



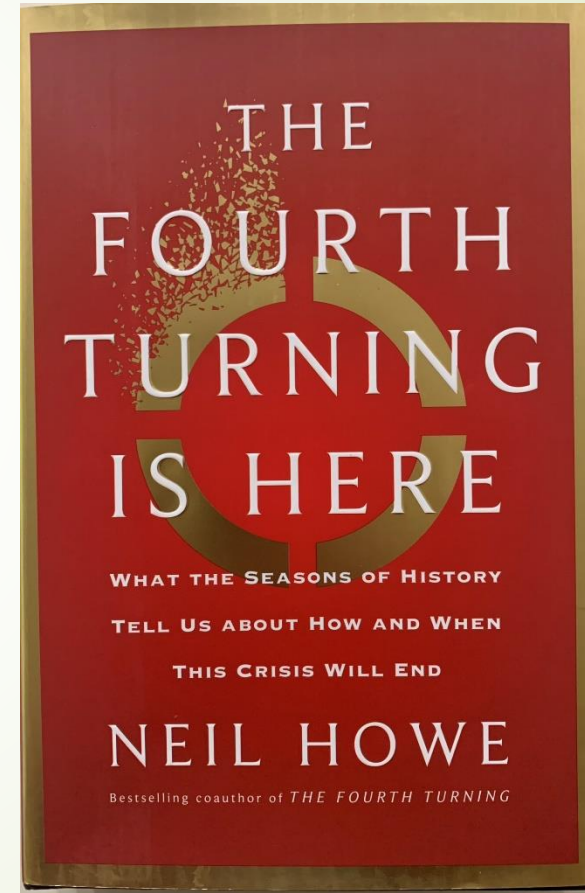
THE FOURTH TURNING

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INTRODUCTION

This information is based upon the book, “The Fourth Turning Is Here” by Neil Howe.

This book is a follow-up to “The Fourth Turning, An American Prophecy” published in 1997.



“

History has reasons that reason knows
nothing of.

”

Blaise Pascal

WHAT ARE THE “TURNINGS”?

- A review of history reveals that there are repeating cycles that have similar characteristics.
 - Memorable decades; 1890's, 1920's, 50's, 80's, 10's, 30's?
- The cycles are embedded within a common time frame; a *saeculum*, which is approximately the length of a generational lifetime, 80 to 100 years.

THE FOUR SEASONS OF A SAECULUM

- Spring
 - The first turning; post-crisis ***High***
- Summer
 - The second turning; ***Awakening***
- Fall
 - The third turning; ***Unraveling***
- Winter
 - The fourth turning; ***Crisis***

SPRING: THE FIRST TURNING

- **High.**
 - An upbeat era of strengthening institutions and weakening individualism, when a new civic order implants and an old values regime decays.
 - Social cohesion, peace, opportunity.

SUMMER: THE SECOND TURNING

- **Awakening.**
 - A passionate era of spiritual upheaval, when the civic order comes under attack from a new values regime.
 - Social exploration and discovery, change.

FALL: THE THIRD TURNING

- **Unraveling.**
 - A downcast era of strengthening individualism and weakening institutions, when the old civic order decays and the new values regime implants.
 - Social division, isolationism, and tribalism.

WINTER: THE FOURTH TURNING

- **Crisis.**
 - A decisive era of secular upheaval when the values regime propels the replacement of the old civic order with a new one.
 - Social dismemberment and reconfiguration.

TURNINGS AND SOCIAL GENERATIONS

- Each season is accompanied by the beginning of a *social generation* spanning approximately three seasons.
- Each social generation is shaped by the season in existence during its youth, shapes the season in existence during its adulthood, and oversees its final season as referential elders.

TURNINGS AND SOCIAL GENERATIONS

- A **Prophet** generation grows up post-Crisis as defiant young crusaders, cultivating principles as moralistic mid-lifers during the Awakening, and ages into detached, visionary elders during the Unraveling and presiding over the next Crisis.
- Boomers

SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
HIGH	AWAKENING	UNRAVELING	CRISIS

PROPHET GENERATION

TURNINGS AND SOCIAL GENERATIONS

- A **Nomad** generation grows up as under-protected children during an Awakening, comes of age as alienated young adults of a post-Awakening world, mellows into pragmatic leaders during a Crisis, and ages into tough post-Crisis elders.
- Generation X

SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
AWAKENING	UNRAVELING	CRISIS	HIGH

NOMAD GENERATION

TURNINGS AND SOCIAL GENERATIONS

- A **Hero** generation grows up as increasingly protected post-Awakening children, comes of age as team-working young achievers during a Crisis, demonstrates hubris as confident mid-lifers, and ages into the engaged, powerful elders presiding over the next Awakening.
- Millennials.

FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER
UNRAVELING	CRISIS	HIGH	AWAKENING

HERO GENERATION

TURNINGS AND SOCIAL GENERATIONS

- An **Artist** generation grows up as over-protected children during a Crisis, comes of age as the sensitive young adults of a post-Crisis world, breaks free as indecisive midlife leaders during an Awakening, and ages into empathic post-Awakening elders.
- Homelanders, Generation Z.

WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL
CRISIS	HIGH	AWAKENING	UNRAVELING

ARTIST GENERATION

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- We are at the Fourth Turning; experiencing the consequences of the Unraveling and moving through the early stages of the Crisis.
 - 2008-2010 brought on financial instability.
 - Social stratification and inequality.
 - Policy actions by centralized influences that are sold as beneficial, but are cripplingly harmful.
 - Populism, partisanship, tribalism

WHAT ARE WE TO EXPECT?

- During a turning, nobody is able to fully understand what will happen; the future is unknown.
- Former similar periods are clear in retrospect, but it is impossible to project those periods into the future.
- A significant national challenge will probably occur that will require national unification.



“

What we call our future is the shadow that our past projects in front of us.

”

Marcel Proust

HOW SHOULD WE CONSIDER HISTORY?

- Chaotic
 - There is no order or purpose in the history of human events.
- Cyclical
 - Human events follow patterns that repeat.
- Linear
 - Human events are uni-directional and always progressing.

CONSIDERING THE FUTURE

- How do we perceive the events of today's world; chaotic, cyclical, or linear?
- What influences the direction in which the world is moving; powerful forces, social influences, charismatic leaders?
- Should we prepare for our future, and if so, how should we do so?

WHO ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE?

- To which social generation do we belong?
- Which turning is occurring?
- Which season are we in, and where in that season are we?
- Which social generation will have the greatest influence on the future?
- How do we prepare and protect ourselves?



THE FOURTH TURNING: PART 2

SEASONS OF TIME

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“

Peace makes plenty, plenty makes pride,
Pride breeds quarrel, and quarrel brings war;
War brings spoil, and spoil poverty,
Poverty patience, and patience peace
So peace brings war, and war brings peace.

”

Jean De Meun (1280-1305)

A QUICK REVIEW

- **Turnings**; history repeats four cycles, High, Awakening, Unraveling, and Crisis.
- **Seasons**; history has four seasons; Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.
- **Saeculum**; the duration of a long lifetime (80 to 100 years).
- **Generations** generally cross three turnings; are shaped by the season in their childhood; and shape the season in their young adulthood.

CYCLICAL NATURE OF HISTORY

- The study of ancient civilizations shows that history is cyclical, and based on a saeculum...
 - Within our own lifetimes, we can only observe a fragment of the saeculum, so that it appears to us as if history is linear.
 - Each generation begins during one season of the saeculum and is shaped by that season.
 - That generation matures during the next season and shapes that season.

“

History is the memory of states.

”

