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**END OF A WORLD ORDER UNDER STRESS:
From *Pax Americana* to *Pax Mysterium*?**

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Abstract

The abrupt end of the world order established *circa* 1945, which was under stress since the global financial crisis in 2008, is the starting point for this essay. The object is to analyze its implications and explore how the future might unfold. It begins with a historical perspective to set the stage before considering the context and process which led to its collapse. The focus of essay, then, is on two questions which it seeks to answer. Why do we need a world order? Why is this easier said than done? The answers suggest that the present conjuncture is the beginning of a prolonged interregnum during which the present world economic disorder will continue as the default option simply because there is no alternative. As the next step, it reflects on possible future scenarios in 2050. The most probable outcome, it concludes, is a multipolar world which, by itself, cannot create a multipolar world order. Yet, it argues that some multilateral institutional framework for international cooperation and international collective action is an imperative.