

In the tradition of *The Lonely Crowd*, an ambitious sociological, psychological, philosophical, and economic analysis of the rise since the 1960s of a new American elite whose narcissism and moral corruption threaten to destroy the fabric of the nation.

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In the late 1970s, Sir John Bagot Glubb published a now mostly forgotten book called *The Fate of Empires and Search for Survival*, which estimated that most empires do not last more than 250 years. As America approaches that auspicious benchmark, a new elite has risen to power that threatens to make the once-great country another footnote of history.

For more than 150 years, America built itself into a global beacon of power and hope atop a firmament of covenant—a sacred commitment, exemplified in the founding documents but maintained and updated through the decades, to a societal structure based on a shared sense of history and destiny. But beginning in the 1960s with the assassination of JFK and extending into the 1970s with the identity crisis brought on by the loss of the Vietnam War all the way up to today, this covenant began to fade, and a crippling sense of dysphoria began to emerge.

In *America vs. the Overclass*, scholar Stephen B. Young (*Kissinger's Betrayal*) reveals the deep psychosocial roots and existential danger of this turn away from the covenant and the rise of a new type of American ruling-class mentality: a powerful “other-directed,” Gnostic way of thinking that has seized the levers of power from education to business to government to turn the global beacon of power and hope into a nation of narcissistic, confused, and depressed professional managers.

Drawing together threads from Jean-Jacques Rousseau to Friedrich Hegel to Karl Marx to the great thinkers of the 20th century to today, *America vs. the Overclass* exposes the fateful, undercover battle going on for the soul of America—and how we can restore the covenant and save our country before it's too late.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

STEPHEN B. YOUNG is the global executive director of the Caux Round Table for Moral Capitalism. He is the author of *Moral Capitalism: Reconciling Private Interest with the Public Good* and *The Road to Moral Capitalism* and has served as an assistant dean at Harvard Law School and dean and professor of law at Hamline University School of Law.

His other books include: *Kissinger's Betrayal: How America Lost the Vietnam War*; *The Tradition of Human Rights in China and Vietnam* (with Nguyen Ngoc Huy); *The Theory and Practice of Associative Power: CORDS in the Villages of Vietnam 1967–1972*; and *Qur'anic Guidance for Good Governance* (coeditor with Abdullah Al-Ahsan).

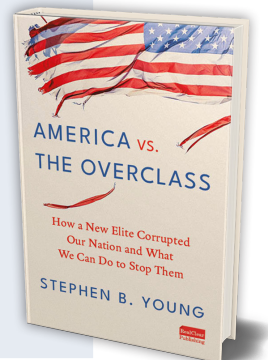
His commentaries have been published in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Asia Times*, *RealClear Politics*, *RealClear Defense*, the *American Thinker*, *American Greatness*, and the *Minnesota Star Tribune*. He also has an author's site on Substack.

PRAISE FOR AMERICA VS. THE OVERCLASS

“The challenge Young delivers to the reader is not to do something first but to become someone capable of doing something—to reckon with one’s own ethical responsibility for the institutions one inhabits and the future one is shaping. From my work in ethical leadership and human development, I recognize how this deficit of an examined self fuels moral outsourcing and institutional paralysis, even when the right course of action is widely understood. Without inwardly formed leaders willing to bear responsibility, our social, economic, and democratic systems cannot remain sustainable.” —**MICHAEL LABROSSE, psychotherapist; president, Leadership Solutions Internationale; former ethics and corporate social responsibility officer, First Bank System (now U.S. Bank)**

“I commend Steve Young for having the courage to also be a truth-teller and to give every reader the tools to do the same. As Young points out, if we recognize the power we all have to push past the fake divide, our country’s greatest days are ahead. It’s time we transform blame into responsibility.”
—**LIZ COLLIN, journalist, Alpha News, and producer, The Fall of Minneapolis**

“Young’s book provides historical and intellectual underpinnings for a movement of revival in America which is gathering force but still lacks clarity.”
—**GEORGE YEO, former Singapore foreign minister**



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Stephen B. Young is available for interviews, features, book events, speaking engagements, and appearances.

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For bulk purchase inquiries, please contact orders@mascotbooks.com.

To learn more, visit: URL TBD

TALKING POINTS

- **The 250-Year “Empire Expiration Date”:** Sir John Glubb’s thesis that empires collapse after 250 years; With America approaching its 250th anniversary in 2026, are we witnessing the “loss of will” Glubb predicted?
 - **The Rise of the “Managerial Overclass”:** How a new elite of college-educated experts has replaced founding principles with a culture of privilege and irresponsibility, and how America can get back on track.
 - **The “Other-Directed” Narcissism Epidemic:** Connecting David Riesman’s *The Lonely Crowd* to the current mental health crisis, exploring how “me-ism” among the elite has led to a loss of national courage.
 - **The Abandonment of the Working Class:** Why the Democratic Party shifted from the party of the worker to the party of the “Overclass,” and how this fueled the rise of Trump and modern political tribalism.
 - **The \$38 Trillion Debt as a Moral Failure:** The national debt is not just an economic issue, but a symptom of a ruling class that no longer honors its covenant with future generations.
 - **Vietnam and the Great Generational Shift:** Why the “Greatest Generation” served willingly in WWII while their children (Young’s own Harvard classmates of 1967) refused to serve in Vietnam, marking the beginning of the end for the American covenant.
 - **Escalating Political Violence:** How the broken American covenant causes a return to the Hobbesian world of kill or be killed, eat or be eaten where “the life of man is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short” — and what must be done to create a new American covenant that serves us now and in the future.
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SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- You’ve noted that your Harvard class of 1967 had a very different view of service than your fathers’ generation. What was the specific moment you realized the American “covenant” was breaking?
- When did you start thinking about the Overclass? What incidents related to the Overclass got your attention?
- Most people talk about “the 1%” or “the Deep State.” How does your definition of the “Managerial Overclass” differ from these and why are they more dangerous to the American soul?
- You mention a “Gnostic way of thinking” has seized our institutions. Can you explain in layman’s terms how this philosophical shift leads to the “dysphoria” and confusion we see in modern society?
- Why has our education system become a factory for this Overclass rather than a tool for producing civic-minded citizens?
- You argue that our politics is “tribal and dysfunctional” because we’ve abandoned our founding principles. Is it possible to bridge the gap between the “Overclass” and the “Working Class” without a total systemic collapse? What could that look like? Or we starting to see that collapse now?
- You link current cultural movements like WOKE/DEI to the rise of this managerial elite. Do you see these movements as a cause of our decline or merely a symptom of the Overclass protecting its own power?
- The book offers a “hopeful recommendation.” If you were advising the next generation of leaders, what are the first three steps to restoring the American covenant? Do you believe they are attainable?
- Is it fair to blame the current depression and alienation among young men on the failures of the elite managers who came before them? Why or why not?
- If we don’t address the \$38 trillion debt, does any other policy matter in the long run?

