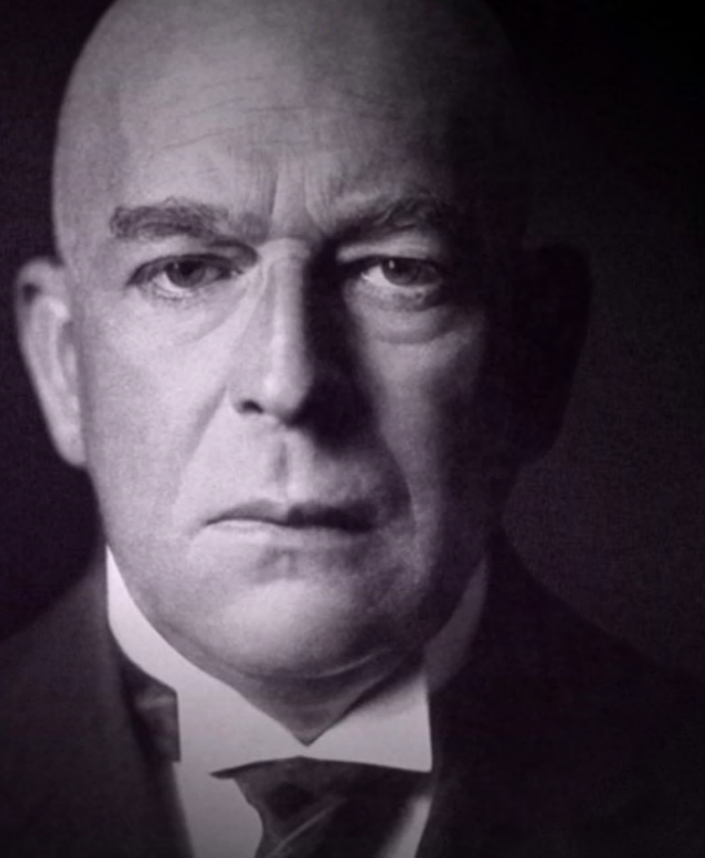
OSWALD SPENGLER
BOOK PROJECT 2026

DECLINATION OF DECLINE

OSWALD SPENGLER & AI

Recognising Patterns in a Chaotic World



by Mirna Rudan Lisak

About

Declination of Decline is an independent **book project on Oswald Spengler and pattern recognition** in the age of algorithms. The project and topic were created and **launched in 2025** by Croatian author **Mirna Rudan Lisak, PhD,** in anticipation of the **90th anniversary of Spengler's death** on 8 May 2026. A dedicated website was the outset of a much longer creative undertaking and intellectual companionship with a thinker who has influenced Mirna for many years. His philosophy was, and still is, the "operating system" of her cultural essays, in which she combines science and the arts. Now she sets *The Decline of the West* against modern technology, in which AI expands the Faustian drive beyond the physical world.

The book's thesis proposes Spengler's morphology of history as an early form of pattern recognition, the same operation AI now performs mechanically. In each essay, Mirna extends Spengler's method to the present, reviving his mind to examine whether virtual space continues civilisational expansion or is on the brink of implosion.

The noun *Declination* is in collusion with *Decline*, allowing her to see it as refusal, as declension multiplying perspectives on decline, or as a metaphor for historical rise and fall. Rather than merely writing about Spengler, the *Declination Project* uses his philosophy as a lens onto the world he glimpsed but could not yet see, asking whether we can still decline the decline in the 21st century.

Oswald Spengler (1880–1936) was a German philosopher whose monumental *The Decline of the West* was one of the bestsellers of interwar Europe. He proposed that Cultures, like living organisms, follow distinct life cycles — each with its own youth, maturity, and eventual decline, when they harden into Civilisations. He saw the West as Faustian: irrepressibly expansive and inventive, yet, like any Culture, destined for exhaustion.

