

Forum: [Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [The harsh reality of an EMP attack](#)

Elysium - October 3, 2018, 5:25 pm

For anonymity's sake, I am only including a small excerpt from a much larger assessment that I wrote recently.

To tack even more on to this, what if I were to tell you that even countries such as North Korea possessed this capability.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hwasong-12>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/09/14/orth-koreas-latest-nuclear-test-was-so-powerful-it-reshaped-the-mountain-above-it/?utm_term=.cb33634bb6cb

Would you all be prepared to loose power for several years? Would you be capable of dealing with the effects of the countries entire pharmaceutical, water, and food systems shutting down in the blink of an eye? How would you survive?

EDIT: For further clarification, a super EMP's pulses are generated from the detonation of a fission weapon.

For more details on the specifics of the E-1, E-2, and E-3 pulse, please see the below link. This is a good starting point:

<http://www.futurescience.com/emp/E1-E2-E3.html>

SIM-3257834 - October 3, 2018, 5:42 pm

Should I be worried considering the state I'm located at isn't even worth targeting? I'd just relay on a generator for power and MREs are easily accessible to me.

Elysium - October 3, 2018, 5:52 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 05:42 PM)Ahri. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Should I be worried considering the state I'm located at isn't even worth targeting? I'd just relay on a generator for power and MREs are easily accessible to me.

In all reality should you be worried.. Who knows?

There are a lot of factors that would need to be considered. As far as locality, that doesn't necessarily mean a whole lot. During the Starfish Prime testing of fission weapons in 1962, Hawaii was still affected and the testing took place over 900 miles away.. Considering the span of the US is approximately 2,700 miles, with modern weapons, there is absolutely the capability to take the entire power grid offline. In my opinion it is absolutely a formidable threat. Now the likelihood of a ICBM or even a tactical nuclear device bypassing all the current safety precautions in place and being detonated in the center of the United States.. Unlikely.

Just to provoke a little more thought though. How much fuel do you have saved, and how long would that last in your generator? As far as the MRE's go, they are a great option. But again, how long would they last you? And would they still be easily accessible with the rest of the people scavenging for resources?

Gt403cyl - October 3, 2018, 5:54 pm

Personally I think it would suck for sure...

However, I wouldn't be too bothered about having to find my own food and "surviving".

I think it's a lost art that many discount now as everything is so accessible.

As far as do I believe it will happen, likely not, but possible none the less.

SIM-3257834 - October 3, 2018, 5:56 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 05:52 PM).Elysium. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) In all reality should you be worried.. Who knows? There are a lot of factors that would need to be considered. As far as locality, that doesn't necessarily mean a whole lot. During the Starfish Prime testing of fission weapons in 1962, Hawaii was still affected and the testing took place over 900 miles away.. Considering the span of the US is approximately 2,700 miles, with modern weapons, there is absolutely the capability to take the entire power grid offline. In my opinion it is absolutely a formidable threat. Now the likelihood of a ICBM or even a tactical nuclear device bypassing all the current safety precautions in place and being detonated in the center of the United States.. Unlikely.

Just to provoke a little more thought though. How much fuel do you have saved, and how long would that last in your generator? As far as the MRE's go, they are a great option. But again, how long would they last you? And would they still be easily accessible with the rest of the people scavenging for resources?I've got 0 fuel saved so nothing will last. As for MREs they're easily accessible to me but I wouldn't recommend people to scavenged for em unless you want to trespass federal property.

Gt403cyl - October 3, 2018, 5:57 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 05:42 PM)Ahri. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Should I be worried considering the state I'm located at isn't even worth targeting? I'd just rely on a generator for power and MREs are easily accessible to me.

I was going to comment on the generator thing as well but they beat me to it.

Reality is I don't need electricity to live, it's a luxury!

SIM-3257834 - October 3, 2018, 6:03 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 05:57 PM)Gt403cyl Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I was going to comment on the generator thing as well but they beat me to it.

