

Peter Zeihan

Geopolitical Strategist; Thinker; Futurist; Author

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Topics

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About Peter Zeihan

Peter Zeihan is a geopolitical strategist, which is a fancy way of saying he helps people understand how the world works. Peter combines an expert understanding of demography, economics, energy, politics, technology, and security to help clients best prepare for an uncertain future.

Over the course of his career, Peter has worked for the US State Department in Australia, the DC think tank community, and helped develop the analytical models for Stratfor, one of the world's premier private intelligence companies. Peter founded his own firm — Zeihan on Geopolitics — in 2012 in order to provide a select group of clients with direct, custom analytical products. Today those clients represent a vast array of sectors including energy majors, financial institutions, business associations, agricultural interests, universities and the U.S. military.

With a keen eye toward what will drive tomorrow's headlines, his irreverent approach transforms topics that are normally dense and heavy into accessible, relevant takeaways for audiences of all types.

Peter is a critically-acclaimed author whose first two books — *The Accidental Superpower* and *The Absent Superpower* — have been recommended by Mitt Romney, Fareed Zakaria and Ian Bremmer. His latest third title, *Disunited Nations: The Scramble for Power in an Ungoverned World* became available in March 2020.

Peter's fourth book, *The End of the World is Just the Beginning: Mapping the Collapse of Globalization*, became available in June 2022.

Select Keynotes

• A World Without China

Three pillars support modern China's success: global trade, internal political unity, and easy money. With those three pillars, China has managed to shake 2000 years of war and occupation and remake itself as one of the world's most powerful countries. Yet none of these three pillars can stand without American assistance, and that cooperation is ending. China's "inevitable" rise isn't simply over, it is about to go into screeching, unrelenting, dismembering reverse. But that's hardly the end of history. When a country falls — particularly the world's top manufacturing power — the ripples affect countries and industries near and far. Learn who benefits and who loses in a world without China.

• Amber Waves Of (American) Grain: The Future Of Global Agriculture

Modern agricultural patterns are the result of three largely unrelated factors: low-risk global trade, insatiable Asian demand, and unlimited cheap credit. Within the next five years, all three of these trends will not just evaporate, but invert. When that happens, the only thing that will hurt more than the gradual loss of demand will be the sudden collapse of supply. However, none of this impacts the American producer — it therefore will be the United States that will reap the benefits of its productivity and stability for decades to come.

• America On The Edge

The world as we know it is ending. Global trade and everything that comes from it — cheap Asian goods, international energy markets, global agriculture, stable finance — is about to unravel. Out of all this the Americans — cast in both the role of disruptor and survivor — are making



decisions that will shape both themselves and the rest of the world for decades. Get a sneak peak at the future of energy, agriculture, finance, and the role America will play in the world to come.

- **At the Edge of Disorder**

The concept of countries being able to buy and sell their wares openly on the international marketplace is inviolable. The freedom to sail one's products around the world is a given. Everything from the transfer of money to the accessibility of energy is sacrosanct. Yet all this and more is artificial: an unintended – if happy – side effect of the American-led global Order. With that Order in its final days, all countries and all industries must learn to operate in a world as unstructured as it is dangerous. Join us as Peter Zeihan lays out how we got to where we are, and what the future holds for sectors as diverse as energy, agriculture, finance, manufacturing and transport.

- **Bric-a-Brac**

The emergence of Brazil, Russia, India and China offered the possibility of remaking the global system. Well, it was fun while it lasted. Each BRIC country now faces their own custom-made nightmare, with only one of them likely even having a future as a country.

- **Life After Free Trade**

Bretton Woods is the cornerstone of the modern system. The concept of countries being able to buy and sell their wares openly on the international marketplace is inviolable. The freedom to sail one's products around the world is a given. Everything from the transfer of money to the accessibility of energy is sacrosanct. All this and more is artificial. All this and more is about to end. What replaces it will either be wondrous or damning. Your outcome depends upon where you live.

- **No Assembly Required: The Future Of Global Manufacturing**

The world of manufacturing is an endlessly specialized venture, with most manufacturers sourcing components from scores of facilities across a dozen or more countries. But what if the ability to sail components from site to site became compromised? What if capital availability proves insufficient to update industrial bases as technology evolves? What if intermediate and end markets become less desirable – or less accessible? All that and more is about to happen, which signals the end of manufacturing as we know it. The successful manufacturers of the future will be those who can command access to raw materials, capital, labor and markets – all in the same location.

- **Powers of Yesterday, Powers of Tomorrow**

Americans believe that their greatest days are behind them and that a series of new powers is rising up to displace them. On the contrary, America's best days – militarily, economically, financially and culturally – are still ahead of them. In fact, many of the states that the Americans feel are up-and-comers – most notably China, Russia and India – are merely experiencing a historical moment in the sun courtesy of factors utterly beyond their control. Most of the powers of tomorrow are countries that the Americans either have very little knowledge of. The major powers of 2030 will not be based in Beijing or Moscow, but in Jakarta, Buenos Aires, Warsaw, Istanbul and Mexico City.

- **Seven(teen) Years of Lean: The Future of Global Finance**

In the decades since World War II, everything from computerization to securitization to the rise of the developing world has made the financial sector central to modern economic activity. But never forget that modern finance itself is an outgrowth of revenues generated by the global free trade order. Never forget that the past two decades have witnessed the richest and cheapest supplies of capital in history. A political decision made seven decades ago created the trade order. A fleeting demographic moment created the capital richness. Both have nearly run their course. Very soon we will bid finance as we know it goodbye, and the world will be much poorer for it. A few locations, however, will find the wreckage easier to struggle through than others. For those lucky few, the world will be their oyster.

