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**CAN
GOVERNMENT
DO ANYTHING
RIGHT?**

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[THE BIGGER PROJECT]

- *Strategies for Governing: A Guide For Public Administration*. Under contract.
- Strategies for governing: A new approach to public management research for West and East. Forthcoming in *Korean Journal of Policy Studies*, 33.1 (April 2018).
- The aims of public administration: Reviving the classical view. *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance*, September 2017.
- *Four Crises of American Democracy: Representation, Mastery, Discipline, Anticipation*. New York, Oxford University Press, Chapter 6.
- Why realism is central to public administration. *Medium.com*, December 26, 2016.
- For public administration, fragility is the new reality. *Medium.com*, October 7, 2016.
- Public management: A flawed kind of statecraft. In Milward et al. "Is Public Management Neglecting the State?" *Governance* 29, no. 3 (2016): 1-26
- *Large Forces: What's Missing in Public Administration*. CreateSpace: October 2013.
- What's wrong with the intellectual history of Public Administration. *Public Voices*, 11.2 (2010), pp. 10-14.
- The path not taken: Leonard White and the macrodynamics of administrative development. *Public Administration Review*, 69.4 (July/August 2009): 764-775.

DÉCLINISME

The End of the Anglo-American Order

VOICE

Is America a Failing State?

BY DAVID ROTHKOPF | MAY 10, 2017, 12:37 AM

MAY 3, 2017



Public Trust in Government Remains Near Historic Lows as Partisan Attitudes Shift

Democrats' confidence in country's future declines sharply



HOW
DEMOCRACIES
DIE

Chinese state media: US government shutdown exposes 'chronic flaws'

THE MAIN POINTS

- **Failure?** - No
 - Not in the long-run and on the fundamentals
 - Not on the problems of the 1970s
- **Danger?** - Yes
 - A reality, but not new or avoidable
 - How should we think about governance?
 - Crafting & adapting strategies in a turbulent world
 - Avoiding the cycle of hubris and despair

THE LONG VIEW

- The long peace
- Internal order and respect for law
- Controlled economic growth
- Longevity and health
- Education
- Protection against arbitrary governmental action and discrimination
- Enfranchisement

American Democracy Is in Trouble

Inflation rate nears 13%

Running Amok With Your Money

THE TERRORIST PLAGUE

U.S. crime rate soars

New Soviet power threat seen

Japan: Partner or Rival?

HOW WE GOVERN: TWO OBSERVATIONS

- The reality of large-scale institutional change – for example:
 - Mechanisms for regulating economy
 - Internal and national security
 - Representation and human rights
 - Cycles of hubris and despair

No Congress of the United States ever assembled, on surveying the state of the Union, has met with a more pleasing prospect than that which appears at the present time.

In the domestic field there is tranquility and contentment, harmonious relations between management and wage earner, freedom from industrial strife, and the highest record of years of prosperity.

In the foreign field there is peace, the good will which comes from mutual understanding, and the knowledge that the problems which a short time ago appeared so ominous are yielding to the touch of manifest friendship.

Calvin Coolidge, State of the Union Address, December 1928

The old sweeping issues very largely have disappeared. The central domestic issues of our time are more subtle and less simple. They relate not to basic clashes of philosophy or ideology but to ways and means of reaching common goals . . .

What is at stake in our economic decisions today is not some grand warfare of rival ideologies which will sweep the country with passion but the practical management of a modern economy.

John F. Kennedy, Yale Commencement Address, 1962

The great struggles of the twentieth century between liberty and totalitarianism ended with a decisive victory for the forces of freedom -- and a single sustainable model for national success: freedom, democracy, and free enterprise. In the twenty-first century, only nations that share a commitment to protecting basic human rights and guaranteeing political and economic freedom will be able to unleash the potential of their people and assure their future prosperity.

George W. Bush, *National Security Strategy of the United States*,
September 2002

THE CHALLENGE OF GOVERNING WELL

- Leaders juggle goals: security, internal order, prosperity, justice
- They formulate strategies that identify priorities, tactics
- And execute strategies by building, consolidating, running institutions
- But conditions and perceptions are unstable
- So strategies are fragile and ephemeral
- Adaption is slow, painful – and unavoidable

THE PRESENT MOMENT

- The collapse of a strategy
- Ideational and institutional deconsolidation
- Search for a new strategy and a new supporting coalition
- Complicated by a bout of bad fortune

Let me first ask the question: Is public administration responding at a high level of consciousness and self-consciousness to the fact that we are in a time of revolutions? Despite all I said above about our being deeply involved one way or another—as cause, effect, and process—my own response would be: No. My assignment as Editor-in-Chief of PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REVIEW offers me a good vantage point from which to look around. The manuscripts that I receive are on the whole continually better—sharper, deeper, more imaginative. Still, the level of response to what *I* think are genuine crisis situations is not very high.

Dwight Waldo, April 1968