Reality is I don't need electricity to live, it's a luxury!
I'd personally just need it for lights and a electric blanket.

TwistedTechnologies - October 3, 2018, 6:03 pm

It would suck. But seeing as how my family and I have a well, a generator, plenty of gas & diesel, livestock, and guns. I'm not too worried.

SIM-3051398 - October 3, 2018, 6:08 pm

I wouldn't be able to access the internet *GASP*.

JTMBoss - October 3, 2018, 6:09 pm

well if a emp detonates rip all the people on lifesupport.

Gt403cyl - October 3, 2018, 6:11 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 06:09 PM)JTMBoss Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) well if a emp detonates rip all the people on

lifesupport.

Hospitals have backup systems, if they will help depends on the systems in place...

Elysium - October 3, 2018, 6:17 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 06:11 PM)Gt403cyl Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hospitals have backup systems, if they will help depends on the systems in place...

Not to piss in your cheerios here but most hospitals (90%+) only have generator support to last between 8-24 hours while supporting critical systems.. Critical systems being the trauma center, operating rooms, and life support systems(Ventilators, IV Infusion Rate Monitor's, etc) And that is assuming none of the hospital's electrical infrastructure was damaged during the E-1 or E-2 pulse of the EMP...

CyberStrike - October 3, 2018, 6:18 pm

I remember a while back an emp over Illinois before re-entry would blackout the majority of the USA, also people don't know but many states share power hydro or whatever it's shared like water. I know for me I have no problems going to a very spartan lifestyle, sleeping in a pile of leaves and under a tree would be luxury. This said others may not see it like that.

Gt403cyl - October 3, 2018, 6:20 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 06:17 PM).Elysium. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Not to piss in your cheerios here but most hospitals (90%+) only have generator support to last between 8-24 hours while supporting critical systems.. Critical systems being the trauma center, operating rooms, and life support systems(Ventilators, IV Infusion Rate Monitor's, etc) And that is assuming none of the hospital's electrical infrastructure was damaged during the E-1 or E-2 pulse of the EMP...

Don't worry about my Cheerio's we are on the same page...

That's why I said depending on the systems in place.

Hospitals will be top of the list for resources so fuel for generators will not be an immediate issue, I would venture to guess a couple weeks would be ok, after that all bets are off.

Meowth - October 3, 2018, 6:22 pm

If we are solely discussing hypothetical situations here, why aren't we talking about the possibility of a nuclear attack, isn't that more severe?

Who Soup - October 3, 2018, 6:22 pm

bring back lead based paint and paint an outside cover with it, gg EMP

TwistedTechnologies - October 3, 2018, 6:25 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 06:22 PM)Borderlands Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If we are solely discussing hypothetical situations here, why aren't we talking about the possibility of a nuclear attack, isn't that more severe?

Probably because the idea of nuclear attack is so clear cut and predictable. A certain radius is evaporated, a slightly larger radius is flattened, 0% of survival inside these radiuses, fallout falls, people get sick and die. But for those unaffected, life should continue on as normal.

With an EMP, every person would be affected.

Meowth - October 3, 2018, 6:26 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 06:25 PM)TwistedTechnologies Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Probably because the idea of nuclear attack is so clear cut and predictable. A certain radius is evaporated, a slightly larger radius is flattened, 0% of survival inside these radiuses, fallout falls, people get sick and die. But for those unaffected, life should continue on as normal.

With an EMP, every person would be affected.

You are saying every person isn't affected in a nuclear attack? I am sorry, but that is incorrect. Most definitely everyone would be affected in some sort of way.

TwistedTechnologies - October 3, 2018, 6:31 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 06:26 PM)Borderlands Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You are saying every person isn't affected in a nuclear attack? I am sorry, but that is incorrect. Most definitely everyone would be affected in some sort of way.

Yes yes you're right. But you asked why we don't hypothesize about nuclear attack and I told you why, it's been done too much.

