

Nearly sudden collapse

Patrick Buchanan says in "Churchill, Hitler and the 'Unnecessary War'" that Britain lost its empire in WWII, and the West lost the world. Mark Steyn noted in "[Tattered Liberty](#)" that the baton of global leadership was passed between Britain and the U.S. precisely in the middle of 1943. Like [Niall Ferguson](#), Steyn expects the final shift away from U.S. dominance to come suddenly. Ferguson speaks of "sudden collapse" and says that a seemingly random piece of bad news could be the trigger that disrupts the apparent equilibrium. At one point, it looked like it might be Greece. The way governments mishandled the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the eruption in Iceland and the swine-flu outbreak also gave cause for concern about the vulnerability of the West to sudden collapse. Czech officials, as mere onlookers in most of this, can take pride that their incompetencies are rather inconsequential in comparison.

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