



The Coming of Post-Industrial Society: A Venture in Social Forecasting

Daniel Bell

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In 1976, Daniel Bell's historical work predicted a vastly different society developing—one that will rely on the “economics of information” rather than the “economics of goods.” Bell argued that the new society would not displace the older one but rather overlie some of the previous layers just as the industrial society did not completely eradicate the agrarian sectors of our society. The post-industrial society's dimensions would include the spread of a knowledge class, the change from goods to services and the role of women. All of these would be dependent on the expansion of services in the economic sector and an increasing dependence on science as the means of innovating and organizing technological change. Bell prophetically stated in *The Coming of the Post-Industrial Society* that we should expect “... new premises and new powers, new constraints and new questions—with the difference that these are now on a scale that had never been previously imagined in world history.”

The Coming of Post-Industrial Society: A Venture in Social Forecasting Details

Date : Published 1999 by Basic Books, Perseus Books Group (first published 1973)

ISBN : 9780465097135

Author : Daniel Bell

Format : Paperback 507 pages

Genre : Sociology, Nonfiction, Politics, Social Science, Economics, Philosophy



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??? ??? says

Pretty solid book. It's been 10+ years since I read this graduate school.

Timothy Beidleman says

One of the most powerful and influential texts on socioeconomic, technologic, and Political endeavors on nations. The work is prophetic and gives indicators on how society will operate. This is a perfect forecast into the mind of an organization and nation.

Paul Brooks says

Truly amazing work

Paul says

From Richard Florida, Author of "The Rise of the Creative Class"
<http://www.fastcompany.com/1742367/ri...>

"I have so many favorite books, but there are three people that really influenced me. The first and most important is Jane Jacobs and her book The Economy of Cities, which I think everyone who works in business has to read. What the farm and agricultural land was for our first great American economy, what the industrial company was to the great Industrial age, what the Great American corporation was to our economy, the city is now the social and economic organizing unit of our time. If you want to understand how to be successful as a business, you have to understand not only your company, but your city that you live in. The second one is someone who equally influenced me is Peter Drucker. In Post-Capitalist Society Drucker brought together some of his best writings on the knowledge economy, the information economy, how to motivate knowledge workers. My work hopes to be a synthesis of Jacobs and Drucker. The third book is by the great sociologist Daniel Bell, called The Coming of Post-Industrial Society. He had been a journalist and had become a professor and was chronicling the changes that he saw. He was one of the first people, like Drucker, to look at the rise of more knowledge-driven, more technocratic, more meritocratic capitalism. I think anyone who wants to understand the time we live in that those three are the most important to read."

Stephen says

<http://www.economist.com/node/258185>

Kent says

If the most prominent quality of socialism is that its economy is managed, then Daniel Bell is a socialist, even though his claims that Marx assumed that the capitalists would eventually overproduce, and the world would tip in the workers' favor at this point of overproduction. Instead, what has arisen is the managing class to organize the complexity. The Post-Industrial society is a society made mainly of managers, who keep the balance of production, and who arrange for the nation's research agenda.

Leonardo says

Los textos que sientan los términos para una enorme literatura que debate la periodización de las fases de la producción moderna son: Daniel Bell, Coming of Post-Industrial Society (New York: Basic Books, 1973); y Alain Touraine, Post-Industrial Society, trad. Leonard Mayhew (New York: Random House, 1971).

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Chris says

An amazing book that forecasts much of what is to come due to a new neoliberal regime. Interestingly enough, the book is written in the early '70s, so it wrongly assumes that increased government intervention and communalism will modulate, if not curb, business-oriented thinking and practices. Also, since Bell is a fallen-Marxist, we witness his wrestling with Marx throughout the book-- not enough of a disbeliever to discount some of Marx's insights found throughout the multiple volumes of *Das Kapital*, but also needing to come to terms with the traumas of the Soviet Union and its suppression of reform minded Marxists in Prague and the like.