Almonds - October 3, 2018, 6:39 pm

It would be devastating, I can't believe we act oblivious to the potential disaster waiting to happen.

Surely this will be brought to attention sooner or later.

Elysium - October 3, 2018, 6:48 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 06:39 PM)Almonds Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) It would be devastating, I can't believe we act oblivious to the potential disaster waiting to happen.

Surely this will be brought to attention sooner or later. I believe the reason it has been put off for so long is because of cost to reward ratio. It is a lot easier to put something off and pretend that it won't happen than to face the fact that it is a pure vulnerability and shell out the cost of fixing it. Which in this case would mean reconstructing and or updating most of the nations power grid.

(Oct 3, 2018 06:22 PM)Borderlands Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If we are solely discussing hypothetical situations here, why aren't we talking about the possibility of a nuclear attack, isn't that more severe?

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With an EMP, every person would be affected.

Or better yet, what about a fission weapon detonated at a low altitude? This would combine both the affects of the bombs blast radius while maintaining the EMP capability, albeit with a shorter range than a high altitude EMP.

Cød3ing - October 3, 2018, 6:57 pm

Hypothetically, there's easier ways to damage an energy grid, using an EMP is not very viable. One would need to physically build and deploy EMP devices across a vast geographical area without setting off flags/behaviour patterns alerting CIA, NSA and homeland security. Pretty safe to say if you possess the capacity of executing such an attack you're already on a watch list.

Energy grid systems have very slow and bad response time to large fluctuations in import/export, if the grid cannot readjust energy import/export it cascades into failure. The real damage is not from the EMPs but from the cascading failure resulting from the grids inability to adjust energy generation and export.

Mirai was a weaponised IoT malware strain that exploited 0days in IoT devices for DDoS purposes designed by someone who used it to profit by DDoSing minecraft servers and other sites (lol), then offering ddos protection solutions, see protraf solutions llc.

The interesting element behind Mirai is that a similar concept can be applied to create a real cyber

weapon of mass destruction.

Find or implement 0days in IoT energy devices like air conditioners, heating devices, solar energy inverters, shopping centers HVAC, etc. If enough energy devices are acquired in a particular geographical region they can be strategically forced to increase or decrease total energy grid consumption and thus can cause a systemic failure.

Almonds - October 3, 2018, 7:01 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 06:57 PM)Cød3ing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#)

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Wow, a thoughtful explanation.

Thanks for painting a good picture, my friend.

Elysium - October 3, 2018, 7:06 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 06:57 PM)Cød3ing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hypothetically, there's easier ways to damage an energy grid, using an EMP is not very viable. One would need to physically build and deploy EMP devices across a vast geographical area without setting off flags/behaviour patterns alerting CIA, NSA and homeland security. Pretty safe to say if you possess the capacity of executing such an attack you're already on a watch list.

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This is an interesting approach that I hadn't put much thought in to before. In the assessment that I had created, it was more of a near-peer or peer threat based focus. Primarily based off of North Korea's hydrogen bomb test last September, which actually turned out to be a boosted fission bomb. Which in a way for them, was not good news. On a global scale however it is not great as fission bombs have a smaller explosive yield but a much stronger E-1/E-2 pulse.

Seeing as i'm not very knowledgeable on the malware aspect, other than reading a few news articles on Mirai, maybe you would know the answer. Would an infection like this have the capability to cause permanent damage like that of an EMP, or would it just have the capability to shut stuff down until it was reversed, or until a ransom(I would assume..) was paid?

Gt403cyl - October 3, 2018, 7:13 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 07:06 PM).Elysium. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is an interesting approach that I hadn't put much thought in to before. In the assessment that I had created, it was more of a near-peer or peer threat based focus. Primarily based off of North Korea's hydrogen bomb test last September, which actually turned out to be a boosted fission bomb. Which in a way for them, was not good news. On a global scale however it is not great as fission bombs have a smaller explosive yield but a much stronger E-1/E-2 pulse.

