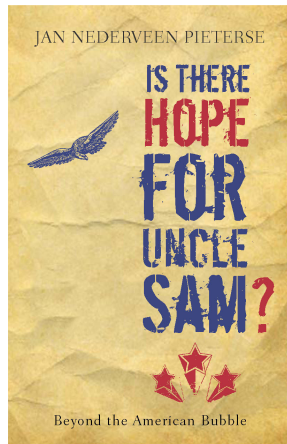




IS THERE HOPE FOR UNCLE SAM?

Beyond the American Bubble

Jan Nederveen Pieterse



A THOROUGH, DETAILED INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POWER IN THE MODERN WORLD

OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE, KALEIDOSCOPIC TREATMENT OF AMERICAN PROBLEMS

WRITTEN BY AN EXPERT WITH A HIGH REPUTATION IN THE FIELD

'Jan Nederveen Pieterse brilliantly and engagingly depicts America's failing approach to global policy, and what might be done by way of correction. This lucid analysis deserves the widest possible readership and debate.'

Richard Falk, Princeton University

Why has the dollar led the international credit crunch? Why is American military intervention increasingly unwanted and perceived as invasive? Why is American society so polarised and dissatisfied? How are the cornerstones of American social, political and economic organisation at fault, and how can they be rectified?

The 'American Bubble' has clearly burst. With the nationalisation of the last remaining investment banks and American world hegemony in decline for the first time in over a century, leading sociologist Jan Nederveen Pieterse explores where the US system has gone wrong, and what, if anything Americans can do about it.

In this provocative new title, Nederveen Pieterse examines the interlocking relationships between American money, status and power, the historic development of the 'American Bubble' and its roots in Dixie politics.

Nederveen Pieterse argues that the decline can only be stemmed by dramatic new measures, such as a reintroduction of genuinely egalitarian New Deal-style politics and a complete rethinking of America's role in the international arena, attempting to address the roots of the problem. Nevertheless, the likelihood of these changes being accepted by the majority problematises America's position further and highlights the need for swift, effective action.

This comprehensive yet highly readable book gives a fascinating insight into the mechanisms of American power today, how they grew up, fell down and affect our environment. Nederveen Pieterse also presents tenable solutions to the problems affecting the US and its relationship with the rest of the world, making this a key text for anyone trying to understand the meaning and practice of American power.

Jan Nederveen Pieterse is Professor of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His previous publications include *Ethnicities and Global Multiculture* (Rowman & Littlefield 2007) and *Globalization and Empire* (Routledge 2004). He has previously edited two Zed books *Global Futures* and *The Decolonization of Imagination*.