Henry Kissinger

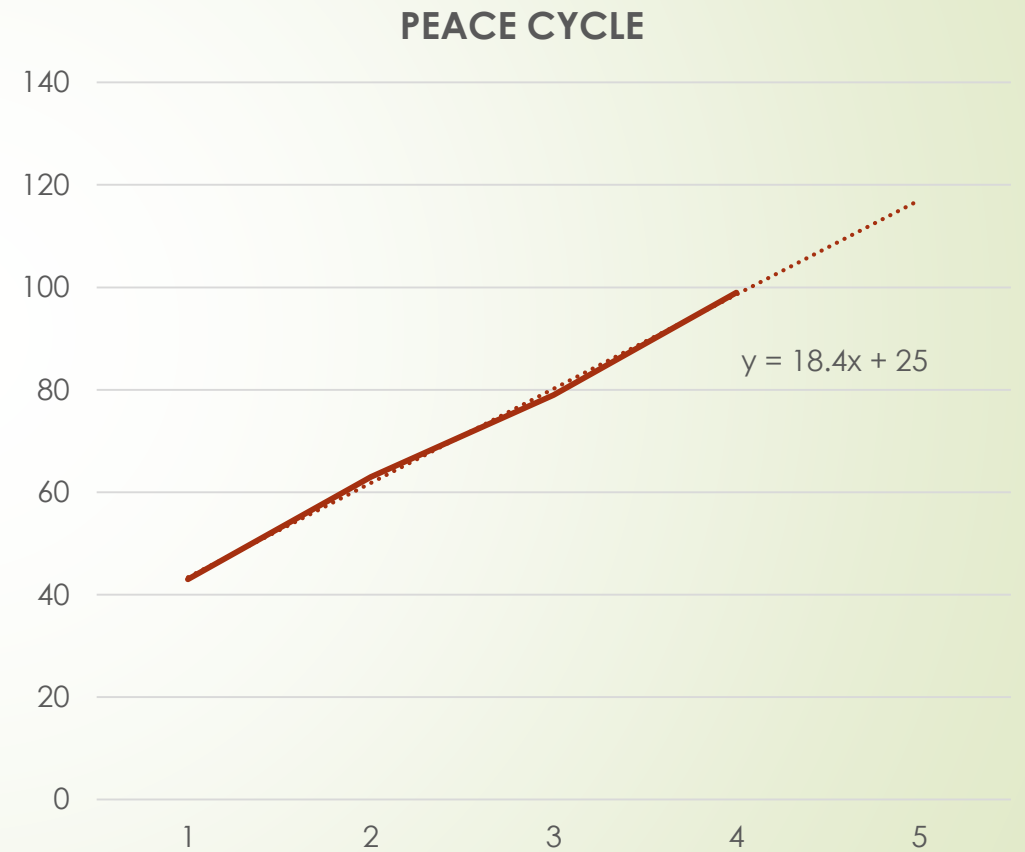
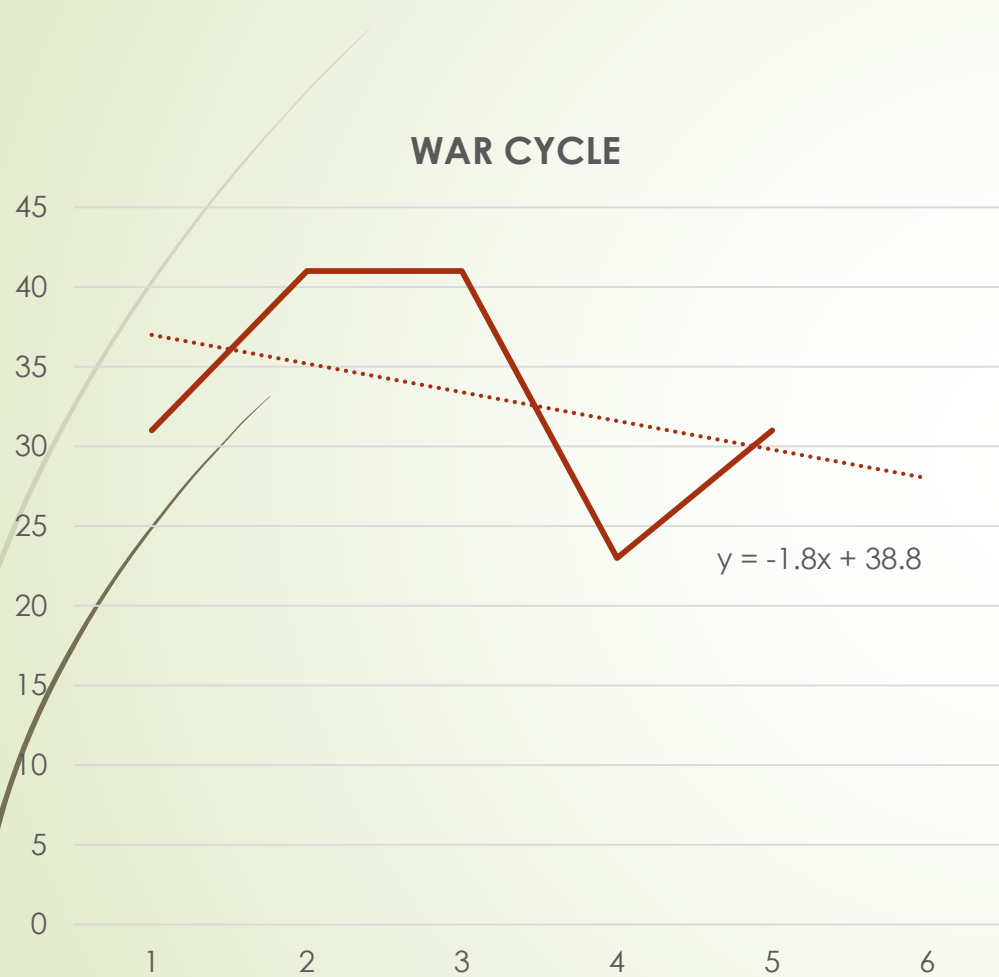
ARNOLD TOYNBE

