What comes next is, as always, unwritten. This is an opinion column. The thoughts expressed are those of the author s. The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy Insider logo The words "Business Insider".

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The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy

The Strauss—Howe generational theory also known as the Fourth Turning theory or simply the Fourth Turning describes a theorized recurring generation cycle in American history and global history. It was devised by William Strauss and Neil Howe. According to the theory, historical events are associated with recurring generational personas archetypes. Each generational persona unleashes a new era called a turning lasting around 20—22 years, in which a new social, political, and economic climate exists.

They are part of a larger cyclical "saeculum" a long human life, which usually spans between 80 and 90 years, although The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy saecula have lasted longer. The theory states that after every saeculum, a crisis recurs in American history, which is followed by a recovery high.

During this recovery, institutions and communitarian values are strong. Ultimately, succeeding generational archetypes attack and weaken institutions in the name of autonomy and individualism which ultimately creates a tumultuous political environment that ripens conditions for another crisis. Strauss and Howe laid the groundwork for their theory in their book Generations which discusses the history of the United States as a series of generational biographies going back to However, the authors have also examined generational trends elsewhere in the world and described similar cycles in several developed countries.

Academic response to the theory has been mixed—some applauding Strauss and Howe for their "bold and imaginative thesis" and others criticizing the theory as being overly- deterministic unfalsifiable and unsupported by rigorous evidence, [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] "about as scientific as astrology or a Nostradamus text. William Strauss and Neil Howe's partnership began in the late s when they began writing their first book Generations which

discusses the history of the United States as a succession of generational biographies.

Generation and federal entitlement programs. They wondered why Boomers and G. They also wondered whether any previous generations had acted along similar lines, and their research discussed historical analogues to the current generations.

They ultimately described a recurring pattern in Anglo-American history of four generational types, each with a distinct collective persona, and a corresponding cycle of four different types of era, each with a distinct mood. The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy groundwork for this theory was laid out in Generations in Strauss and Howe expanded on their theory and updated the terminology in The Fourth Turning in In Generations and The Fourth Turning they discussed the generation gap between Baby Boomers and their parents and predicted there would be no such gap between Millennials and their elders.

In they published Millennials Rising. In the mids, the authors began receiving inquiries about how their research could be applied to strategic problems in organizations. They established themselves as pioneers in a growing field, and started speaking frequently about their work at events and conferences. As LifeCourse partners, they have offered keynote speeches, consulting services, and customized communications to corporate, nonprofit, government, and education clients.

They have also written six books in which they assert that the Millennial Generation is transforming various sectors, including schools, colleges, The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy, and the workplace. On December 18, William Strauss died at the age of 60 from pancreatic cancer. Each year Mr. Howe gives about 60 speeches, often followed by customized workshops, at colleges, elementary schools, and corporations. As a documentary filmmaker, Bannon discussed the details of Strauss—Howe generational theory in Generation Zero.

Strauss and Howe's theory provided historical information regarding living and past generations and made various predictions. Many of their predictions were regarding the Millennial Generation, who were young children The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy they began their work, thus lacking significant historical data.

In their first book The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy Strauss and Howe describe the history of the US as a succession of Anglo-American generational biographies from to the present, and they describe a theorized recurring generational cycle in American history.

The authors posit a pattern of four repeating phases, generational types and a recurring cycle of spiritual awakenings and secular crises, from the founding colonials of America through the present day. The book examines the generation born between and "Gen-Xers" which they called "13ers", describing them as the thirteenth generation since the US became a The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy. The book asserts that 13ers' location in history as under-protected children during the Consciousness Revolution explains their pragmatic attitude.

They describe Gen Xers as growing up during a time when society was less focused on children and more focused on adults and their self-actualization. In the authors published The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy, which expanded on the ideas presented in Generations and extended their cycles back into the early 15th century. The authors began the use of more colorful names for generational archetypes - e.

The title is a reference to what their first book called a Crisis period, which they expected to recur soon after the turn of the millennium. This work discussed the personality of the Millennial The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy, whose oldest members were described as the high school graduating class of the year In this book, Strauss and Howe asserted that Millennial teens and young adults were recasting the image of youth from "downbeat and alienated to upbeat and The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy.

They credited increased parental attention and protection for these positive changes. They asserted Millennials are held to higher standards than adults apply to themselves and that they are a lot less vulgar and violent than the teen culture older people produce for them. They described them as less sexually charged and as ushering in a new sexual modesty, with an increasing belief that sex should be saved for marriage and a return to conservative family values.

They predicted that over the following decade, Millennials would transform what it means to be young. According to the authors, Millennials could emerge as the next "Great Generation". The book was described as an optimistic, feel-good book for the parents of the Millennial Generation, predominantly the Baby Boomers. Strauss and Howe define a social generation as the aggregate of all people born over a span of roughly twenty years or about the length of one phase of life: childhood young adulthood midlife and old age.