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From an electronic point, if 1,000,000 toasters/coffee pots/microwaves ect... all turned on and off at the same time contiuously it would put a large fluctuation on the grid, if the fluctuation was large enough I would assume there could be damage down the line...

[Video: <https://youtu.be/yCkwXKRRHs?t=4m10s>]

Some food for thought....

Cød3ing - October 3, 2018, 7:18 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 07:06 PM).Elysium. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Seeing as i'm not very knowledgeable on the malware aspect, other than reading a few news articles on Mirai, maybe you would know the answer. Would an infection like this have the capability to cause permanent damage like that of an EMP, or would it just have the capability to shut stuff down until it was reversed, or until a ransom(I would assume..) was paid?

My understanding is that it would cause complete grid failure that would take weeks to recover.

SCADA is not generally interconnected and almost always running on ancient systems, probably due to stability reasons. The proposed IoT malware is only a carrier, the real payload is causing a large fluctuation in the energy grid.

Gt403cyl - October 3, 2018, 7:19 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 07:18 PM)Cød3ing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My understanding is that it would cause complete grid failure that would take weeks to recover.

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Agreed, see the video in my edit above.

Cød3ing - October 3, 2018, 7:29 pm

(Oct 3, 2018 07:19 PM)Gt403cyl Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Agreed, see the video in my edit above.

Good example.

More info;

<https://org.uib.no/energiforumef/Artikler/Frequency%20Fluctuations%20in%20Power%20Systems%202007.pdf> (page 31 - 35 in particular)

emotionull - October 3, 2018, 10:05 pm

I'd struggle a lot but I think i could manage.

Business - October 4, 2018, 1:08 am

I think we could fully recover over time. It'll be insanely expensive and time consuming, but it's possible.

apepi - October 4, 2018, 1:42 am

Most people have no idea what kind of problem's this would entail, society at this point is absolutely entirely reliant on technology. This is part of the reason we have a "space force" being made. Not to have star wars styles battles in the solar system, but to monitor the lower levels of the atmosphere and to try have a defense system in place against potential attacks as such.

ElasticWeed - October 4, 2018, 2:05 am

I agree with what many here have mentioned.

While it would certainly suck, it would mainly affect the economy and businesses that rely heavily on electronics.

In civilian life you could just use a generator for tasks which you want electricity for (heat source, light, etc.), but even then it's hardly a necessity and there are plenty of ways to survive without it.

Water supplies can in most places be controlled manually (think water towers) for just such a situation.

The military wouldn't really be affected in any meaningful way as they don't rely on grid power to operate anyway.

All-in-all, it would be like camping/having a long power outage, but it certainly wouldn't make society collapse over night.

apepi - October 4, 2018, 2:13 am

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All-in-all, it would be like camping/having a long power outage, but it certainly wouldn't make society collapse over night.

Most society would be absolutely screwed. People in smaller areas may be more self sufficient, but a lot of people are:

A)Stupid

B)In large cities

Emergency services would be entirely shocked, and people wouldn't know how to function. Gas wouldn't be getting delivered, and if power is completely out we wouldn't be able to keep foods fresh, much less constantly harvest things like milk, meats, ect. Maybe it wouldn't be completely collapse over night per say, but it would be a very quick and prompt transition into absolute chaos.

ElasticWeed - October 4, 2018, 2:15 am

(Oct 4, 2018 01:42 AM)aepi Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Most people have no idea what kind of problem's this would entail, society at this point is absolutely entirely reliant on technology. This is part of the reason we have a "space force" being made. Not to have star wars styles battles in the solar system, but to monitor the lower levels of the atmosphere and to try have a defense system in place against potential attacks as such.

In what way are we as individuals reliant on technology?

Did you never learn how to survive without electricity?

While it would impact the economy (manufacturing not working efficiently enough, most office jobs becoming useless, etc.), it wouldn't be as a dramatic or direct impact as you seem to imply.

