engage in endless wars for power and plunder reads like an anticipation of the deeds of Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin.

Spengler discerned the dusk of the "gilded age", the waning of the pecuniary culture, and the fading of the acquisitive society. He foretold the death of the middle-class that had flourished in the days of Queen Victoria and "King" Morgan. With the weakening of the money economy, so he claimed, the individual is forfeiting his intellectual freedom, and the citizen is losing his independence. The newspaper is displacing the book so prominent in the last century. Foreseeing the power of political propaganda, Spengler referred to "the coming Caesars of the world press. Those who have learnt to read succumb to their power, and the visionary self-determination of late democracy issues in a thoroughgoing determination of the people by the powers whom the printed word obeys ... No tamer has his animals more under his power. Unleash the people as reader-mass and it will storm through the streets, and hurl itself upon the target indicated, terrifying and breaking windows... Formerly a man did not dare to think freely. Now he dares, but cannot: his will to think is only a willingness to think to order, and that is what he feels as his liberty."

Painting a dark picture of a new age of wars and conquests to be followed by the bloody establishment of a single world empire, Spengler stressed that the coming age "will be one of actually contending States. These armies... are for war and they want war. Within two generations it will be they whose will prevails over that of all the comfortables put together. In these wars of theirs for the heritage of the whole world, continents will be staked, India, China, South Africa, Russia, Islam called out, new techniques and tactics played and counterplayed. The great cosmopolitan foci of power will dispose at their pleasure of smaller states - their territory, their economy, and their men alike..."

In a like vein Spengler anticipated the end of party government, characteristic of the nineteenth century. "The period of real party government covers scarcely two centuries and, in our case is, since the World War, well on the decline... In the beginning the leader and the apparatus came into existence for the sake of the program. Then they are held on to defensively by their incumbents for the sake of power and booty - as is already universally the case today, for thousands in every country live on the party and the offices and functions that it distributes. Lastly the program vanishes from memory and the organization works for its own sake alone."

As we see, Spengler is convinced of the growing importance of power politics and, accordingly he looks forward to the disappearance of the major ideologies: "The power that these abstract ideas possess, however, scarcely extends in time beyond the two centuries that belong to party politics, and their end comes not from refutation but from bore-