- *A Study of History* (circa 1946) was a grand theory of the rise and fall of civilizations.
- He characterized alternating cycles of war (~25 year periods) alternating with cycles of peace (~100 year periods).
- He identified five such cycles since the Renaissance.

ARNOLD TOYNBE

- Cycles of war
 - (1494-1525) Italian wars
 - (1568-1609) Imperial wars
 - (1672-1713) Spanish Succession
 - (1792-1815) French Revolution
 - (1914-1945) WWI & WW2

TOYNBEE'S CYCLE OF WAR AND PEACE



TOYNBEE'S CYCLE OF WAR AND PEACE

- Applying a linear trend to the periods of war between the periods of peace, then the next period of war should come to an end near the year 2059.
- Applying a linear trend to the periods of peace between the periods of war, then the next period of peace should come to an end near the year 2031.

ANTHONY WALLACE

- (~1983) Religious anthropologist who suggested regular periods of “revitalization”.
- “Deliberate, organized, conscious effort by members of society to construct a more satisfying culture”
- Revitalizations are equivalent to Awakenings

ANGLO-AMERICAN CRISES

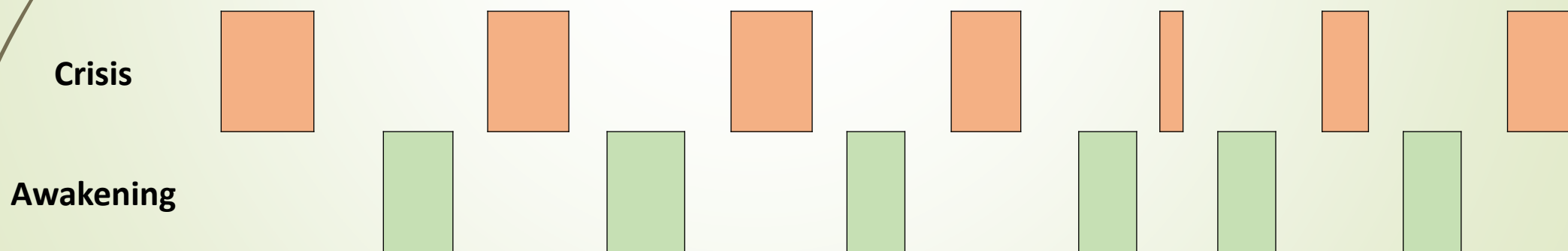
- (1455-1487) War of Roses
- (1569-1597) Armada crisis
- (1675-1706) Glorious Revolution
- (1773-1794) American Revolution
- (1860-1865) Civil War
- (1929-1946) Great depression – WW2
- (2008-2033?) Millennial crisis

ANGLO-AMERICAN AWAKENINGS

- (1525-1551) The Reformation Awakening
- (1621-1649) The Puritan Awakening
- (1727-1746) The Great Awakening
- (1822-1844) The Transcendental Awakening
- (1886-1908) The Third Great Awakening
- (1964-1984) The Consciousness Awakening

ANGLO-AMERICAN CYCLES

- By charting and comparing the periods of crisis and awakenings, we can see repeating patterns that show the cyclical nature of history.





