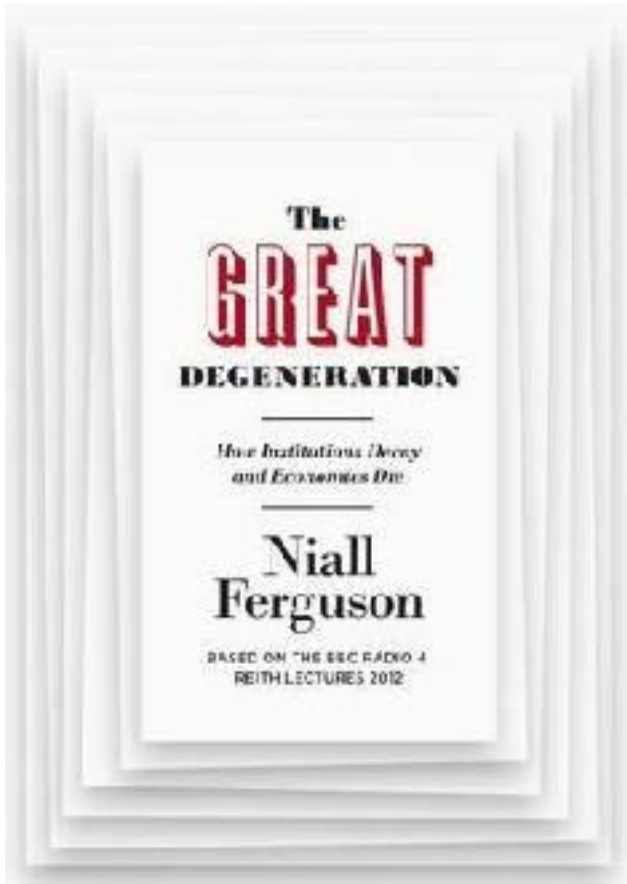


The Great Degeneration How Institutions Decay and Economies Die



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The latest work from Niall Ferguson, bestselling author of *Empire*, *The Great Degeneration* is based on his 2012 BBC Reith Lectures 'The Rule of Law and Its Enemies'

The decline of the West is something that has long been prophesied. Symptoms of decline are all around us today, it seems: slowing growth, crushing debts, aging populations, anti-social behaviour. But what exactly is amiss with Western civilization? The answer, Niall Ferguson argues, is that our institutions - the intricate frameworks within which a society can flourish or fail - are degenerating.

Representative government, the free market, the rule of law and civil society: these were once the four pillars of West European and North American societies. It was these institutions, rather than any geographical or climatic advantages, that set the West on the path to global dominance after around 1500. In our time, however, these institutions have deteriorated in disturbing ways.

Our democracies have broken the contract between the generations by heaping IOUs on our children and grandchildren. Our markets are increasingly distorted by over-complex regulations that are in fact the disease of which they purport to be the cure. The rule of law has metamorphosed into the rule of lawyers. And civil society has degenerated into uncivil society, where we lazily expect all our problems to be solved by the state.

The Degeneration of the West a powerful - and in places polemical - indictment of an era of negligence and complacency. While the Arab world struggles to adopt democracy, and while China struggles to move from economic liberalization to the rule of law, Europeans and Americans alike are frittering away the institutional inheritance of centuries. To arrest the degeneration of the West's once dominant civilization, Ferguson warns, will take heroic leadership and radical reform.

作者介绍:

Niall Ferguson is one of Britain's most renowned historians. He is the author of Paper and Iron, The House of Rothschild, The Pity of War, The Cash Nexus, Empire, Colossus, The War of the World, The Ascent of Money, High Financier and Civilization. He has written and presented six highly successful television series for Channel Four: Empire, American Colossus, The War of the World, The Ascent of Money, Civilization and China: Triumph and Turmoil.

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这种书看概要就可以了 西方为什么没落？ 想做一点事 这个review 那个application 时不时还来audit一把 让人感觉特别想放弃。 这还只是一点事， 不是类似SPACE X或者TESLA那种大事 很多次我都在想， 老子不做了还不行嘛…… 呐 让公民产生这样想法的社会体制 还想怎么样？

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就民主而言：极度复杂的监管措施多大程度上竟会成为它本意要治愈的顽疾，在政治和经济的进程中起到扭曲和腐化的作用。作者认为通过复...

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《当中国统治世界》是马丁·雅克先生的最新著作。作者凭其多年的东亚国家游历，以丰富的历史知识、智慧幽默的文笔，对当今时代的发展潮流发表了独特的见解，取得了很大的市场成功，《纽约时报》、...

《西方的衰落》（the great

degeneration），尼尔·弗格森著，米拉译，中信出版社，2013年1月第1版。民主、市场经济、法治与公民社会，主题宏大但论述简单，所谓解决办法并不清晰。不明白作者为何将宏大主题置于如此有限的篇幅中，也许是应约应景之作吧。尽管弗格森相当有...

书名有标题党嫌疑。佛格森认为，了西方世界面临四大挑战：过度负债的政府和短视的选民损害了代际公平的民主契约（嗯，这算是民主的危机吧）；繁杂巨细而非简洁有力的市场监管导致了市场不稳定（用19世纪的一本书来佐证？在我看来是监管这跟不上金融创新的速度和程度才是重要原...

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