

[Download free ebook] The Decline of the West, Volume 2 (TOC) (English Edition)

## The Decline of the West, Volume 2 (TOC) (English Edition)

*Von Oswald Spengler*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



## The Decline of the West Volume II

DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

Produktinformation - Verkaufsrang: #1616255 in eBooks Veröffentlicht am: 2012-03-11 Erscheinungsdatum: 2012-03-11 File Name: B007JL2Q46 | File size: 30.Mb

**Von Oswald Spengler : The Decline of the West, Volume 2 (TOC) (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Decline of the West, Volume 2 (TOC) (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Decline of The West Is The Guiding Light of Our Time Von Alexander L. Shah Decline of The West is a book squarely beyond the range of typical modern literary critique. The fact that Dr. Spengler discovered a true existence of a living form in the history- and life-cycles of civilizations has been deliberately ignored by critics. The importance of this discovery for History as a science is on a level of Copernican helio-centric (Sun-at-the-Center) discovery in spatial sciences which inaugurated the modern advance of physical science. Yet it has not brought the official recognition that is its due. Today, as it was 500 years ago in "The Middle Ages", the ruling spirit of the establishment feels threatened by the new revolutionary discovery and is trying to find ways to live with it without the consequences and implications of Dr. Spengler's discovery presented in this book. The Roman Catholic Church tried to spread ignorance of Copernicus as well, but will its modern-day equivalents be more successful in hiding the discovery? It is up to the interested reader not to let this crime happen any longer. Having in mind the huge scope and distance both in Time and Space that Dr. Spengler's book covers, the enormous energy and time spent by him in creating the material presented in this book becomes even more astonishing considering that the book is so deeply involved and touching upon the daily events of the times we live in. Dr. Spengler in his work definitely belongs to the realm of the modern "TABOO," and precisely uncovers all the important facts and ideas, that our "accepted" intellectuals of the day DARE NOT touch upon, and prefer to avoid and misinterpret and misrepresent Dr. Spengler's thought and observations---for these are all too unnerving to them and too uncomfortably revealing about the character and direction of the times we live in. Even