THE FOURTH TURNING: PART 2

SEASONS OF LIFE

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“

All our lives we remain a prisoner of the generation we belonged to at age twenty.

”

Charles August in Sainte-Beuve

SOCIAL GENERATIONS

- Each new generation, as it assumes leadership, redefines a nation's history according to its own collective experience.

IBN KHALDUN

- A renowned polymath of the fourteenth-century Islamic world.
- A polymath is an individual whose knowledge spans a substantial number of subjects, known to draw on complex bodies of knowledge to solve specific problems.

IBN KHALDUN

- A dynasty typically lasts 100 to 120 years.
- The life cycle of the dynasty is driven by predictable succession of four generations.

IBN KHALDUN

- First generation:
 - Founds and builds the dynasty, including elements such as;
 - Social structure and adherence to principles.
 - Business, prosperity, and comfort.
 - Government that serves to the benefit of the members of the dynasty.

IBN KHALDUN

- Second generation:
 - Too young to participate in the founding, they mature into leaders who can “imitate” their elders.
 - Respect for the value of what has been created.
 - Builds upon and improves the foundations laid by the elders.

IBN KHALDUN

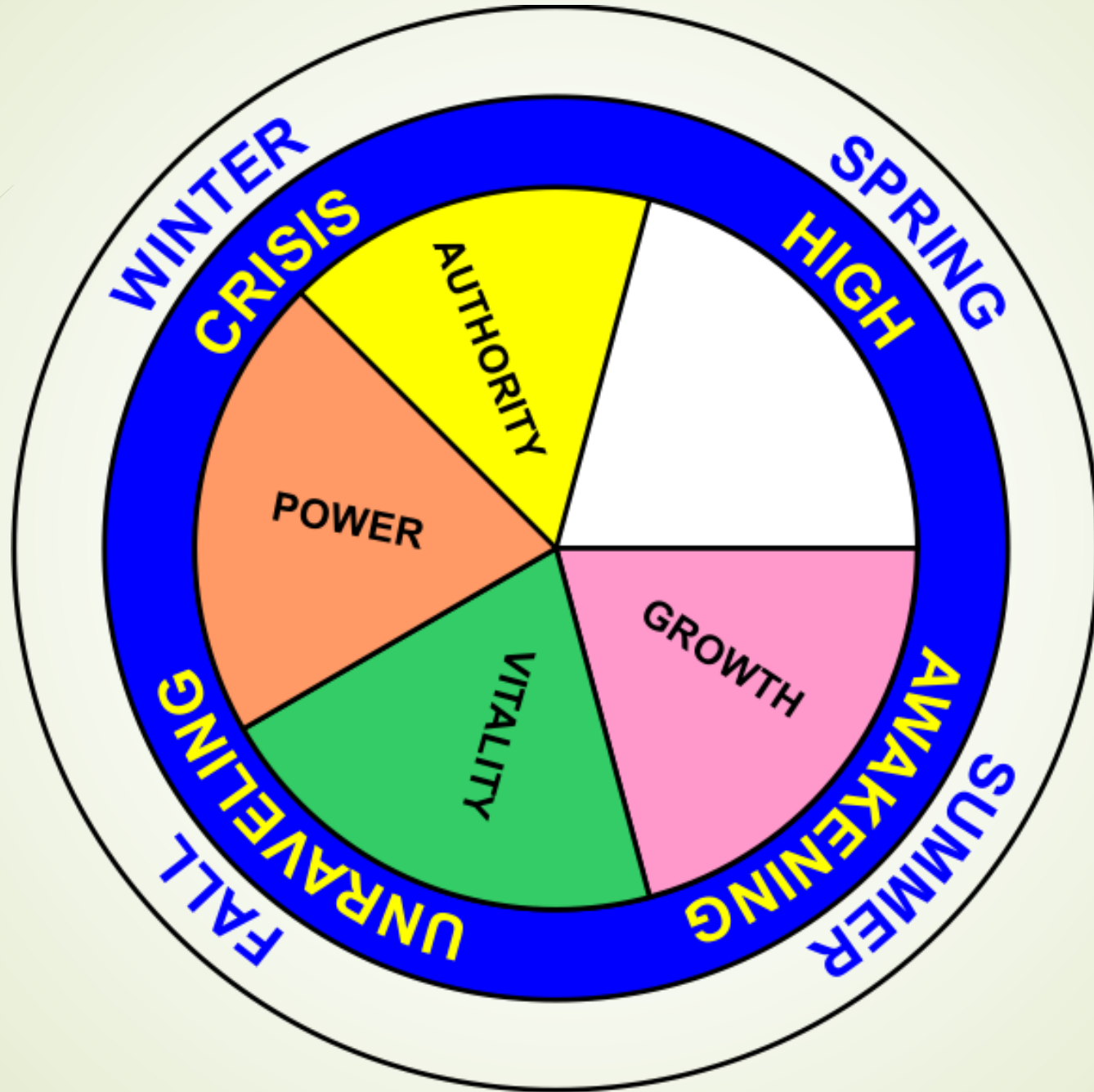
- Third generation:
 - Loses contact with the founders' experience.
 - Hearts are no longer in the creation and building processes of the dynasty.
 - Seeks to maximize the benefits of the dynasty, and establishes “rules and traditions” to try to keep things going.
 - The dynasty begins to decline for lack of purpose.

