



The Fourth Turning: What the Cycles of History Tell Us About America's Next Rendezvous with Destiny

By William Strauss, Neil Howe

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First came the postwar High, then the Awakening of the '60s and '70s, and now the Unraveling. This audacious and provocative book tells us what to expect just beyond the start of the next century. Are you ready for the Fourth Turning?

Strauss and Howe will change the way you see the world--and your place in it. In *The Fourth Turning*, they apply their generational theories to the cycles of history and locate America in the middle of an unraveling period, on the brink of a crisis. How you prepare for this crisis--the Fourth Turning--is intimately connected to the mood and attitude of your particular generation. Are you one of the can-do "GI generation," who triumphed in the last crisis? Do you belong to the mediating "Silent Majority," who enjoyed the 1950s High? Do you fall into the "awakened" Boomer category of the 1970s and 1980s, or are you a Gen-Xer struggling to adapt to our splintering world? Whatever your stage of life, *The Fourth Turning* offers bold predictions about how all of us can prepare, individually and collectively, for America's next rendezvous with destiny.

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- Sales Rank: #9346 in eBooks
- Published on: 2009-01-16
- Released on: 2009-01-16
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Fourth Turning continues the project of mapping out the place of generations in history, a project begun in the authors' earlier books *Generations* and *13th Gen*. If millennial fever takes hold, *The Fourth Turning* may be only the first of an impending wave of pseudo-scholarly tracts prognosticating future (but imminent!) doom as we collectively close the books on this millennium. Those expecting a serious or dry tome might be put off by the authors' taste for bulleted text and catchy phrasings, but can you blame these guys for wanting to make impending peril as exciting as possible? After all, they think we are headed toward "events on par with the Revolution, the Civil War, or World War II" in the next 20 years. Mixing solid understanding of present generational divisions, with some fairly broad generalizations, Strauss and Howe promise to move from history to prophecy. Fans of *Future Shock*, *Megatrends*, or *Powershift* will be familiar with the authors' style of writing and not at all put off by the book's reach or style. Their take on history provides an intriguing (if not always reliable) lens through which to view the past, present, and maybe even the future.

From Library Journal

After researching historical patterns, the authors (*Generations: The History of America's Future, Morrow*, 1991) conclude that America is on the verge of crisis. They substantiate their hypothesis by identifying and tracing a repetitive, four-stage historical cycle that, throughout recorded time, started on a high note and ended in hardship. Narrator Michael Tilford's polished, convincing voice and steady pacing lend an air of legitimacy to the authors' assertions. A brief question-and-answer session between the narrator and the authors at program's end provides an interactive quality that enhances the sometimes methodical drone of the historical analysis. Like other works of prophecy, *The Fourth Turning* should circulate well in public libraries. —Mark P. Tierney, The World Bank, Washington, D.C.

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From [Booklist](#)

What *is* so attractive about deterministic, cyclical theories offered to explain troublingly complex realities? Strauss and Howe, who staked out "generational change" as their mantra in *Generations: The History of America's Future, 1584[^]-2069* (1991) and then *13th-GEN: Abort, Retry, Ignore, Fail?* (1993), return to argue that the U.S. can anticipate a major crisis--a fourth turning--in the first decade of the twenty-first century. Regrettably, some 40 percent of the book's 350 pages retrace seasons of time and life, the cycles of history, and the "Anglo-American Saeculum" : largely a rehash of ideas from their earlier books. They discuss the U.S.' most recent three turnings: the "High" of the decades after World War II; the 1964[^]-84 "Consciousness Revolution" ; and 1984-2005's "Culture Wars." To assess "fourth turnings," they describe examples (England's War of the Roses, Armada Crisis, and Glorious Revolution, and the American Revolution, Civil War, and Depression and World War II) and then predict the kinds of catalysts and crises that might push the U.S. into its next "fourth turning." Strauss and Howe offer suggestions on how we can prepare for these challenges, but few will learn much from their standard words of wisdom. Probably a harmless enough brand of New Age futurism from the GOP Beltway think tanks, but aggressive marketing suggests high visibility. *Mary Carroll*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniele Chambers:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education books but if you want sense happy read one along with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The The Fourth Turning: What the Cycles of History Tell Us About America's Next Rendezvous with Destiny is kind of book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Alta Favors:

The reason why? Because this The Fourth Turning: What the Cycles of History Tell Us About America's Next Rendezvous with Destiny is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will zap you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book include such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I had been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Carl Johnson:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love The Fourth Turning: What the Cycles of History Tell Us About America's Next Rendezvous with Destiny, it is possible to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Kay Davidson:

As a scholar exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library as well as to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just small students that has reading's soul or real their interest. They just do what the educator want, like asked to the library. They go to right now there but nothing reading seriously. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring along with can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important for you personally. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this The Fourth Turning: What the Cycles of History Tell Us About America's Next Rendezvous with Destiny can make you feel more interested to read.

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