People here seem to forget that electricity is still a very new technology. We have used electricity in a meaningful manner for less than 200 years, humanity existed for thousands of years without it.

aepi - October 4, 2018, 2:26 am

(Oct 4, 2018 02:15 AM)ElasticWeed Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) In what way are we as individuals reliant on technology?

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People here seem to forget that electricity is still a very new technology. We have used electricity in a meaningful manner for less than 200 years, humanity existed for thousands of years without it.

Are you joking?

You ask "we" as in me, you, and all others in society are on the same level. Yes, I have learned personally to live without technology. We aren't talking about me or you, we are talking about the masses. Most people these days don't even know how to navigate a map, and surely don't have them on hand. They won't be able to be mass printed and distributed that easy without electricity.

On top of that, as I stated before emergency services are reliant on it, people (as in the masses, not me) won't know how to prepare food.. As I said we won't have refrigeration to keep food fresh; there would be immediate panic and hoarding of all jarred and canned/ non perishable foods. It would be chaotic. If you think that the general public will just be able to brush off losing power over night, you

must live under a rock, man, lol.

I am no survivor expert but I have lived on farms and taken care of animals. It wouldn't be easy and is not something I want to do, but I would possibly be able to manage, I'd like to think, personally. Rural areas where people are used to farm style or self sufficient life would surely have a rough time, but areas where there's dense population in big cities it would be IMMEDIATE chaos. People here in USA go crazy and loot everything when there's a moderate hurricane... a mass emp attack meaning the only people who have power are those who have gasoline to run generators? Oh jeeze, that'd be insane. People wouldn't be looting jordans to be fresh, they'd be looting pharmacies for essential medicines and to make sure they get the non perishables before they're off the shelves.

Just because we survived 200 years ago without it doesn't mean anything. We had technology that wasn't electric based, that people don't just have on hand now. And people grew up knowing how to survive without it. Nearly everyone alive today grew up being pretty much completely dependent on it.

edit: not to mention, this :

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/48/World_population_v3.svg/481px-World_population_v3.svg.png

Elysium - October 4, 2018, 11:12 pm

(Oct 4, 2018 02:15 AM)ElasticWeed Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) In what way are we as individuals reliant on technology?

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While it would impact the economy (manufacturing not working efficiently enough, most office jobs becoming useless, etc.), it wouldn't be as a dramatic or direct impact as you seem to imply.

People here seem to forget that electricity is still a very new technology. We have used electricity in a meaningful manner for less than 200 years, humanity existed for thousands of years without it. While I agree that electricity is still relatively new in the grand scheme of things, everybody that is alive today has been brought up with electricity. I don't think many people would have the capability or knowledge to survive without modern services that rely on electricity. We would essentially be back to the stone ages. Economic collapse would only be the beginning. Hell, a natural disaster hits and some services are impeded for a few days and people begin to loose their minds.

ElasticWeed - October 6, 2018, 1:50 am

(Oct 4, 2018 02:26 AM)apepi Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Are you joking?

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Maybe I'm just used to living in third world countries where electricity is not a constant thing and everything works roughly the same whether there is electricity or not.

I've never heard of a place that doesn't have backup generators.

I'm not entirely sure what you'd need a map for either, all roads (both for walking and driving) are marked with plenty of signage. In fact, I was sure it was a requirement to know how to drive without a GPS or map to get a drivers license in most countries?

So let's take your examples in order:

- Maps:

As mentioned above, these are really not needed and I'm not sure what you'd really use them for anyway.

- Looting:

Well this goes for any disaster and depends on the country I'd say, but I have indeed heard that looting is a rather large problem in the USA, disaster or not.

- Medicine:

This is generally not produced in the same city it is being sold, and is normally not dependant on electricity (some exceptions do of course apply, such as pacemakers).

So as long as supplies are still coming along I don't see how this would be a problem.

Again, I'm not saying it would be fun or easy, but it's really only a problem if you make it one.