though the Author has died many years ago, his insight and thought is squarely present in our every day problems, troubles and uncertainties. Seldom will one find a philosopher, political scientist and a natural scientist—all in one and yet so penetrating in his thought and truly relevant and accurate to the daily life many years after his death. Despite our civilization's boasting about the hitherto unheard-of levels of progress, creativity and prosperity unimaginable only a few dozen years ago, "Decline of the West" deals with the significance in them. The vision, understanding and practical forecasts of Dr. Spengler's scientific discipline of History encompass all of those and go beyond, at all times maintaining the "eagle's view from above" of life. The 20th century is known for its false prophets and broken ideologies, yet amid all the storm and dust raised in the conflicts of this century, people have not noticed that all this time there existed a profound voice of calm unshaken in his beliefs and unmistakable, unshakeable in the strength of his experience and position, always proven right by facts beyond his control. This is Dr. Spengler, and that makes him a lone example of a true scientist of politics. This revelation then has to tell us something profoundly significant about the nature of our Western civilization's Information Age stage and the direction it is heading in, when a person from a 100 years ago can tell us so much more intimate and relevant things about the politics, science and life of people many years after his death, than the leading historians of the day can. The average person's inability to tell truth from falsehood in the news goes beyond mere wealth of information phenomenon, and the popular Computer represents the vehicle of the Information Age, nothing more. Today it is easy to be unaware of the profound and deep metaphysical roots underlying our advanced technical civilization's materialistic developments, yet Dr. Spengler in this work masterfully uncovers them. That is why this book, Decline of The West is so important, and will help the modern reader understand much better, than through any other immediate means, the true scope, understanding and meaning of the age we live in and of the age our descendants will live in. Suffice it to say that today's world has no historic perspective on itself. Whatever masquerades as such is driven either by wishful thinking or political ideology. It is a true example of the intellectual nihilism of our times when works such as those of Dr. Spengler are deliberately passed by the intellectual elite keenly aware of its inability to deal with the disturbing insights of Dr. Spengler's mind, and consequently of its inability to rise to the rank of Spengler, preferring instead to sometimes select quotations from this great thinker in order to make themselves look bigger and wiser, --thinkers such as Hughes, Fischer and Connelly are among those. To paraphrase Spengler, nobody can escape from History's all-encompassing reach, we humans only have a luxury of pretending that we can, and like a grotesque Ostrich we bury our heads into the daily mass-circulation media training our minds, making us increasingly less capable of exercising independent thought and judgement. In the introduction, Spengler quotes his spiritual father, poet-philosopher Goethe with the description of confidence in life: "Inward form of significant life which unaware and unobserved inspires every thought and every action." That this description is no longer adequate for the life of Western Man provides a food for thought, since everything genuine in the way of feeling and thought is left open for unrestrained dissection and criticism by the standard-bearers of the modern intellectual inquisition which stifles any richness in the modes of thought in our universities, and has assumed the role of the judge, prosecutor and the jury in Media's daily virtual courtrooms, alias mass-circulation news. Hence the public truth of the moment holds sway. The lack of inward form in our daily personal lives should not therefore come as a surprise since we are trained daily to seek programmable inspiration from the external world of the macrocosm, shunning away from our own inbred microcosm and the wealth of inspiration it could have provided us with, had we given it a chance. At the very least "Decline of The West" enables the interested reader to form his or her own conclusion, which is something that Spengler's past critics could not afford to do.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Decline of The West Is The Guiding Light of Our Time Von Alexander L. Shah Decline of The West is a book squarely beyond the range of typical modern literary critique. The fact that Dr. Spengler discovered a true existence of a living form in the history- and life-cycles of civilizations has been deliberately ignored by critics. The importance of this discovery for History as a science is on a level of Copernican helio-centric (Sun-at-the-Center) discovery in spatial sciences which inaugurated the modern advance of physical science. Yet it has not brought the official recognition that is its due. Today, as it was 500 years ago in "The Middle Ages", the ruling spirit of the establishment feels threatened by the new revolutionary discovery and is trying to find ways to live with it without the consequences and implications of Dr. Spengler's discovery presented in this book. The Roman Catholic Church tried to spread ignorance of Copernicus as well, but will its modern-day equivalents be more successful in hiding the discovery? It is up to the interested reader not to let this crime happen any longer. Having in mind the huge scope and distance both in Time and Space that Dr. Spengler's book covers, the enormous energy and time spent by him in creating the material presented in this book becomes even more astonishing considering that the book is so deeply involved and touching upon the daily events of the times we live in. Dr. Spengler in his work definitely belongs to the realm of the modern "TABOO," and precisely uncovers all the important facts and ideas, that our "accepted" intellectuals of the day DARE NOT touch upon, and prefer to avoid and misinterpret and misrepresent Dr. Spengler's thought and observations---for these are all too unnerving to them and too uncomfortably revealing about the character and direction of the times we live in. Even though the Author has died many years ago, his insight and thought is squarely present in our every day problems, troubles and uncertainties. Seldom will one find a philosopher, political scientist and a natural scientist—all in one and yet so penetrating in his thought and truly relevant and accurate to the

