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Superfusion: How China and America Became One Economy and Why the World's Prosperity Depends on It

Zachary Karabell

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SUPERFUSION



**HOW CHINA AND AMERICA
BECAME ONE ECONOMY
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Zachary Karabell : Superfusion: How China and America Became One Economy and Why the World's Prosperity Depends on It before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Superfusion: How China and America Became One Economy and Why the World's Prosperity Depends on It:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Too Much For Not Much By Kristy Karabell's premise, that the U.S. and China have economically merged to the point where they are in fact the same economy, is intriguing and downright perception altering. The problem is he makes that point in the introduction and then spends roughly 200 pages almost but not quite addressing it. The first third (almost half) of the book are dedicated to what are essentially individual corporate history lessons of how companies like KFC, Nike, Avon, FEDEX, and IBM came to thrive in China. All good and useful history, but through this section Karabell never quite sells the reader on what he calls Chimerica, the one single economy shared between the two countries. It's more like a series of short history lessons taught in an international business course. The last third of the book picks up some steam again with some interesting analysis. These are the best chapters of the book, up there with the introduction and chapter 1. Whether Karabell is right or not on the merged economies remains to be seen, but his points are fascinating, and though he takes his time explaining how he came to his conclusions, they will challenge the way you view the Middle Kingdom and our relationship with it. A few things are lacking in his conclusions, however. Basically, he recommends Americans and Chinese get over it. That's about all he has to offer. No practical advice or propositions at all. That's the book's real problem; it's too final and the recommendations too simplistic. Though he acknowledges how diametrically opposed the two countries are, he makes no real allowance for it. China is 2,000+ years old - they're not "getting over" anything. And though the U.S. is in a sort of cultural remapping at the moment, asking the country to drop its suspicion of the Chinese government is farfetched at best. Karabell would do well to read the Mandiant corporation's report from 2013 called "APT1:...", which details how the Chinese have used the PLA and their intelligence services to steal intellectual property from over 100 U.S. businesses. This partnership is going to remain troubled for some time, I'd say.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great read By Pearl Gates Love reading the honest and informative take on history and events. The title is self descriptive. The book is objective and intelligent.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Only two good chapters By Hall picked up the book SuperFusion today; and finished it today - for me, record speed. This review won't take much time either. Only two chapters are worth reading: the first and the last. The first is an excellent overview of Chinese history since it decided to become a world economic power- and succeeded faster than any country in history. The Chinese had one thing going for them: brilliant leadership - by leaders America never heard of: Zhou Enlai, Jiang Zemin, and Zhu Rongji. They were not only brilliant, they had brilliantly good luck. Many times their lives were in danger. As I said, this chapter is brilliant. The last chapter is short, and compares the US position today with Great Britain's after WWII. Great Britain ended the war in desperate straits - and hoped American would bail it out. It did not, and instead forced the end of the British Empire - much to the advantage to America's own. Today, America is fast becoming a basket case of its own - and China is in the position of being able doing the same thing to America that America did to Great Britain. Read the final two paragraphs. Here is the first: If the United States is to avoid the fate of Great Britain, if it even can, it must reorient itself away from the military and security challenges of the twentieth century and to the economic challenges of the twenty-first. That will require not just a shift in how Americans think about the world but in how they interact with it, which will in turn demand a fundamental rethinking of the shape of the government and the national security state that emerged to meet the challenge of the Cold War, and a Soviet Union that ceased to exist at precisely the time that China began its steady rise.

Now in paperback, Zachary Karabell argues that the intertwined economic relationship between China and the U.S. will affect our long-term prosperity more than any other contemporary issue. As the world continues the slow work of repairing the damage of the financial crisis, it is crucial that the U.S. understands that it cannot go it alone. Its mutuality with China is permanent, essential, and defining. Zachary Karabell's brilliant book lays out this complex and important economic story. Karabell excels at weaving in glitzy tales of the brave new China against the larger backdrop of the Middle Kingdom's forceful but cautious economic liberalization and the often tortuous, frequently saber-rattling politics of U.S.-China relations. A provocative argument. Los Angeles Times: "The question at the heart of Superfusion is a pressing one: What will happen next? Mr. Karabell says that the U.S. must turn its thinking away from the military and security challenges of the twentieth century and focus more on the economic challenges of the twenty-first." The Wall Street Journal: "A compelling brief on the unlikely convergence of the U.S. and Chinese economies. Essential reading for anyone curious about the increasing economic integration and interdependence between China and America, the public opposition in both nations, and the implication for the U.S. as it faces competition from a nation it cannot coerce." Publishers Weekly (starred review)