- **Supersize Me: The Future of Global Energy**

The global energy sector is as complicated and opaque as it is omnipresent and essential, and it has adapted to not simply the changes in the global economic system, but the global political system. Countries that were weak to nonexistent in ages past now are major players in global energy markets, both as producers and consumers. The system that has allowed this evolution now is under fire, and soon the stability that has enabled the energy sector to create its global webwork will end. What will follow will be a world both more chaotic and poorer, one in which the process of finding, producing, transporting and refining energy will simply be beyond the military and financial capacity of most players. Only the largest, smartest and richest entities will be able to maintain – much less expand – their networks. Far from its final days, the era of the supermajor has not yet begun.

- **The Alberta Question**

As the global system evolves no country is better positioned than Canada. Very soon Canada's choices will be about how to take advantage of opportunities, rather than how to avoid complications. But in this very silver lining is a very dark cloud. The same evolutions that will allow Canada unprecedented opportunities for wealth and respect also hold the possibility of damaging the Canadian state. This time the dangers do not originate from the United States, but from within Canada itself. And they could very well prove mortal.

- **The American Age**

Americans think of themselves as set apart from the rest of the world, and to a certain degree they are correct. But it is not that Americans are 'better' or 'more free' that makes them different, instead that they enjoy supreme geographic positioning and favorable demography – something that is not currently enjoyed by any other major power. Played as little as twenty years forward, this will result in an American-dominated international system with all of the economic and strategic benefits that such implies. But it is a very different world from the one we now know.

- **The End of Europe**

Five recessions in nine years. A litany of debt debacles. Ossified institutions incapable of change. Rising populism. Refugee floods. Russians growling at the border. And that's the good news. Despite a decade of crisis none of Europe's problems have had their root causes addressed, and now time is simply up. Everything that makes modern, wealthy, cosmopolitan, democratic Europe possible is breaking apart, and the Europeans are about to lose far more than "merely" a decade. Discover what makes Europe tick, what is tearing it down, and most of all, what is next.

- **The New Middle East**

For decades the Middle East has been trapped in a simple, irresistible tension: the world needs the region's oil, so the global superpower keeps the region locked in place. Within a very few short years that lock will be removed, and the region's politics will unravel explosively. What comes next will challenge every country in the region – many to the breaking point.

- **The Return Of Dollar Diplomacy**

The Mideast wars have left the United States exhausted and leery. Immigration has become a four-letter word. Shale has severed most of the ties that bind. In sum, the United States has lost interest in the wider world and so is already hip-deep in a decade-long retrenchment. That will change not just the world, but America itself. Such evolutions will make next phase of American engagement not just more thoughtful and surgical, but also more lucrative.

- **The Shale Revolution**

The advent of the shale era is remaking the American energy complex. The combination of at-home investment and a lower need for Middle Eastern involvement frees up considerable American resources. The result will be a different sort of American economy, a different sort of American diplomacy, and a different role for the United States on the global stage.

- **The Trump Doctrine**

Presidents come and go, but geography doesn't change. Gain understanding of the world the incoming Trump administration is inheriting, and get a glimpse into how the new White House will grapple with crises imminent, opportunities golden and everything in between.

- **Virtual "Fireside Chat"**

Peter Zeihan is adjusting with the times just like everyone else. Instead of coming to speak with you and yours in person, he is now producing a variety of interactive remote products ranging from customized consulting to his normal, full presentations.

Somewhat by accident, he has stumbled upon another format that has proven particularly attractive to several clients: grilling Peter live in front of your firm or clients (remotely, of course). A more polite phraseology would be the "fireside chat".

It is pretty straightforward:

- Provide Peter with some general concerns and topics ahead of time,
- Peter will launch off with a brief overview of where your industry stands in the ongoing coronavirus crisis,
- A representative of your organization poses additional questions to Peter in as back-and-forth of a structure as you desire, and
- At your discretion, Peter opens up the field to a moderated Q&A from your attendees.

He has discovered -- again, by accident -- that this format is quite expedient for getting clients the most up-to-date information, analysis and forecasts from Peter in this time of unprecedented change. He has actually scheduled a few with just a couple of days' notice.

Simultaneously, it puts your organization right at the heart of the process, granting you all the gravitas for directly managing the interaction, while also giving you face-time with everyone who matters to your business and sector.

Select Book Titles

- **2022:** The End of the World Is Just the Beginning: Mapping the Collapse of Globalization
- **2020:** Disunited Nations: The Scramble for Power in an Ungoverned World

- **2017:** The Absent Superpower: The Shale Revolution and a World Without America
- **2016:** The Accidental Superpower: The Next Generation of American Preeminence and the Coming Global Disorder

Select Articles

- [Q&A With Author Peter Zeihan: How Shale Is Reshaping America And The World](#)

Peter credits energy and resource innovations with reshaping the global geopolitical environment. He predicts by 2019, US oil production costs could drop to \$25 per barrel, making US shale producers potentially the lowest cost oil producers on the planet. America's move into energy independence he says, will reshape global dynamics for at least the next three decades.

- [Read more in "The Accidental Superpower"](#)

As seen in many other parts of the Russian Federation, the Russians face a series of bad decisions. In Chechen, the decision was between a decades-long war that would bleed what little demographic strength the Russians had left, or a reluctant alliance of convenience that would haunt them in the future.