daily life many years after his death. Despite our civilization's boasting about the hitherto unheard-of levels of progress, creativity and prosperity unimaginable only a few dozen years ago, "Decline of the West" deals with the significance in them. The vision, understanding and practical forecasts of Dr. Spengler's scientific discipline of History encompass all of those and go beyond, at all times maintaining the "eagle's view from above" of life. The 20th century is known for its false prophets and broken ideologies, yet amid all the storm and dust raised in the conflicts of this century, people have not noticed that all this time there existed a profound voice of calm unshaken in his beliefs and unmistakable, unshakeable in the strength of his experience and position, always proven right by facts beyond his control. This is Dr. Spengler, and that makes him a lone example of a true scientist of politics. This revelation then has to tell us something profoundly significant about the nature of our Western civilization's Information Age stage and the direction it is heading in, when a person from a 100 years ago can tell us so much more intimate and relevant things about the politics, science and life of people many years after his death, than the leading historians of the day can. The average person's inability to tell truth from falsehood in the news goes beyond mere wealth of information phenomenon, and the popular Computer represents the vehicle of the Information Age, nothing more. Today it is easy to be unaware of the profound and deep metaphysical roots underlying our advanced technical civilization's materialistic developments, yet Dr. Spengler in this work masterfully uncovers them. That is why this book, Decline of The West is so important, and will help the modern reader understand much better, than through any other immediate means, the true scope, understanding and meaning of the age we live in and of the age our descendants will live in. Suffice it to say that today's world has no historic perspective on itself. Whatever masquerades as such is driven either by wishful thinking or political ideology. It is a true example of the intellectual nihilism of our times when works such as those of Dr. Spengler are deliberately passed by the intellectual elite keenly aware of its inability to deal with the disturbing insights of Dr. Spengler's mind, and consequently of its inability to rise to the rank of Spengler, preferring instead to sometimes select quotations from this great thinker in order to make themselves look bigger and wiser, -- thinkers such as Hughes, Fischer and Connelly are among those. To paraphrase Spengler, nobody can escape from History's all-encompassing reach, we humans only have a luxury of pretending that we can, and like a grotesque Ostrich we bury our heads into the daily mass-circulation media training our minds, making us increasingly less capable of exercising independent thought and judgement. In the introduction, Spengler quotes his spiritual father, poet-philosopher Goethe with the description of confidence in life: "Inward form of significant life which unaware and unobserved inspires every thought and every action." That this description is no longer adequate for the life of Western Man provides a food for thought, since everything genuine in the way of feeling and thought is left open for unrestrained dissection and criticism by the standard-bearers of the modern intellectual inquisition which stifles any richness in the modes of thought in our universities, and has assumed the role of the judge, prosecutor and the jury in Media's daily virtual courtrooms, alias mass-circulation news. Hence the public truth of the moment holds sway. The lack of inward form in our daily personal lives should not therefore come as a surprise since we are trained daily to seek programmable inspiration from the external world of the macrocosm, shunning away from our own inbred microcosm and the wealth of inspiration it could have provided us with, had we given it a chance. At the very least "Decline of The West" enables the interested reader to form his or her own conclusion, which is something that Spengler's past critics could not afford to do.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Decline of The West Is The Guiding Light of Our Time Von Alexander L. Shah Decline of The West is a book squarely beyond the range of typical modern literary critique. The fact that Dr. Spengler discovered a true existence of a living form in the history- and life-cycles of civilizations has been deliberately ignored by critics. The importance of this discovery for History as a science is on a level of Copernican helio-centric (Sun-at-the-Center) discovery in spatial sciences which inaugurated the modern advance of physical science. Yet it has not brought the official recognition that is its due. Today, as it was 500 years ago in "The Middle Ages", the ruling spirit of the establishment feels threatened by the new revolutionary discovery and is trying to find ways to live with it without the consequences and implications of Dr. Spengler's discovery presented in this book. The Roman Catholic Church tried to spread ignorance of Copernicus as well, but will its modern-day equivalents be more successful in hiding the discovery? It is up to the interested reader not to let this crime happen any longer. Having in mind the huge scope and distance both in Time and Space that Dr. Spengler's book covers, the enormous energy and time spent by him in creating the material presented in this book becomes even more astonishing considering that the book is so deeply involved and touching upon the daily events of the times we live in. Dr. Spengler in his work definitely belongs to the realm of the modern "TABOO," and precisely uncovers all the important facts and ideas, that our "accepted" intellectuals of the day DARE NOT touch upon, and prefer to avoid and misinterpret and misrepresent Dr. Spengler's thought and observations---for these are all too unnerving to them and too uncomfortably revealing about the character and direction of the times we live in. Even though the Author has died many years ago, his insight and thought is squarely present in our every day problems, troubles and uncertainties. Seldom will one find a philosopher, political scientist and a natural scientist-all in one and yet so penetrating in his thought and truly relevant and accurate to the daily life many years after his death. Despite our civilization's boasting about the hitherto unheard-of levels of progress, creativity and prosperity unimaginable only a few dozen years ago, "Decline of the West" deals with the significance in them. The vision, understanding and

