

"Nye provides an excellent framework for viewing the U.S.'s role in the 21st century,
especially after the events of September 11."

—MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

THE PARADOX OF
AMERICAN
POWER

WHY THE WORLD'S ONLY SUPERPOWER
CAN'T GO IT ALONE

JOSEPH S. NYE JR

THE PARADOX OF AMERICAN POWER

WHAT ROLE SHOULD AMERICA PLAY IN THE WORLD?

What key challenges face us in the 21st century, and how should we define our national interests? These questions have been given electrifying new significance in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Not since Rome has any nation had so much economic, cultural, and military power, but that power does not allow us to solve global problems like terrorism, environmental degradation, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction without involving other nations. In *The Paradox of American Power*, Joseph S. Nye Jr. focuses on the rise of these and other new challenges and explains clearly why America must adopt a more cooperative engagement with the rest of the world.

The threat of terrorism, Nye argues, is merely the most alarming example of why we must seek constructive relations with nations weak and strong. Now more than ever, as technology spreads and non-governmental organizations ranging from transnational corporations to terrorists increase their power, American leadership must reorient itself toward the global community. Further, for many key issues—from international financial stability to drug smuggling and global climate change to terrorism—military and economic power alone cannot ensure success and at times may undermine rather than enhance our objectives. Nye argues convincingly that in the new century the U.S. will rely less on traditional measures of power and more on the power that derives from the appeal of our culture, values, and institutions—what he calls our “soft power.”

Nye concludes with a bold strategy for redefining our national interest in the changed world we find after September 11th. *The Paradox of American Power* provides an essential roadmap for maintaining America's standing and reducing its vulnerability in the years to come.



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