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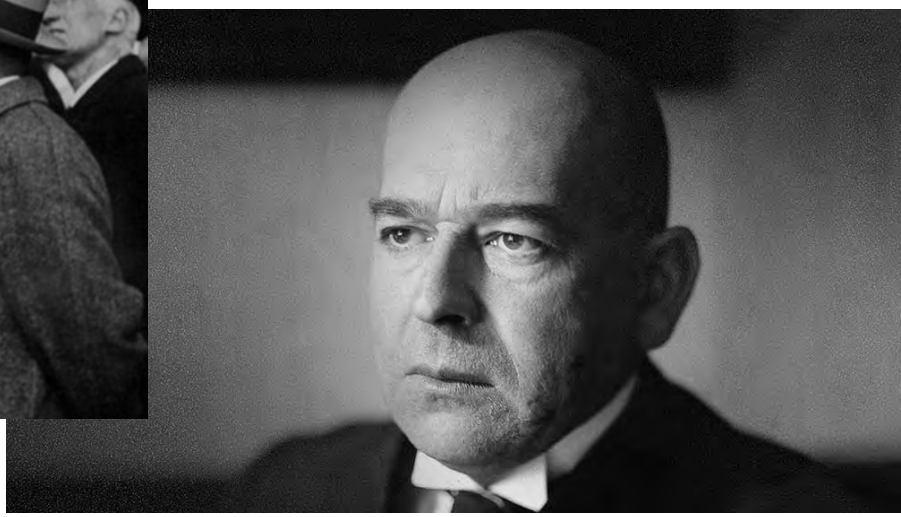
In memory of Spengler: 90 years from cultural Decline to creative Declination



Culture!

Do you decline to decline? For years, Oswald Spengler's morphology of history has been the engine behind my essays on culture and the arts. It helped me understand and write on abstraction in the performing arts, music in painting, architecture in music, antiquity in the late West, infinity in Surrealism, and now it is the "operating system" of my latest creative endeavour — the *Declination of Decline* book project, in which I explore cultural cycles, digital transformation, new structures of power, and the enduring relevance of Spengler's thought.

I created the Spengler/AI/pattern-recognition topic and launched the website in 2025, in anticipation of the 90th anniversary of Spengler's death on 8 May 2026, to open a space where Spengler's century-old method could be tested against the future. The idea came after my direct encounter with artificial intelligence, when I realised Spengler's way of thinking was an early form of pattern recognition — analogous to the operation AI now performs mechanically when identifying recurring structures across vast datasets.

The book itself consists of twelve chapters that recreate the rhythm of the year, nodding to Spengler's image of culture as a living organism passing through its life cycle (youth, maturity, old age). In it, I revisit Spengler's thought to find out whether and where it still lives today, including in the work of those who are unaware of the connection but echo his vision. Music creates the dynamic atmosphere of my Spenglerian space, and from there the chapters enter the visual arts, literature, science, politics, and technology, asking what aesthetics still means in the so-called age of algorithms and virtual reality. Spengler's old dialectical opposition between technics and lyrics, therefore, still stands:

> ***I can only hope that men of the new generation may be moved by this book to devote themselves to technics instead of lyrics, the sea instead of the paint-brush, and politics instead of epistemology. Better they could not do.***
>
> ***— Oswald Spengler, The Decline of the West***

In response, I have used all the advantages of modern technologies to introduce my work online, within a dedicated web platform, oswaldspenglerrevived.com, even before the book is published. This means my project will develop in public, moving backwards from web design to writing across 2025–2027. Essays will appear on the website, as soon as they are published in journals.

Although it is impossible to depart fully from theory and philosophy, this book project is primarily an artistic way of applying Spengler's cyclical method to my own prose rather than a work of purely academic research. I am already well into interpreting Spengler's concept of decline through atmosphere and language as much as through argument — which is why I started the project almost theatrically, setting a visual stage for a long conversation with a thinker who has influenced me for many years.

Mirna Rudan Lisak

DECLINATION OF DECLINE
OSWALD SPENGLER BOOK PROJECT 2026

- authored and launched by -

Mirna Rudan Lisak, PhD, a Croatian author and cultural essayist, continuing her long-term intellectual engagement with Oswald Spengler's cultural morphology.

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