



The Upside of Down: Why the Rise of the Rest is Good for the West

By Charles Kenny



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America is in decline, and the rise of the East suggests a bleak future for the world's only superpower – so goes the conventional wisdom. But what if the traditional measures of national status are no longer as important as they once were? What if America's well-being was assessed according to entirely different factors?

In *The Upside of Down*, Charles Kenny argues that America's so-called decline is only relative to the newfound success of other countries. And there is tremendous upside to life in a wealthier world: Americans can benefit from better choices and cheaper prices offered by schools and hospitals in rising countries, and, without leaving home, avail themselves of the new inventions and products those countries will produce. The key to thriving in this world is to move past the jeremiads about America's deteriorating status and figure out how best to take advantage of its new role in a multipolar world. A refreshing antidote to prophecies of American decline, *The Upside of Down* offers a fresh and highly optimistic look at America's future in a wealthier world.



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Editorial Review

Review

“[A] lively little book.... [Kenny's] convincing conclusion argues that Western countries should take steps now to lock in global rules and institutions that will protect their interests and values in a future in which they will be less powerful.”

—*Foreign Affairs*

“Among the many tomes that have been written on (relative) American decline, Charles Kenny's new book, *The Upside of Down*, is the rare one that embraces it.... His book proves not only a ‘refreshing antidote to prophecies of American decline,’ to quote the dust jacket, but also an idea-rich guide for preventing such prophecies from becoming self-fulfilling.... Kenny makes a compelling case that ‘the greatest threat to a brighter future is to dwell on the risk of failure.’”

—*Boston Review*

“Upbeat without being Panglossian, Kenny's starting point is that the relative decline is inevitable. The rise of the rest is not only well under way. It is also desirable.... Kenny's account of US misdirectedness is salient. Yet he never strays too far from his chief argument—the west has all the resources it needs to make life better for all of its people. That, after all, is what the game should be about.”

—*Financial Times*

“America's declining influence in the world has been the subject of many books, articles and spirited debates. Charles Kenny explains why the declinists are wrong and surprises us with insights that are as original as they are persuasive. Read this book if you want to be reassured about America's future.”

—**Moisés Naím, Carnegie Endowment and author of *The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being In Charge Isn't What it Used to Be***

“Only Charles Kenny could write a cheerful book about decline. But by showing that relative decline actually means absolute gain when measuring the progress of the United States against rising powers such as Brazil, India, China, and parts of Africa, Kenny opens the door to a far more positive vision of the future, one that is backed by data rather than dreams and that inspires both hope and energy. *The Upside of Down* turned my world right side up!”

—**Anne-Marie Slaughter, President and CEO of the New America Foundation and Bert G. Kerstetter ‘66 University Professor Emerita of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University**

“[Kenny] argues that just because one nation is winning does not mean another must lose; instead, he shows convincingly how the benefits of success spread far beyond borders.... [H]is statistic-laden polemic is ultimately a glorious hymn to the transformative powers of globalisation, showing the beneficial impact for everyone as countries become richer, healthier and smarter.... Once again, Kenny offers a powerful antidote to the poisonous pessimism that prevails in too many places.”

—*The Observer (UK)*

“An optimistic view of the future economy—refreshing...”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Charles Kenny is the real deal: an optimist with an economist's data to back him up. So when he looks at the glass and sees it's half full—you can rest assured it's not because he needs new contacts. In *The Upside of Down*, he carefully dismantles our preconceived notions about American decline and the rise of the rest—and makes a convincing case by the end for why we shouldn't be too worried about either.”

—Susan Glasser, editor, *POLITICO Magazine*

About the Author

Charles Kenny, previously a senior economist at the World Bank, is now a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development and a columnist for *Bloomberg Businessweek* and *Foreign Policy* magazines. He lives in Washington, DC.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeff Puckett:

This book untitled *The Upside of Down: Why the Rise of the Rest is Good for the West* to be one of several books which best seller in this year, that's because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it via online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this reserve from your list.

Gloria Lockwood:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book can be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the reserve untitled *The Upside of Down: Why the Rise of the Rest is Good for the West* can be excellent book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Gladys Dearth:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book *The Upside of Down: Why the Rise of the Rest is Good for the West* it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book possesses high quality.

Russell Pittman:

Is it an individual who having spare time and then spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Upside of Down: Why the Rise of the Rest is Good for the West can be the solution, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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