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Technological Slavery: The Collected Writings Of Theodore J. Kaczynski, A.k.a. "The Unabomber"



Synopsis

“Like many of my colleagues, I felt that I could easily have been the Unabomber’s next target. He is clearly a Luddite, but simply saying this does not dismiss his argument. . . . As difficult as it is for me to acknowledge, I saw some merit in the reasoning in [Kaczynski’s writing]. I started showing friends the Kaczynski quote from Ray Kurzweil’s *The Age of Spiritual Machines*; I would hand them Kurzweil’s book, let them read the quote, and then watch their reaction as they discovered who had written it.” • Bill Joy, founder of Sun Microsystems, in “Why the Future Doesn’t Need Us,” *Wired* magazine

Theodore J. Kaczynski has been convicted for illegally transporting, mailing, and using bombs, resulting in the deaths of three people. He is now serving a life sentence in the supermax prison in Florence, Colorado. The ideas and views expressed by Kaczynski before and after his capture raise crucial issues concerning the evolution and future of our society. For the first time, the reader will have access to an uncensored personal account of his anti-technology philosophy, which goes far beyond Unabomber pop culture mythology. Feral House does not support or justify Kaczynski’s crimes, nor does the author receive royalties or compensation for this book. It is this publisher’s mission, as well as a foundation of the First Amendment, to allow the reader the ability to discern the value of any document. David Skrbina, who wrote the introduction, teaches philosophy at the University of Michigan, Dearborn.

Book Information

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Feral House (June 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1932595805

ISBN-13: 978-1932595802

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,094 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Radicalism #64 in Books > Science & Math > Technology > Social Aspects #75 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Political

Customer Reviews

"What the Unabomber did was reprehensible. And he was wrong: Killing people to bring attention to his ideas ended up making most people lock up his ideas, along with him. They became unmentionable, for politically correct folks. Well, I would rather be correct, than politically correct. And it is time for people to read "Industrial Society and its Future", by convicted serial killer Ted Kaczynski. His work, despite his deeds, deserves a place alongside Brave New World, by Aldous Huxley, and 1984 by George Orwell." --Dr. Keith Ablow, Fox News

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Theodore John Kaczynski, also known as the Unabomber, is a mathematician and social critic who carried out a campaign of mail bombings. An intellectual child prodigy, Kaczynski received an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and earned a PhD in mathematics from the University of Michigan. Dr. David Skrbina, who wrote the introduction, teaches philosophy at the University of Michigan, Dearborn.

It is fascinating and unnerving to read Kaczynski's writings. He is clearly articulate, intelligent, logical, and he cites his sources more thoroughly than some professional historians I know. Other than conventional abhorrence of violence (the subject of which his works barely touch on), it is difficult to refute many of his key ideas. Definitely not a book for people who don't want their thoughts and beliefs challenged.

Technological Slavery: The collected writings of Theodore J. Kaczynski, a. k. a. "The Unabomber" (2010, Feral House Press) consists of the collected writings of Ted Kaczynski (the convicted Unabomber) regarding the nature of technological and industrial society and his efforts to combat it through revolutionary terrorism. This book includes the manifesto released by Kaczynski (as "FC") as well as various writings and letters of Kaczynski concerning technological progress and the role of "wild nature". The book is introduced and edited by the philosopher David Skrbina who comments on the theories of Kaczynski concerning the decline of technological and industrial society. Kaczynski was a mathematics professor who left his career to pursue a solitary existence in

Montana. Kaczynski was to develop a theory of technological society and his love for nature led him to engage in acts of terrorism. For this he was arrested and is now in prison. The basic arguments presented in this book concern the role of technological and industrial society and the harm it has caused to both mankind and "wild nature". Kaczynski sees technological society as a "System" designed to oppress the individual. Kaczynski considers some of the harmful psychological effects of technological society as well as the role of "over-civilized" people and the superficiality of modern leftism and political correctness. Kaczynski examines the theories of anarcho-primitivists concerning the role of primitive humans but finds their theories to be marred by modern day political correctness. Kaczynski considers the role of revolution and examines the history of democracy as well as the role of the Russian Bolsheviks and the triumph of Western democracy in the two world wars. Kaczynski examines the harmful effects of modern day advertising and the role of surrogate activities in combating the "power process". Kaczynski regards modern technological society to be unfulfilling and thus sees the need for individuals to rebel against it. The book includes the manifesto "Industrial Society and Its Future" as well as several of the writings of Kaczynski and his letters to David Skribina and others. Kaczynski comments on the anarcho-primitivist movement explaining how modern anthropologists falsely believe that primitive societies were politically correct (in terms of gender equality, more time for leisure, and environmental soundness). Kaczynski offers several goals for revolution and explains why he left his career in math to go live in the wilderness. One thing I could not understand is why he resorted to terrorism as he did. His bombs sent to computer programmers and others were largely ineffective for his goals, resulted in unnecessary killing, and ended him up in prison. It makes little sense why someone of his intelligence would resort to such horrific and pointless measures.

I was somewhat intrigued but what exactly I would find when reading this book. It is actually very well written and makes some excellent points. Even though I disagree with the way he went about getting his writing out, you can't deny he is extremely smart and the point he makes through the entire book are valid. Recommend as a home read as you might catch a few odd looks reading it in public but surely an interesting set of ideas no matter how you view the writer.

The most worthwhile read that I've had since I picked up *Atlas Shrugged* for the first time some fifty years ago.

Possibly the best and most educational book I have ever read.

Exactly as described.

this book is a very well written and informative piece of literature. Most of it is on the internet for free you can just do a google search. A wide variety of topics are covered in this book. All in all its a really good book that i recommend that people read.

While working on a project, I stumbled across the Unabomber Manifesto, which I had never read a word of. I knew very little about Ted Kaczynski and I am not surprised why. If you put aside the man's actions and just judge the book based on its clarity, accuracy and logic, it's a pretty mind-opening piece of writing. This book includes the manifesto along with additional writing he's done while in prison, which is outstanding as it's all completely sourced. This is a very intelligent man with impeccable logic giving you his honest beliefs about the problems modern technology poses without us being aware. You may disagree with some of his premises. But in more instances than not, he simply calls the ace of spades black. The problem with his writing is that it's content no one wants to hear. Well, at least those in power. This writing isn't political in nature, although he writes pretty heavily against 'leftism.' This book is worth a read, if nothing else because it might spur some thinking on the reader's behalf. For what's it worth, I find the ad-hoc bomb on the cover completely distasteful and I wish the publishers would remove it. This isn't a book to read for shock value.

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