Generations are identified from first birth year to last by looking for cohort groups of this length that share three criteria. First, members of a generation share what the authors call an age location in history : they encounter key The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy events and social trends while occupying the same phase of life.

In this view, members of a generation are shaped in lasting ways by the eras they encounter as children and young adults and they share certain common beliefs and behaviors.

Aware of the experiences and traits that they share with their peers, members of a generation would also share a sense of common perceived membership in that generation. While writing Generations Strauss and Howe described a theorized pattern in the historical generations they examined, which they say revolved around generational events which they call turnings.

In Generations and in greater detail in The Fourth Turning they describe a four-stage cycle of social or mood eras which they call "turnings". During The High, institutions are strong and individualism is weak. Society is confident about where it wants to go collectively, though The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy outside the majoritarian center often feel stifled by the conformity. Kennedy on November 22, According to the theory, the Second Turning is an Awakening.

This is an era when institutions are attacked in the name of personal and spiritual autonomy. Just when society is reaching its high tide of public progress, people The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy tire of social discipline and want to recapture a sense of "self-awareness", "spirituality" and "personal authenticity". Young activists look back at the previous High as an era of cultural and spiritual poverty.

The mood of this era they say is in The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy ways the opposite of a High: Institutions are weak and distrusted, while individualism is strong and flourishing. The authors say Highs come after Crises, when society wants to coalesce and build and avoid the death and destruction of the previous crisis. Unravelings come after Awakenings, when society wants to atomize and enjoy.

According to the authors, the Fourth The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy is a Crisis. This is an era of destruction, often involving war or revolution, in which institutional life is destroyed and rebuilt in response to a perceived threat to the nation's survival.

After the crisis, civic authority revives, cultural expression redirects towards community purpose, and people begin to locate themselves as members of a larger group. The G. Generation which they call a Hero archetype, born to come of age during this era. They say their confidence, optimism, and collective outlook epitomized the mood of that era.

The authors describe each turning as lasting about 20—22 years. Four turnings make up a full cycle of about 80 to 90 years, [46] which the authors term a saeculum after the Latin word meaning both "a long human life" and "a natural century". Generational change drives the cycle of turnings and determines its periodicity.

As each generation ages into the next life phase and a new social role society's mood and behavior fundamentally changes, giving rise to a new turning. Therefore, a The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy relationship exists between historical events and generational personas. Historical events shape generations in childhood and young adulthood; then, as parents and leaders in midlife and old age, generations in turn shape history.

Each of the four turnings has a distinct mood that recurs every saeculum. Strauss and Howe describe these turnings as the "seasons of history".

At one extreme is the Awakening, which is analogous to summer, and at the other extreme is the Crisis, which is analogous to winter. The turnings in between are transitional seasons, the High and the Unraveling are similar to spring and autumn, respectively.

Both of these are defining eras in which people observe that historic events are radically altering their social environment. Awakenings are periods marked by cultural or religious renewal, when society focuses on changing the inner world of values and private behavior the last American Awakening was the "Consciousness Revolution" of the 60s and 70s. During Crises, great peril provokes a societal consensus, The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy ethic of personal sacrifice, and strong institutional order.

During Awakenings, an ethic of individualism emerges, and the institutional order is attacked by new social ideals and spiritual agendas. Roughly halfway to the next Crisis, a cultural Awakening occurs historically, these have often been called Great Awakenings. In describing this cycle of Crises and Awakenings, they draw from the work of other historians and social scientists who have also discussed long cycles in American and European history.

The cycle of Crises corresponds with long cycles of war identified by such scholars as Arnold J. Toynbee Quincy Wright and L. Ferrar Jr.

Thompson and George Modelski. Klingberg and the economy Nikolai Kondratieff as well as with long-term oscillations in crime and substance abuse. The authors say two different types of eras and two formative age locations associated with them childhood and young adulthood produce four generational archetypes that repeat sequentially, in rhythm with the cycle of Crises and Awakenings.

In essence, generations shaped by similar early-life experiences develop similar collective personas and follow similar life-trajectories.

The authors describe the archetypes as follows: Prophet Idealist generations enter childhood during a High a time of rejuvenated community life and consensus around a new societal order. Prophets grow up as the increasingly indulged children The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy this post-Crisis era, come of age as self-absorbed young crusaders of an Awakening, focus on morals and The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy in midlife, and emerge as elders guiding another Crisis.

Nomad Reactive generations enter childhood during an Awakening a time of social ideals and spiritual agendas, when young adults are passionately attacking the established institutional order.

Nomads grow up as under-protected children during The Fourth Turning: an American Prophecy Awakening, come of age as alienated post-Awakening young adults, become pragmatic midlife leaders during a Crisis, and age into resilient post-Crisis elders. Hero Civic generations enter childhood after an Awakening during an Unraveling a time of individual pragmatism, self-reliance, and laissez-faire. Heroes grow up as increasingly protected post-Awakening children, come of age as team-oriented young optimists during a Crisis, emerge as energetic, overly-confident midlifers, and age into politically powerful elders attacked by another Awakening.

