

**THE RISE AND FALL OF THE
UNITED
STATES: A LEAF FROM
HISTORY, A. D. 2060**

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The Rise and Fall of the United States: A Leaf from History, A. D. 2060 by A Diplomat

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A Leaf from History, A.D. 2060

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A DIPLOMAT



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A LEAF FROM HISTORY, A. D. 2060

CHAPTER I

IN all the long annals of history, on the great checkered scroll of the world, replete with records of wars and battles, of misery and sorrows innumerable, sometimes of happiness and prosperity, there is no page so full of concentrated interest, of brilliancy and heroism as that of the United States of America.

No monuments of bronze or stone; no immortal epic of the great wars waged for liberty; no pæans raised in

the era of grandeur, no frozen tears wept over the decadence and downfall, remain.

Near to us as the period is we can scarcely realize what the nation was; all that it accomplished, the great place which it filled in the contemporary world, so little is left to mark its tempestuous course. And in the future the waves of oblivion which beat in vain against the everlasting Pyramids, the Eternal Sphinx, the graves of Persepolis, and still more vainly against those monuments more enduring than bronze or stone, the Iliad, the Antigone, the Inferno, Hamlet and Faust, will have obliterated from the memory of coming ages almost every trace of the United States.

One such monument as the Parthenon,

one ode of Sappho, a verse of Horace, would have made the nation live forever; but with all its power, its vast population, its boundless wealth, it has kept no sculptured poem, nor living verse to rescue it from eternal night—nothing save the one imperishable monument of its early genius—

The Declaration of Independence.

The political and sociological history of the United States may be divided into three periods.

1. From 1700 until 1865 comprising their development from a few detached colonies into a great nation.
2. From 1865 until 1925 commencing with their era of greatest prosperity and continuing until their decadence had begun.
3. From 1925 until 2010 covering the period of their decadence until their final disintegration.

The origin, the rise, the prosperity and the decline of nations before the Christian era was usually the slow imperceptible evolution of a wandering, nomadic race into a rude loosely consolidated nation, which affirming itself by gradual stages, conquering and profiting by the conquest of neighboring tribes and races, gradually elevated a slow moving superstructure of intelligence, dominion and wealth; until absorbing the surrounding elements of good and evil, it towered above the world, arrogant in its strength, its culture, its preëminence. Then, blinded by pride, enervated by wealth and luxury, oblivious of the toilsome and glorious struggles of the past, it sank into a slow but inevitable decadence, struggling against its fall, reacting

against the vices sapping its strength, recalling and exhibiting traces of its former heroism and glory until pursuing fate, in its relentless course, doomed it to slavery, extinction and all but oblivion. Centuries elapsed from its inception to its downfall, and we, in our curious retrospective search, are bewildered by the long epochs chronicled in its history. Time was reckoned by dynasties, not by years, by centuries not by decades, and the endurance of the nations strikes us with such admiration and wonder that we can almost credit their own belief in their immortality.

With those nations whose inception, growth and development occurred after that era, the evolution was far more rapid. Profiting to some extent by

the accrued experience and accumulated wisdom of the past, they started on a higher plane, developed far more rapidly, but having attained their zenith of power and wealth fell not less quickly into decadence. Saved from the more hopeless fate of oblivion, they existed and exist by the genius of their authors, artists and sculptors, bequeathing an imperishable name, not only to themselves, but to the nation which gave them birth; writing their deeds and names on monuments less perishable than bronze or stone, traversing the ages with the majesty of their genius, and well-nigh attaining the immortality accorded their gods and saints.

With the United States all was different. In scarcely more than two