IBN KHALDUN

- Fourth generation:
 - No longer cares about the dynasty.
 - May even “despise” the collective spirit of the founders.
 - Looks only after themselves and braces for what comes next, rather than trying to be in control of their destiny.
 - They are the “destroyers” of the dynasty.

CYCLES OF GENERATIONS

- Each generation consists of four phases, each lasting approximately 20 to 25 years;
 - Growth: receiving nurture, acquiring values.
 - Vitality: serving institutions, testing values.
 - Power: managing institutions, applying values.
 - Authority: stewarding institutions, transferring values.



CYCLES OF GENERATIONS

- Why is each generation different from the one before?
 - When we are young, we are able to reimagine the world with a freedom that we no longer possess as we grow older.
 - It is by means of this very freedom that the rising generation is able to strike out in a new direction.

CYCLES OF GENERATIONS

- Each new direction leads the rising generation to diverge from the path of the prior generation.
- Generational aging is what translates the rhythm of the past into the rhythm of the future.
- Each generation tries to escape the imagined shadows of its parents' errors.

WHAT DEFINES A GENERATION?

- A worldview or “essential destiny” that shapes a generation’s lifelong direction.
- Overall life goals;
 - Boomers sought meaningfulness over financial goals 2:1, while one generation later,
 - Generation X sought financial goals over meaningfulness 2:1

BELONGING TO YOUR GENERATION

- Belonging to your generation does not mean that you agree with your generation...
 - Directive members set the tone.
 - Directed members follow along.
 - Suppressed members withdraw or resist.
- We are destined to live in and be shaped by the generation into which we are born.

ANGLO-AMERICAN GENERATIONS

GENERATION	BIRTH YEARS	COME OF AGE ERA	ARCHETYPE
G.I.	1903-1924	Depression – WWII Crisis	Hero
Silent	1925-1942	- - - - -	Artist
Boom	1943-1960	Consciousness Revolution	Prophet
Generation X	1961-1981	- - - - -	Nomad
Millennial	1982-2005 ?	Millennial Crisis	Hero
Homeland	2006- ?	- - - - -	Artist

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS?

- Can we change the cycles of history, or are we doomed to repeat them?
- Are we locked into a linear history, or can we expect historical cycles to influence the future?

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS?

- How can we tell where we are in the saeculum?
- What should we expect generationally? Are we going to see a shift in generational worldview, and if so, when?



