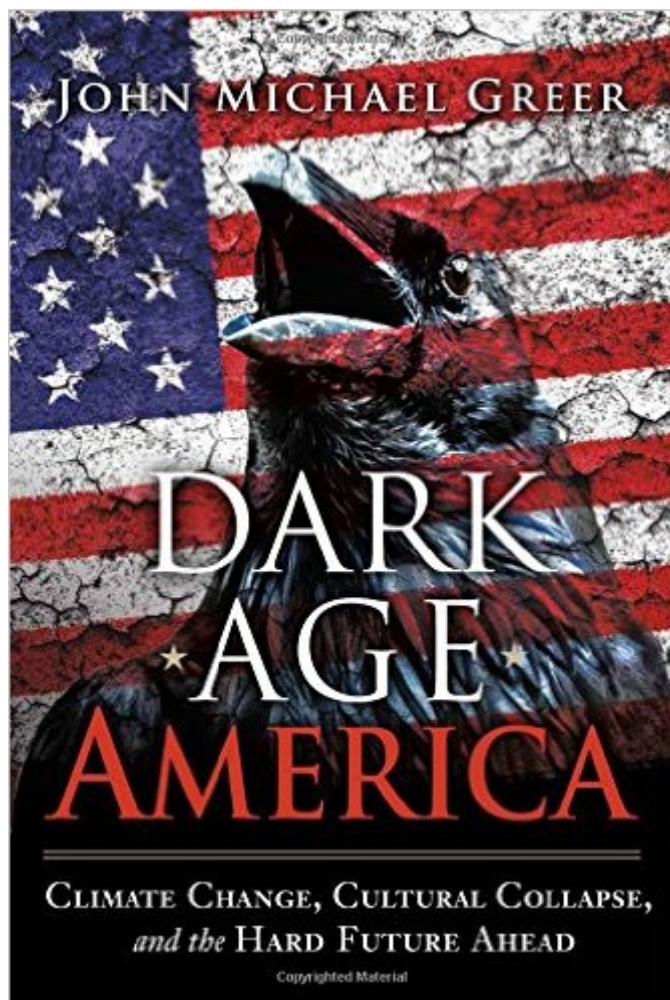


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# Dark Age America: Climate Change, Cultural Collapse, And The Hard Future Ahead



## Synopsis

After decades of missed opportunities, the door to a sustainable future has closed, and the future we face now is one in which today's industrial civilization unravels in the face of uncontrolled climate change and resource depletion. What is the world going to look like when all these changes have run their course? Author John Michael Greer seeks to answer this question, and with some degree of accuracy, since civilizations tend to collapse in remarkably similar ways. *Dark Age America*, then, seeks to map out in advance the history of collapse, giving us an idea of what the next five hundred years or so might look like as globalization ends and North American civilization reaches the end of its lifecycle and enters the stages of decline and fall. In many ways, this is Greer's most uncompromising work, though by no means without hope to offer. Knowing where we're headed collectively is a crucial step in responding constructively to the challenges of the future and doing what we can now to help our descendants make the most of the world we're leaving them. John Michael Greer, historian of ideas and one of the most influential authors exploring the future of industrial society, writes the widely cited weekly blog the Archdruid Report and has published more than thirty books including *The Long Descent*, *The Ecotechnic Future*, *The Wealth of Nature*, and *After Progress*. He lives in Cumberland, Maryland, an old mill town in the Appalachians, with his wife Sara.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Michael Greer is a prolific author and blogger on the â œpeak oilâ • end of things. He is also a pagan, occultist and ritual magician. â œDark Age Americaâ • is Greer's latest book. It delineates

the author's pessimistic visions of the future. Most of the material will be familiar to avid followers of Greer's blog, The Archdruid Report or ADR. "Dark Age America" starts off well but loses the thread somewhere in the middle. Personally, I still think "The Long Descent" is Greer's best book on the inevitable decline and fall of modern civilization. Greer constantly attacks both cornucopians and apocalypse-mongers but this "moderate pessimism" is voided by the first half of "Dark Age America", in which he makes some pretty startling claims. Greer believes that 95% of the world's population will die off within one to three centuries due to mass starvation, pandemics and war. Agriculture will be made impossible over large areas due to loss of top soil. The seas are overfished and will become effectively empty within our lifetimes. Due to climate change, half of North America will turn into desert, while failing nuclear power plants will create huge "dead zones" even in otherwise inhabitable areas. Florida will disappear under water. Modern science and technology will (of course) disappear or even be actively destroyed by the common people. Virtually all current ethnic groups will go extinct, and the survivors will have identities created *de novo*. These survivors will regroup in feudal societies or roving war bands. The process of collapse have already started and can't be stopped by any political or economic reforms whatsoever.

My review is not from a verified purchase, as I purchased the book new from the publisher (something I've never done before) because I have read Greer for some years, own many of his books, and strongly support his work and want my money to go towards supporting his writing (cuts out some of the royalties given to authors). With that disclaimer out of the way, I will say that I would highly recommend this book to anyone as it is one of Greer's most solid works to date. Some of his books delve more deeply into details and close analysis, but this book attempts to cover relevant politics, history, economics, technology, sociology, and ecology/environmental science over the broad range of the next 500 years. Readers looking for particular details on upcoming financial crashes, advice on brewing ale, or lengthy discussions on peak oil theory will be disappointed. These sorts of topics are covered in more detail in his other works including his blog The Archdruid Report. For longtime readers of Greer, this book contains insights and analysis that he has covered before and some new bits as well, and many bits that I forgot about at the very least. Sort of a "Best of" in my opinion. You may enjoy it, you may find it too repetitive. For readers of peak oil/collapse literature, Greer offers a unique perspective and a very accessible writing style, with quite a bit of historical comparison and a solid, balanced analysis across fields of thought and disciplines. He doesn't spout things off the cuff or exaggerate his claims, but rather is an analyst

at heart (an analyst who didn't skip his homework). For readers new to the genre, this is a solid intro to many of these ideas and is a nice accessible length.

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