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Societies survive and grow when they successfully navigate their contradictions. Eventually, however, accumulating contradictions overwhelm existing means of navigating them.

Then social problems arise that persist or worsen inside such societies because they are unsuccessfully navigated or go unattended. Sometimes, the dominant conscious reaction to such social problems is denial, a refusal to see them.

Denial of internal social problems displaces navigating the contradictions that cause them. The resulting social decline, like the set of internal contradictions it reflects, is denied and ignored. Instead, narratives or rhetorics can arise that position such societies as victims of abuse by foreigners.

The United States in 2025 illustrates this process: its rhetorics of refusal aim to end its victimization.

In todays United States, one such rhetoric refuses to allow continued abuse by foreigners threatening our national security. This rhetoric blames bad US political leadership for its failure to put America first and thereby make it great again.

To read the rest of the article, please click: https://asiatimes.com/2025/01/rhetorics-of-refusal-deny-americas-deep-decline/

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