THE FOURTH TURNING: PART 3

LOOKING FORWARD

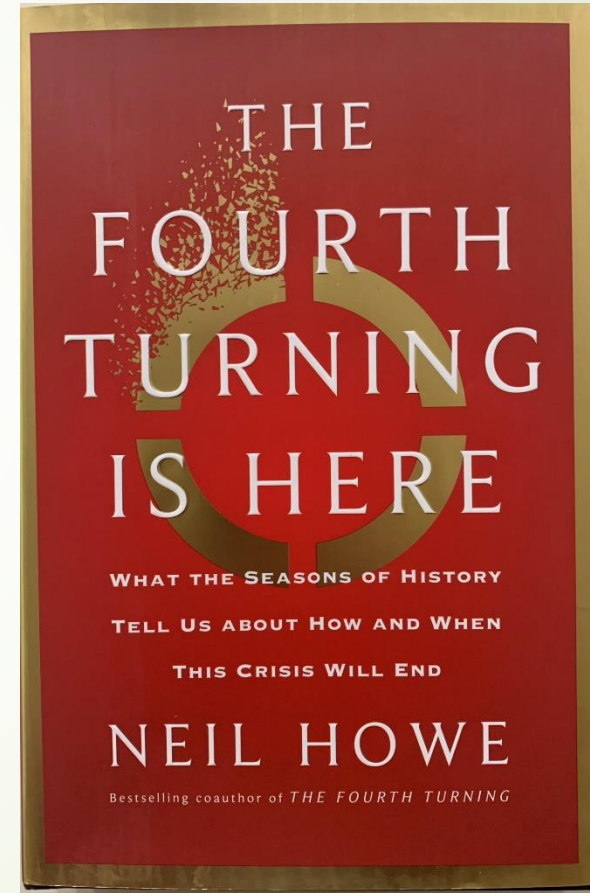
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A RECAP

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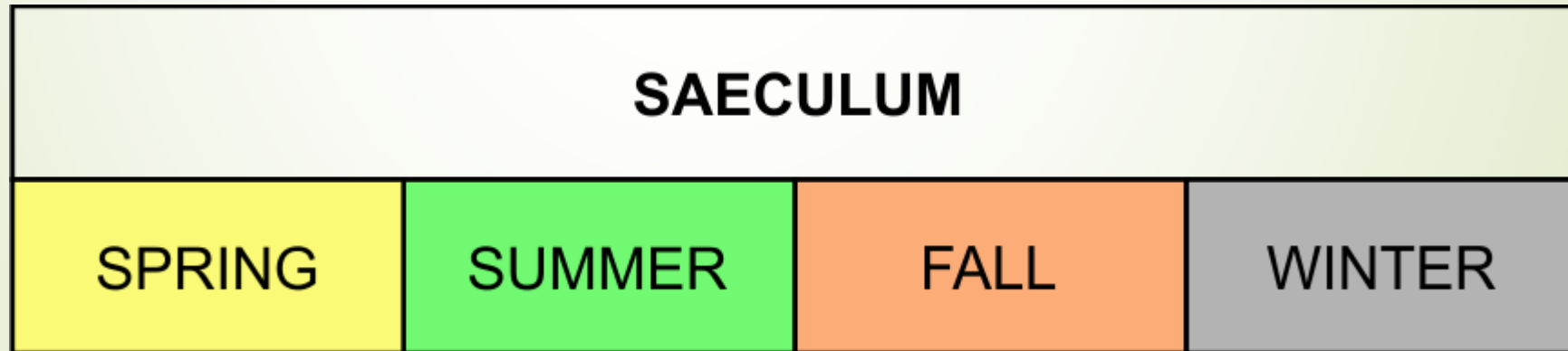


A RECAP

- History is neither chaotic nor linear, but is cyclical.
- A thorough review reveals patterns that are repeated at somewhat regular intervals.
 - Even ancient civilizations recognized the existence of patterns and regarded them as worthy of reverence.

CYCLES

- The saeculum is the highest level of cycle, approximately the length of a long lifetime, roughly 100 years. Each saeculum is divided into four seasons, separated by turnings.



CYCLES

- Each season is characterized by the nature of the events that occur during that period. We are currently in the mid to late crisis period. Crisis and awakening periods are the most tumultuous.

SAECULUM			
SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
HIGH	AWAKENING	UNRAVELING	CRISIS

GENERATIONS

- Each season has four generations within it, and each generation has four phases, each one lasting approximately 20 to 25 years;
 - Growth: receiving nurture, acquiring values.
 - Vitality: serving institutions, testing values.
 - Power: managing institutions, applying values.
 - Authority: stewarding institutions, transferring values.

GENERATIONS

- There are four archetypes of generations. Each oversees the season during its vitality;
 - **Heroes:** oversee the crisis.
 - Artists: oversee the unraveling.
 - **Prophets:** oversee the awakening.
 - Nomads: oversee the high.

