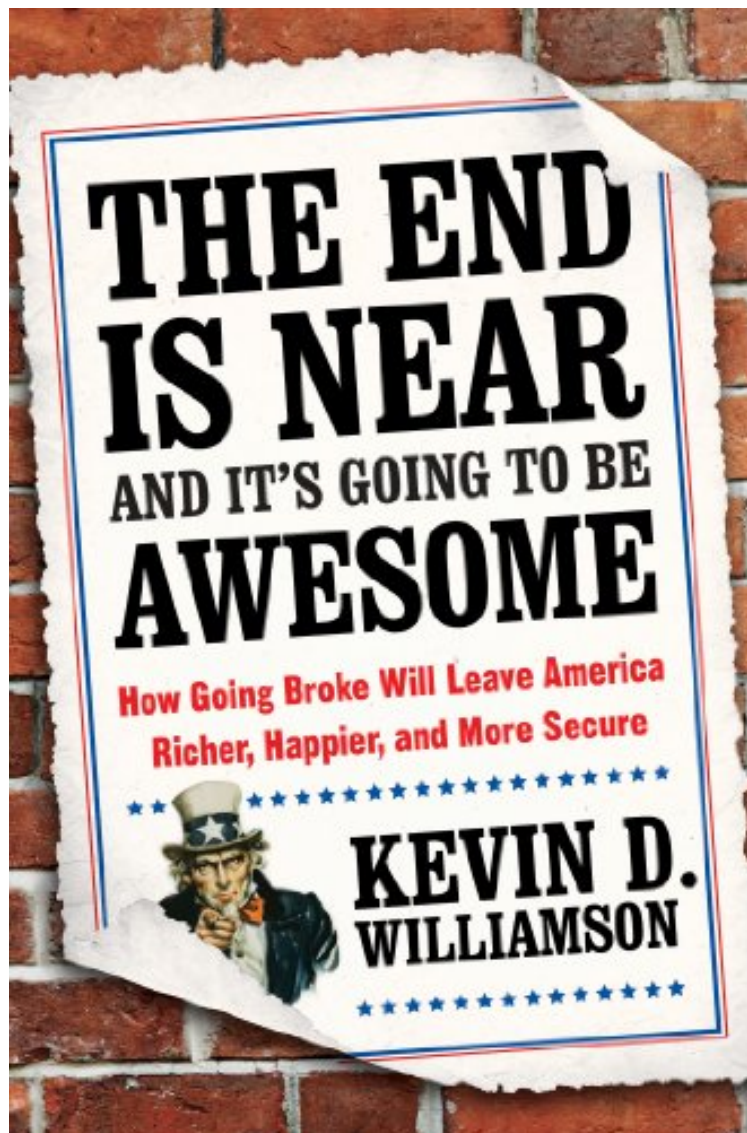


(Download) The End Is Near and It's Going to Be Awesome: How Going Broke Will Leave America Richer, Happier, and More Secure

## The End Is Near and It's Going to Be Awesome: How Going Broke Will Leave America Richer, Happier, and More Secure

*Kevin D. Williamson*

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**Kevin D. Williamson : The End Is Near and It's Going to Be Awesome: How Going Broke Will Leave America Richer, Happier, and More Secure** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The End Is Near and It's Going to Be Awesome: How Going Broke Will Leave America Richer, Happier, and More Secure:

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Tries to change the way you look at governmentBy Joe

