

Towards The Information Society

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as Post-industrial SocietyThe Information SocietyThe Information Society ReaderThe Information SocietyInformation Society
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the past three decades have witnessed the worldwide growth of an information industry and the definition of the new information sector with modern telecommunications and information technology the industrialized nations are creating a system in which information goods and services can be bought and sold as in a goods market place this book defines informatization in three ways infrastructure economic and social the analysis focuses on 19 countries which are categorized as high middle and low income nations by gross domestic product per capita the countries include australia brazil canada china france germany hong kong india japan mexico the netherlands new zealand singapore south korea taiwan uk and usa

information has come to be regarded as a symbol of the age in which we live talk nowadays is of an information technology revolution even of an information society but just what does this mean in theories of the information society frank webster sets out to make sense of the information explosion he examines and assesses a variety of images of the information society and takes a sceptical look at what thinkers mean when they do refer to an information society he looks closely at different approaches to informational developments and provides critical commentaries on all the major post war theories

today information and the technologies that store and disseminate it are producing deep rooted and widespread changes in society changes of the same magnitude as those that occurred during the industrial revolution the purpose of this book is to give a complete picture of the information society by examining in detail the social economic political and cultural roles of information and information

technology this book is effectively a second edition of the author's classic *The Information Society* in it the author illustrates the major trends in and inter relationships between information information and communication technologies and the global economy and society in tracing the direction of information based change he reveals the implications for ordinary citizens for the quality of everyday life for economic and social activity and examines the prospects of nations and trading blocs this book provides a new way of looking at society one that is essential for understanding social and economic structures and processes in the information age

society to an information society

this book provides an overview of debates about whether we are entering into a phase of social existence without precedent the information society intended as a bridge between the literatures of social theory and the social impact of technology this study exposes the myths surrounding the creation of the information society discussing technologies such as cable tv and robotics

there has been much debate over the idea of the information society some thinkers have argued that information is becoming the key ordering principle in society whereas others suggest that the rise of information has been overstated whatever the case it cannot be denied that informization has produced vast changes in advanced societies the information society reader pulls together the main contributions to this debate from some of the key figures in the field major topics addressed include post industrialism surveillance transformations the network society democracy digital divisions virtual relations with a comprehensive introduction from frank webster selections from manuel castells anthony giddens michel foucault and christopher lasch amongst others and section introductions

contextualising the readings this book will be an invaluable resource for students and academics studying contemporary society and all things cyber

what are we to make of the information society many prominent theorists have argued it to be the most profound and comprehensive transformation of economy culture and politics since the rise of the industrial way of life in the 18th century some saw its arrival in a positive light where the dreams of democracy of connectivity and efficiency constituted a break with the old ways but other thinkers viewed it more in terms of the recurrent nightmare of capitalism where the processes of exploitation commodification and alienation are given much freer rein than ever before in this book robert hassan a prominent theorist in new media and its effects analyses and critically appraises these positions and forms them into a coherent narrative to illuminate the phenomenon surveying the works of major information society theorists from daniel bell to nicholas negroponte and from vincent mosco to manuel castells the information society is an invaluable resource for understanding the nature of the information society as well as the meta processes of neoliberal globalisation and the revolution in information technologies that made it possible

we are often told that we are living in an information society or that we are information workers but what exactly do these claims mean and how might they be verified in this important methodological study alistair s duff cuts through the rhetoric to get to the bottom of the information society thesis wide ranging in coverage this study will be of interest to scholars in information science communication and media studies and social theory it is a key text for the newly unified specialism of information society studies and an indispensable guide to the future of this discipline

global information society operating information systems in a dynamic global business environment is a collection of new ideas latest technology applications and experiences in global information systems development and operations it contributes significantly to the academic research and corporate business communities book jacket

first published in 1989 there is still much concern over social problems invasion of privacy computer crime control of information information inequity and unemployment due to automation continue to be studied as their existence is no longer a matter of speculation the emphasis of this book is less on the consequences of information technology than on understanding the nature of information societies

this overview of computer based crime and abuse covers a wide range of crimes and abuses including those involving hackers and computer viruses detailed technical knowledge is not needed and there are examples of incidents that have already occurred

the information society refers to a constellation of developments arising from the growing use of communication technologies in the acquisition storage and processing of information and the role of information in supporting the creation and exchange of knowledge research on information societies really began to take off in the 1970s when daniel bell wrote about the information age while there were earlier works that focused on the growing importance of information in the economy it was not until the mid 1990s and the spread of the internet that this field of study experienced a huge expansion across a broad range of disciplines in the social sciences and beyond a critical mass of scholarship has now accumulated establishing the information society and information societies as a terrain of

substance and complexity the exploration and understanding of which requires increasingly sophisticated navigation skills as research in and around the area continues to flourish as never before this new title in routledge s major works series critical concepts in sociology meets the need for an authoritative reference work to make sense of a rapidly growing and ever more complex corpus of literature and to provide a map of the area as it has emerged and developed over the last thirty years or so the information society is fully indexed and has a comprehensive introduction newly written by the editor which places the material in its historical and intellectual context it is an essential work of reference and is destined to be valued by scholars and students as well as policy makers and practitioners in the field as a vital one stop research resource

in this timely new book christopher may surveys some of the most influential and important writings that declare we are entering a new information age it is frequently asserted that this will bring about a social transformation and that the character of work is being transformed by the widespread deployment of information and communication technologies in a similar manner we are told the world of politics is changing with new communities emerging which will alter the practices of politics in profound and novel ways and which will significantly reduce the role of the state and government each of these claims is subjected to a detailed critique christopher may suggests that while there have clearly been some major and important changes prompted by the information technology revolution these are often changes only in the forms of activity and not their substance the information age represents some marked and important continuities with previous social practices rather than the overthrow of all that has gone before this sceptical view balances and moderates the often hysterical celebration of the new information society a celebration which the author argues often lapses into an apologia for modern capitalism the information society will be of particular interest to students in sociology politics political economy

media and cultural studies and information studies

past present and future of research in the information society examines the role of research and the production of knowledge in the information society with special emphasis on developing areas of the world past present and future of research in the information society is based on a three day conference that immediately precedes the second phase of the world summit on the information society wsis in tunisia november 2005 core issues of the conference lie at the intersection of computer science and engineering information and communication technologies the world wide web and development past present and future of research in the information society is designed for a professional audience composed of researchers and practitioners in industry this book is also suitable for graduate level students in computer science engineering and sociology

first published in 1989 routledge is an imprint of taylor francis an informa company

the assumption underlying this book is that we are facing a societal transformation a silent revolution in fact with consequences at least as far reaching as those of the industrial revolution the author of this book wants to intervene in the current discussion about this revolution a discussion which is normally colored by a resigned determinism maintaining that the transformation will come about all by itself as an automatic consequence of the development of technology as opposed to this the author wants to politicize the debate by insisting on the fact that this silent revolution is not inextricably tied to the automatically whirring computer discs of technological development but is dependent on a number of political choices

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Introduction

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