The refrigeration is the most sincere problem I can agree with on a personal level, but stores that store frozen food are sure to have backup generators.

So far I haven't really seen any concrete problem other than "people will go crazy and loot stuff" which is always a risk, but this happens in plenty of places where there is electricity as well, so this is more of a morale problem rather than an infrastructure one.

Now, my assessment obviously stems from the idea that the people would have to move/have help sent as they will not be producing anything useful during this period, so the economic problems are of course true. My counter argument is again that this could happen for a variety of reasons and is as such not monogamously correlated to lack of electricity.

apepi - October 6, 2018, 1:56 am

(Oct 6, 2018 01:50 AM)ElasticWeed Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) *edited to save space*

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*ditto*I was thinking more the first world wealthier areas of the world. Third world countries may fare better, but even them are usually repentant on electronic technology in some sore of the process at this point in time.

Maps: Ya but people in rich areas especially younger are stupid. Road signs only do so much. They can't help you navigate large distances if you cant give someone directions over the phone. I don't think there will be postal service either. Maps will exist but scarcely compared to how many people are out there. I'm sure theres stockpiles somewhere waiting to be sold but its all in warehouses from online stores no one knows where is at. As you said less technology dependent countries would suffer less. But why would these countries be attacked with such a sophisticated and devastating attack?

Looting: Rite now it's hoodlums in tornados and hurricanes and shit. They have shows called doomsday preppers for people who LOVE to prepare for this potential. Theres tons of people, so I'm sure theres a bunch who aren't public who's plan is to kill for their supplies.

But generators run on FUEL and fuel will be a problem. it may get around but it will be EXPENSIVE and drive the price of refrigerated goods to the point only social elites can afford.

I'm not even sure this is how an EMP attack works anyway, I'm assuming it takes out electricity from a decent size, if not all area from an area like the United States or Eastern Europe. I don't think thats realistic or how it'd work anyawy, but I think thats what OP meant in the question.

CheGuevara? - October 6, 2018, 1:58 am

Scenario: All electric would be fried, gone, no backup-gens, no fuel nothing can help. No electricity. Then:

Key select people would live underground. No joke, there are city's underground now. Restricted area and no way you will get even close to an entrance.

People living above? Well depends on the individuals.. However humans tends to get quite stupid in larger groups.

We could hope we would work together in a friendly lifestyle towards a better future.

We could take action to work togeher in a friendly lifestyle towards a better future.

Well yeah what will happen above... No real answer only predictions.

I would hope for the best but expect the worst.

PerfectStorm - October 6, 2018, 3:47 am

Sounds like it, thanks for sharing

CheGuevara? - October 6, 2018, 5:59 am

Speaking of an EMP attack OP are you aware of the sun flares? I think it was back in 2011(?) it came close-ish having an impact on our earth grid. ("Ley-lines").

Of course we have observing towers with live data & people at place at all times but still, it could

happen over a night. Enjoy each day!

Hah - January 1, 2019, 11:05 pm

Shit man That may be good for society, people would start to use there brains.

Elysium - January 2, 2019, 12:07 am

(Jan 2, 2019 12:38 AM)Counsomed Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) would they still be easily accessible with the rest of the people scavenging for resources?

Would what still be accessible?

RooshV - January 2, 2019, 5:38 pm

All part of God's plan to cleanse the wicked nations that are holding on by a thread. Americans and Europe will fall easily once an emp attack happens because whites are now weak and their best men have died in wars.

Elysium - January 2, 2019, 5:41 pm

(Jan 2, 2019 06:38 PM)RooshV Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) All part of God's plan to cleanse the wicked nations that are holding on by a thread. Americans and Europe will fall easily once an emp attack happens because whites are now weak and their best men have died in wars.

I don't think everything is as bibliographical as you make it out to seem. I think that with as established as the US/EU are, it would be hard to 'fall' again. Yes, it may take a lot of time and suffering but I think that everybody would be able to recover.