DeSantis This is an interesting read because it tries to change the framework by which you look at contemporary political issues. His assertions that government can be defined as an institution with a monopoly on violence is not particularly original, but he explains it in a very accessible way. Same with the idea that government is immune to competitive pressures. Williamson explains the benefits of markets - the chief of them being "freedom of exit" for the consumer - and how that translates to huge improvements in quality and reduced costs. He then tackles social security, health care, and education as the big three areas where this pattern has failed to manifest, and shows how government (which he describes as an "immortal corporation") prevents this improvements in cost and quality from occurring. Williamson made the case for vouchers in an interesting way I had not previously encountered. Rather than saying that vouchers would promote "competition" (certainly true), he elevated the discussion by pointing out that the current system is confused about who its customers are and what its product is. The current system pretends that it is set up to serve the students - but since they do not control the money, it ends up trying to satisfy the sole customer who actually controls the dollars: the state. And since the state is a mess of political signals that are contradictory, self-serving, and often corrupt, the education system ends up mirroring that dysfunction. Thus, the education establishment ends up becoming an arm of the state...and the needs of students are ignored. A voucher system would reorganize the system around the needs of the students - the people who should be the real customers. He suggests that a system organized that way would rapidly change the way it operates and we would see a wide variety of different educational choices. It is the same argument as "competition" just presented in a way I had not heard before. This is useful because the "competition" talking points have grown stale. One big complaint is that the book contains no footnotes or references where I can check his sources. This is possibly just in the Kindle edition. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not the "End" But the Day After the End By Thomas T. Thomas Williamson doesn't actually predict the end of the Leviathan state or give us a timeline. What he does--and it's actually more useful--is give us some ideas for what will come after. He provides historical references for a time when the federal government was smaller and less intrusive, and people dealt with problems in a more neighborly, empirical, efficient way. This is a way to clear your mind of the biases we've been fed by government activists, academia, and Hollywood since the 1930s. What biases? First, the presumption that free markets are cutthroat, competitive, and pitiless, benefiting only the winners. Williamson reminds us that markets depend as much on cooperation, trust and trustworthiness, and reputation. Free choice in an open market is the most efficient way to satisfy individual needs. Second, that governments automatically operate in the interest of their citizens and are the best, if not the only, way to treat people equitably. Williamson reminds us that economic choices are always about value, weighing cost vs. benefit. The government tries to provide equality by imposing a uniform value system--but because people don't all value the same things, from educational goals to retirement saving to security needs, the government will make poor choices for many, if not most, people. Third, that governments are operated by a superior form of human being--wiser, more selfless, and incorruptible. Williamson reminds us that politicians have opinions, drives, and weaknesses, too. All in all, a refreshing read. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Keep writing, Kevin W. By Rex Pilger This book is for every smart adult in the English-speaking world. For libertarians: This is your argument, presented in ways you might never have imagined. Political conservatives: New ways to present your traditional views. If only we can get "our" politicians to accept Reagan's dictum: "There is no limit to what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit." Let the cream rise to the top; don't be tempted by homogenization; Williamson shows how. Christian conservatives: Ask yourself how can we use the language of this book, as the Early Church Fathers used Greek philosophy, to more effectively proclaim the Gospel? Liberals with integrity: Ponder this book -- How can the poorest of citizens in the Western world be materially richer than the poor a mere fifty years ago? Is it the Great Society who drove the bus, or was it creativity of the entrepreneur? When I reached the end of this marvelous product, I was disappointed. The last time I had this experience was with Jonah Goldberg's *Liberal Fascism: The Secret History of the American Left, From Mussolini to the Politics of Meaning*. Williamson's columns on NR will have to suffice; of course, if he devotes more time to his NR day job, the more that the next book will be delayed.

In *The End Is Near and It's Going to Be Awesome*, Kevin Williamson, a National Review Online contributor, makes the bold argument that the United States government is disintegrating--and that it is a good thing! Williamson offers a radical re-envisioning of government, a powerful analysis of why it doesn't work, and an exploration of the innovative solutions to various social problems that are spontaneously emerging as a result of the failure of politics and government. Critical and compelling, *The End Is Near and It's Going to Be Awesome: How Going Broke Will Leave America Richer, Happier, and More Secure* lays out a thoughtful plan for a new system, one based on success stories from around the country, from those who home-school their children to others who have successfully created their own currency.

Mr. Williamson is an astute observer and a talented stylist, and his book is full of vivid images and sharp phrases. -- Kyle Peterson, *The Washington Times*