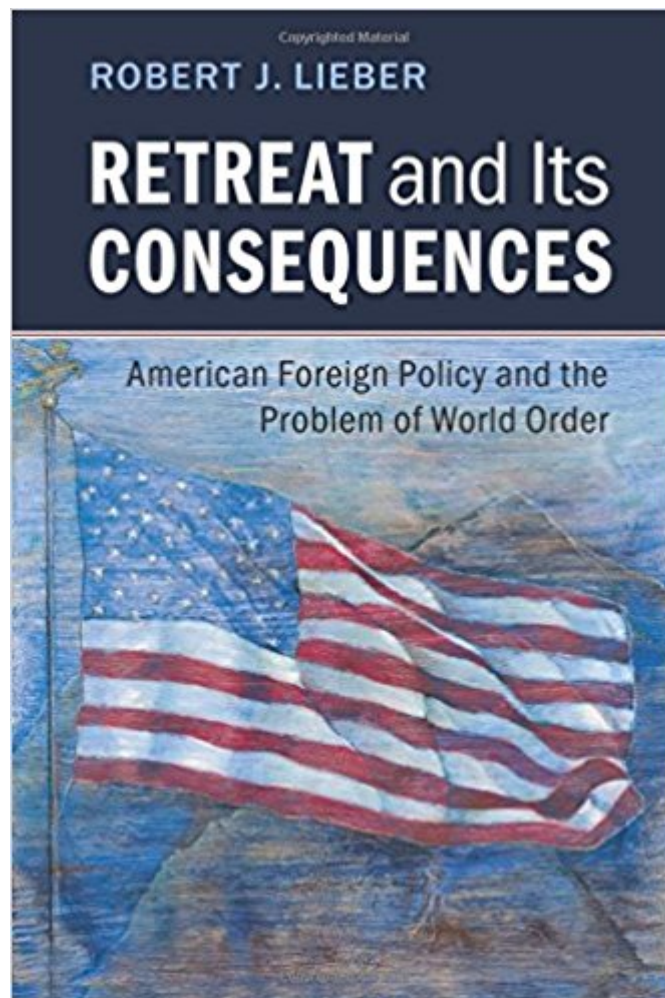




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Retreat And Its Consequences: American Foreign Policy And The Problem Of World Order



Synopsis

What are the consequences of retreat and retrenchment in foreign policy? In recent years, America has pulled back from its long-time role of international leadership. In doing so the Obama administration has sought to conciliate adversaries, shown indifference to allies; called upon the international community to step in; proclaimed and then disavowed 'red lines'; and preferred to lead from behind in the face of catastrophic civil war in Syria, ISIS barbarism in the Middle East and North Africa, Russia's predatory behavior in Eastern Europe, and China's muscle-flexing in East Asia. The consequences of this 'realist' experiment have been costly and painful, and it has caused the US to lose credibility with friends and foes. America retains the capacity to lead, but unless it resumes a more robust role, the world is likely to become a more dangerous place, with mounting threats not only to regional stability and international order, but to the national interests of America itself.

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Customer Reviews

'In an age of excessive information, yet precious little contextual knowledge, Robert Lieber's slim ... new book ... comes in handy. ... Lieber's profound knowledge of the issues combined with readable prose makes this difficult subject almost easy to grasp.' Juliana Geran Pilon, *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*

The book will fit into undergraduate and graduate courses in US foreign policy, international

relations, world issues, and American politics. It will appear in a presidential election year and should appeal to the informed public. The book is likely to gain attention in the academic debate among foreign policy scholars.

Trying to get a cogent overview -- and understanding -- of the foreign policy issues that the next US president will face, and to weigh which candidate's positions make the most sense, I found this timely book. I don't agree with everything the author says, but reading the book has been a pleasure. Like being given a clear, in-depth seminar on what issues matter and on just why it is important for the US to engage in the world in a way that both owns and uses its vast power and authority wisely. I found the author's analysis particularly thought-provoking when it came to, as the title indicates, the consequences of too much of a retreat from the world, even a retreat intended as a corrective for post-9/11 adventurism. I'd highly recommend it for anyone who, like me, wants to understand how our world has changed, who the players are, and the complex new and old challenges we face.

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