

"Societal collapse"

September 7, 2022 | 1 upvotes | by [Tropeland](#)

I always here people on these corners of the internet talking about it. What does "collapse" look like you to? And don't you think technology can sway most of it? Things like automation means less and less men are going to be needed to begin with and pair that with the "I'll tame you with SSRIs" culture, I highly doubt most people will ever challenge anything in the world be it with social issues or economic in any 1st world country on a revolutionary scale

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Comments

tired_hillbilly • 6 points • 7 September, 2022 04:21 AM

Societal collapse is a gradual breakdown as the culture loses coherence and the ability to maintain its institutions. It's not a revolution (though they may occur during the collapse) and it's not an extinction event (though lots of people will probably suffer and die).

A society that can't reliably get people to pair up and make more people is in for a really rough time. The problem isn't that the raw number of people falls, the problem is which demographics disappear first; young people. As fewer children are born, the proportion of the population that is retired will increase, while the proportion of the population that works decreases. It gets worse when you consider that retired people use way more resources; the majority of the average person's medical bills are in their old age. So more people need healthcare, and those people each need more, and fewer people work to support the healthcare industry. Do you think this will be good for people? And it's not just healthcare, every institution has this problem.

Things like automation means less and less men are going to be needed to begin with and pair that with the "I'll tame you with SSRIs" culture

First of all, collapse isn't going to be some uprising, at least not until it's well underway and unstoppable, so this "taming" stuff is kinda irrelevant. Society is basically a giant series of Prisoner's Dilemmas; it works as long as most people play along. If too many do what's best for them personally in the moment, the whole system falls apart and everyone suffers. That's all, no need for violence. Just general selfishness and shortsightedness is all it takes. It'll take generations too, think Fall of Rome, not Yugoslavia. Second, everything being automated and everyone being doped into an anti-depressant stupor sounds just as bad as collapse. Maybe worse actually because it might be stable; we'll all be just wasting away in dopamine comas while machines keep us alive. Truly hell.

[deleted] • 2 points • 7 September, 2022 06:43 AM

The last point reminds me of S3 in Westworld. A highly functional dystopia.

IHateNormis • 3 points • 7 September, 2022 04:06 AM

Societal collapse means not being safe and a significant decrease in the quality of life. Essentially anarchy

KirthWGersen • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 06:39 AM

Don't worry, society won't collapse just because a small minority of guys can't find girlfriends or rack up huge n- counts.

If any macro-factors cause modern society to collapse, that too is not worse worrying about, as you likely can't do anything about it (except be willing and able to move to another country when the one you are living collapses economically, as some do).

no_bling_just_ding • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 10:20 AM

i think you just implied "demographic problems arent real because people get laid"

sex doesnt solve demographics

KirthWGersen • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 10:55 AM

I don't see any demographic problems with a falling population.

I so see failure by governments to adequately prepare for the scenario.

The world could definitely do with a smaller population.

Necessary-Worry1923 • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 01:43 AM

Is this how the Mayans and Easter Islanders disappeared from history?

pikecat • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 03:09 AM

The Easter islanders cut down all of their trees. It is suspected that the Mayans suffered an environmental catastrophe, that also affected the Romans. Not enough for a serious environmental problem, but enough to disrupt a highly developed civilisation.

ruthofhades • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 04:10 AM

I think the Mayans had some sort of farming system that resulted in short term gains but was disastrous in the long term. I read about it too long ago when I visited the Yucatan. But essentially, a lot of it was their own doing.

So yeah, that was a good comparison.

RatDontPanic • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 03:52 PM

And we're sailing into a climate catastrophe of global proportions...

riverden • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 02:19 AM

Society will be challenge it will change it is in its nature to change as it always have. Society did collapse before hence the bronze age collapse and the fall of the Roman empire. People have changed society in one way or another, the round heads overthrowing the monarch and the decaying and dying feudal society and the American revolting against the British empire. Be warned the end of this era is steadily approaching and the death of this society will mark the birth of a new glorious society that will succeed the past society which succeeded it's past society. Society will never stop changing into something better.

pikecat • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 03:06 AM

The pinnacle of civilisation is the post WW2 era. Not too many people, seemingly limitless resources, unpolluted environment that could withstand pollution, most biodiversity still existed, the environment not full of nasty chemicals. All of these prerequisites of over. The future is one of austerity.

decoy88 • 2 points • 7 September, 2022 05:44 AM

The pinnacle of civilisation is the post WW2 era.

Not if you weren't white. So that's kind of a bullshit statement.

no_bling_just_ding • 0 points • 7 September, 2022 10:38 AM

if you weren't white *and in the united states, britain, or another allied nation that didn't take heavy damage from the war

decoy88 • 2 points • 7 September, 2022 10:40 AM

Yep that too. The rest of the world was fucked.

pikecat • -1 points • 7 September, 2022 06:03 AM

That may be true. Not everyone got to live those best of times. However, no newly developed country will ever exist under the conditions of the developed countries of that time. No more equal country will either.

It's going backwards, greater inequality.

decoy88 • 2 points • 7 September, 2022 06:08 AM

No. It's not. This is some white propaganda bullshit. Things were good for a one group of working and middle class white families in the West. They did not make up "civilisation".

A large part of the reason it was so good was because the country was actively leveraging the oppression of other groups and gaining massive profits. So it's no "pinnacle". Just more whitewashed trash fairytales.

[deleted] • 0 points • 7 September, 2022 06:49 AM

A large part of the reason it was so good was because the country was actively leveraging the oppression of other groups and gaining massive profits.

Remember not everyone is american lol

decoy88 • 2 points • 7 September, 2022 06:51 AM

Precisely, 'pinnacle' my backfoot.

pikecat • -1 points • 7 September, 2022 07:27 AM

That's not a criticism of what I said. I wasn't talking about the world average, I was talking about one civilisation.

When we talk about ancient Rome, we don't talk about the other people who didn't live as well.

You're straw manning, invalid argument.

My only point is that no one will ever live as well as one group of people did then. You're going off on tangents, I'm not doing a detailed and nuanced analysis of world history in a reddit comment.

decoy88 • 2 points • 7 September, 2022 07:32 AM

When we talk about ancient Rome, we don't talk about the other people who didn't live as well.

Who tf is 'we'?

You're straw manning, invalid argument.

More like you're assuming we have the same impressions and premises about these empires.

pikecat • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 07:38 AM

I listed my premises on this in my first comment, you have still never argued against that, you're trying to go sideways on other, unrelated things.

I mean those who know something about ancient Rome.

Btw, Rome did have slavery as part of their economy, and were poorer because of it.

Just like the US south was poorer than the north because of slavery. Slavery is bad economics, machines create wealth. Slaves make one man wealthy, machines make everyone well off. The middle class live better than the aristocracy of pre industrial times did.

pikecat • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 02:57 AM

Societal collapse means losing the means to maintain the technology. High tech is a very high stack of technologies. Lose one step in that stack and all of your high tech is gone. You just have to lose the high level of education of the people who keep it going and wait until those who know get old and die to lose it all.

Collapse, in historical sense, can be generations.

TriggurWarning • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 06:24 AM

History suggests human civilizations follow a cycle or pattern, and I see no evidence technology will somehow save us. But it may make it easier to rebuild after the shit hits the fan.

kokorwqac • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 06:31 AM

there is a cultural decline for sure

RatDontPanic • 1 point • 7 September, 2022 03:55 PM

Every civilization prior to the ones that exist now have collapsed. Every. Last. One.

What *idiot* thinks things will suddenly change?