

After the NEOCONS - America at the Crossroads by Francis Fukuyama.
Profile Books 2006.

Francis Fukuyama is an eminent American historian and for many years a broad supporter of the Neo-Conservative agenda. The content of *After the NEOCONS* must therefore come as a shock to his erstwhile philosophical colleagues for it is a realistic appraisal and rebuttal of much of what Neo-Conservatism stands for and a damning critique of the damage its influence within the Bush Administration has done to international affairs and the global status of the USA.

Fukuyama writes extremely well, as one might expect, and considers his subject in the course of 7 chapters: Principles and Prudence, The Neoconservative legacy, Threat, Risk and Preventive War, American Exceptionalism and International Legitimacy, Social Engineering and the Problem of Development, Rethinking Institutions for World Order and A Different Kind of American Foreign Policy.

After the Neocons broadly acknowledges that the neoconservative experiment has largely failed, and further that many of the policies it has espoused have put America into a near pariah status throughout the world, a devastating position for the world's current sole superpower and a huge difficulty for it in engaging other nations with its international actions and stances.

The last chapter is perhaps the most important as Fukuyama sketches out a possible future direction for the US as well as the creation of new international institutions that will make the 21st century world better able to cope with current threats and dangers and which will engage the growing superpowers of China and India.

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