SAECULUM			
SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
HIGH	AWAKENING	UNRAVELING	CRISIS
PROPHET NOMAD HERO ARTIST	ARTIST PROPHET NOMAD HERO	HERO ARTIST PROPHET NOMAD	NOMAD HERO ARTIST PROPHET
GROWTH			
VITALITY			
POWER			
AUTHORITY			

GENERATIONS

- Notable periods and generations occur approximately every 40 years (two generational archetypes).
 - *The LORD'S anger burned against Israel and he made them wander in the desert forty years, until the whole generation of those who had done evil in his sight was gone. Numbers 32:13(NIV)*

“

Understanding historical cycles does not help us to predict the future nor to control it...

it helps guide our understanding of conditions in the context of the cycles of change.

”

LOOKING FORWARD

- We are at the fourth turning: the transition from winter to spring, from crisis to high.
- The turning will not be driven by events, but by the generation currently in its vitality.

WINTER TO SPRING, CRISIS TO HIGH: THE FOURTH TURNING

- **Crisis.**
 - A decisive era of secular upheaval when the values regime propels the replacement of the old civic order with a new one.
 - Social dismemberment and reconfiguration.

WINTER TO SPRING, CRISIS TO HIGH: THE FOURTH TURNING

- **High.**
 - An upbeat era of strengthening institutions and weakening individualism, when a new civic order implants and an old values regime decays.
 - Social cohesion, peace, opportunity.

WINTER TO SPRING, CRISIS TO HIGH: THE FOURTH TURNING

GENERATION	BIRTH YEARS	AGE (IN 2023)	VITALITY ERA	SEASON	ARCHETYPE
G.I.	1903-1924	99-120	Depression - WWII	Crisis	Hero
Silent	1925-1942	81-98	-----	High	Artist
Boom	1943-1960	63-80	Consciousness Revolution	Awakening	Prophet
Generation X	1961-1981	42-62	-----	Unraveling	Nomad
Millennial	1982-2005	18-41	Millennial Crisis	Crisis	Hero
Homeland	2006-2029(?)	< 17	-----	High	Artist
New Prophet	2030- ?		???	Awakening	Prophet

WINTER TO SPRING, CRISIS TO HIGH: THE FOURTH TURNING

- Each turning is accompanied by two forces;
 - Constructive forces build the incoming season: new systems are developed from the worldview of the generation coming into maturity.
 - Destructive forces erase the outgoing season: old systems are removed and replaced in whole or in part.

SOME CRISIS SCENARIOS

OPTIMISTIC PERSPECTIVE

- Economic uncertainty
- Institutional instability
- Declining religion/morality
- Social strife/division
- Self over community
- Lawlessness
- America in decline

PESSIMISTIC PERSPECTIVE

- Economic collapse
- Institutional collapse
- Religious repression
- Civil/tribal war
- Anarchy
- Rogue regional powers
- America loses world influence

SOME CRISIS SCENARIOS

OPTIMISTIC PERSPECTIVE

- Regional conflict/war
- Government collapse
- Constraints of freedoms
- Environmental damage

PESSIMISTIC PERSPECTIVE

- Global conflict/war
- Neo-colonialism
- Socialism
- Environmental toxicity

SOME HIGH SCENARIOS

OPTIMISTIC PERSPECTIVE

- Stable but weak economy
- Institutional stabilization
- New standards/morals
- Social stability
- Community over self
- Cultural self-management
- American strength

PESSIMISTIC PERSPECTIVE

- Nationalization of economy
- Institutional control exercised
- Imposition of secular morality
- Social control
- Blind conformity
- Martial law
- America rebuilds world

SOME HIGH SCENARIOS

OPTIMISTIC PERSPECTIVE

- International cooperation
- Government responsible
- New urbanization
- Environmental respect

PESSIMISTIC PERSPECTIVE

- Global governance
- Government control
- 15-minute cities
- Loss of property rights

WHAT TO DO?

- Hope and fight for the worldview that you knew in your youth or maturity?
- Adopt the worldview that develops through the present Crisis and into the new High?
- Quietly give way to the new while preserving the elder wisdom of the old?