practical forecasts of Dr. Spengler's scientific discipline of History encompass all of those and go beyond, at all times maintaining the "eagle's view from above" of life. The 20th century is known for its false prophets and broken ideologies, yet amid all the storm and dust raised in the conflicts of this century, people have not noticed that all this time there existed a profound voice of calm unshaken in his beliefs and unmistakable, unshakeable in the strength of his experience and position, always proven right by facts beyond his control. This is Dr. Spengler, and that makes him a lone example of a true scientist of politics. This revelation then has to tell us something profoundly significant about the nature of our Western civilization's Information Age stage and the direction it is heading in, when a person from a 100 years ago can tell us so much more intimate and relevant things about the politics, science and life of people many years after his death, than the leading historians of the day can. The average person's inability to tell truth from falsehood in the news goes beyond mere wealth of information phenomenon, and the popular Computer represents the vehicle of the Information Age, nothing more. Today it is easy to be unaware of the profound and deep metaphysical roots underlying our advanced technical civilization's materialistic developments, yet Dr. Spengler in this work masterfully uncovers them. That is why this book, *Decline of The West* is so important, and will help the modern reader understand much better, than through any other immediate means, the true scope, understanding and meaning of the age we live in and of the age our descendants will live in. Suffice it to say that today's world has no historic perspective on itself. Whatever masquerades as such is driven either by wishful thinking or political ideology. It is a true example of the intellectual nihilism of our times when works such as those of Dr. Spengler are deliberately passed by the intellectual elite keenly aware of its inability to deal with the disturbing insights of Dr. Spengler's mind, and consequently of its inability to rise to the rank of Spengler, preferring instead to sometimes select quotations from this great thinker in order to make themselves look bigger and wiser, --thinkers such as Hughes, Fischer and Connelly are among those. To paraphrase Spengler, nobody can escape from History's all-encompassing reach, we humans only have a luxury of pretending that we can, and like a grotesque Ostrich we bury our heads into the daily mass-circulation media training our minds, making us increasingly less capable of exercising independent thought and judgement. In the introduction, Spengler quotes his spiritual father, poet-philosopher Goethe with the description of confidence in life: "Inward form of significant life which unaware and unobserved inspires every thought and every action." That this description is no longer adequate for the life of Western Man provides a food for thought, since everything genuine in the way of feeling and thought is left open for unrestrained dissection and criticism by the standard-bearers of the modern intellectual inquisition which stifles any richness in the modes of thought in our universities, and has assumed the role of the judge, prosecutor and the jury in Media's daily virtual courtrooms, alias mass-circulation news. Hence the public truth of the moment holds sway. The lack of inward form in our daily personal lives should not therefore come as a surprise since we are trained daily to seek programmable inspiration from the external world of the macrocosm, shunning away from our own inbred microcosm and the wealth of inspiration it could have provided us with, had we given it a chance. At the very least "Decline of The West" enables the interested reader to form his or her own conclusion, which is something that Spengler's past critics could not afford to do.

Kurzbeschreibung--TRANSLATOR'S NOTE In the annotations to this volume I have followed the same course as in the first namely, that of giving primary references to the Encyclopaedia Britannica as being the most considerable work of the kind that is really widely distributed in both the English-speaking fields, though occasionally special encyclopaedias or other works are referred to. Owing to the more definitely historical character of this volume, as compared with its predecessor, and particularly its stressing of a history that scarcely figures as yet in a regular education the "Magian" such references are necessarily more numerous. Even so, more might perhaps have been inserted with advantage. The Translator's notes have no pretension to be critical in themselves, though here and there an argument is pointed with an additional example, or an obvious criticism anticipated. In each domain they will no doubt be resented by an expert, but the same expert will, it is hoped, find them useful for domains not his own. In the first volume of the English version, references to the second were necessarily given according to the pagination of the German. A comparative table of English and German page numbers has therefore been inserted. A list of corrigenda to Vol. I is also issued with this volume. London, July 1928 C. F. A. CHAPTER I ORIGIN AND LANDSCAPE (A) THE COSMIC AND THE MICROCOSM Regard the flowers at eventide as, one after the other, they close in the setting sun. Strange is the feeling that then presses in upon you a feeling of enigmatic fear in the presence of this blind dreamlike earth-bound existence. The dumb forest, the silent meadows, this bush, that twig, do not stir themselves, it is the wind that plays with them. Only the little gnat is free he dances still in the evening light, he moves whither he will. A plant is nothing on its own account. It forms a part of the landscape in which a chance made it take root. The twilight, the chill, the closing of every flower these are not cause and effect, not danger and willed answer to danger. They are a single process of nature, which is accomplishing itself near, with, and in the plant. The individual is not free to look out for itself, will for itself, or choose for itself. An animal, on the contrary, can choose. It is emancipated from the servitude of all the rest of the world. This midget swarm that dances on and on, that solitary bird still flying

through the evening, the fox approaching furtively the nest these are little worlds of their own within another great world. An animalcule in a drop of water, too tiny to be perceived by the human eye, though it lasts but a second and has but a corner of this drop as its field nevertheless is free and independent in the face of the universe. The giant oak, upon one of whose leaves the droplet hangs, is not.[1]Servitude and freedom this is in last and deepest analysis the differentia by which we distinguish vegetable and animal existence. Yet only the plant is wholly and entirely what it is; in the being of the animal there is something dual. A vegetable is only a vegetable; an animal is a vegetable and something more besides. A herd that huddles together trembling in the presence of danger, a child that clings weeping to its mother, a man desperately striving to force a way into his God all these are seeking to return out of the life of freedom into the vegetal servitude from which they were emancipated into individuality and loneliness. The seeds of a flowering plant show, under the microscope, two sheath-[1] In what follows I have drawn upon a metaphysical work that I hope shortly to be able to publish. *Pressestimmen* "This grand panorama, this imaginative sweep, this staggering erudition, this Nietzschean prose, with its fine color and ringing force, mark a work that must endure."-- Henry Hazlitt, *New York Sun*. "Here is one of the mighty books of the century, which, sooner or later, will be read by all who ponder the riddle of existence... it is a truly monumental work, at once depressing in its pessimism and exhilarating in its compelling challenge to our accepted ideas."-- Arthur D. Gayer, *The Forum*. "As one reads Spengler the thought keeps recurring, ever more insistently, that here again is one of those universal minds which we had come to think were no longer possible."-- Allen V. Peden, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. "Audacious, profound, crochety, absurd, exciting, and magnificent."-- Lewis Mumford, *The New Republic*. "With monumental learning, with an independence and coldness of judgment which defers nothing to great names or consecrated opinions, and in a style always forceful and in places eloquent, Spengler surveys man's cosmic march, analyzes social classes and the work of leaders, dissects the idea of the State... challenges the economic interpretation of history and appraises religion and religions, only to find them all, in the culture of the West, running fast to decay under the impetus of civilization doomed by destiny from which there is no escape."-- William MacDonald, *New York Times*. "Not since Nietzsche left his indelible mark upon European thought has a work of philosophy come out of Germany, or any other country in Europe, comparable in importance, brilliance and encyclopaedic knowledge with *The Decline of the West*."-- Ernest Boyd, *The Independent*. "For his methods, his challenges, and his attempts to portray the morphology of civilization, and his flaming appeal to the imagination, Spengler should be read by all who are trying to grope their way in the dusk of evening or dawn."-- Charles Beard, *New York Herald Tribune Books*. *Kurzbeschreibung*--TRANSLATOR'S NOTE In the annotations to this volume I have followed the same course as in the first namely, that of giving primary references to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* as being the most considerable work of the kind that is really widely distributed in both the English-speaking fields, though occasionally special encyclopaedias or other works are referred to. Owing to the more definitely historical character of this volume, as compared with its predecessor, and particularly its stressing of a history that scarcely figures as yet in a regular education the "Magian" such references are necessarily more numerous. Even so, more might perhaps have been inserted with advantage. The Translator's notes have no pretension to be critical in themselves, though here and there an argument is pointed with an additional example, or an obvious criticism anticipated. In each domain they will no doubt be resented by an expert, but the same expert will, it is hoped, find them useful for domains not his own. In the first volume of the English version, references to the second were necessarily given according to the pagination of the German. A comparative table of English and German page numbers has therefore been inserted. A list of corrigenda to Vol. I is also issued with this volume. London, July 1928 C. F. A.

CHAPTER I ORIGIN AND LANDSCAPE (A) THE COSMIC AND THE MICROCOSM

Regard the flowers at eventide as, one after the other, they close in the setting sun. Strange is the feeling that then presses in upon you a feeling of enigmatic fear in the presence of this blind dreamlike earth-bound existence. The dumb forest, the silent meadows, this bush, that twig, do not stir themselves, it is the wind that plays with them. Only the little gnat is free he dances still in the evening light, he moves whither he will. A plant is nothing on its own account. It forms a part of the landscape in which a chance made it take root. The twilight, the chill, the closing of every flower these are not cause and effect, not danger and willed answer to danger. They are a single process of nature, which is accomplishing itself near, with, and in the plant. The individual is not free to look out for itself, will for itself, or choose for itself. An animal, on the contrary, can choose. It is emancipated from the servitude of all the rest of the world. This midget swarm that dances on and on, that solitary bird still flying through the evening, the fox approaching furtively the nest these are little worlds of their own within another great world. An animalcule in a drop of water, too tiny to be perceived by the human eye, though it lasts but a second and has but a corner of this drop as its field nevertheless is free and independent in the face of the universe. The giant oak, upon one of whose leaves the droplet hangs, is not.[1]Servitude and freedom this is in last and deepest analysis the differentia by which we distinguish vegetable and animal existence. Yet only the plant is wholly and entirely what it is; in the being of the animal there is something dual. A vegetable is only a vegetable; an animal is a vegetable and something more besides. A herd that huddles together trembling in the presence of danger, a child that clings weeping to its mother, a man desperately striving to force a way into his God all these are seeking to return out of the life of freedom into the vegetal servitude from which they were emancipated into individuality and loneliness. The seeds of a flowering plant show, under the microscope,

two sheath-[1] In what follows I have drawn upon a metaphysical work that I hope shortly to be able to publish.