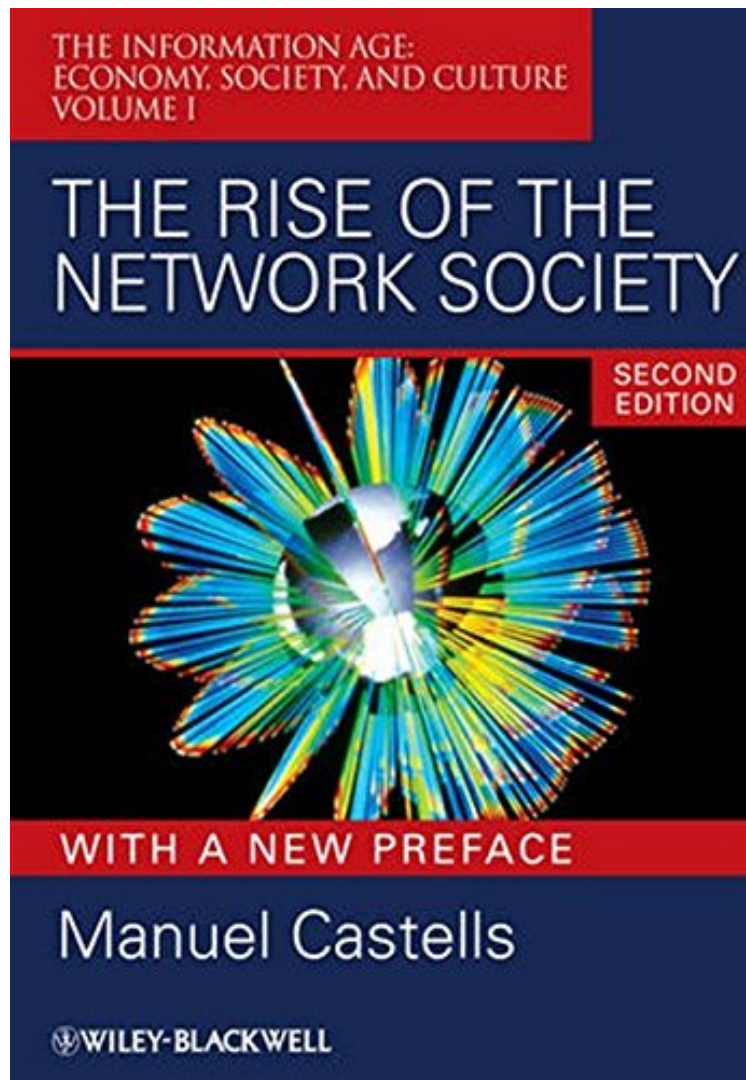


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# The Rise of the Network Society: The Information Age: Economy, Society, and Culture Volume I

*Manuel Castells*

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**Manuel Castells : The Rise of the Network Society: The Information Age: Economy, Society, and Culture Volume I** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise of the Network Society: The Information Age: Economy, Society, and Culture Volume I:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The fact is, Manuel Castells is one of the ...By junketThe fact is, Manuel Castells is one of the most cited social science scholars in the world. This kind of intellectual discourse is

beyond the experience of casual users and typical college students. Here are excerpts from a more qualified reviewer: "The trilogy begins with *The Rise of Network Society*, a syncretic masterpiece that builds on many of Castells's earlier insights (Cf. Castells 1989). The second installment, *The Power of Identity*, contextualizes the "culture wars" of the late twentieth-century in the changing political economy, while the third, *End of the Millennium*, extends those arguments into a cautious, not altogether surprising, cultural futurology. It is safe to say that few others could have attempted the scope of this work and that this paean to the information age is the only one of its kind. Remarkably, Castells is largely successful in his evocations of contemporary political economy and identity, a testament to a lifetime of teaching and scholarship. While Castells leaves us with no doubt--courtesy of a series of carefully plotted case studies--that similar processes of "fixed architecture" and "variable geometry" are at work at every level in all places on the planet, the breathtaking scope of his work (extended research and interviews on every continent), conceals the extent to which the social sciences are imbricated in the same forces that work to transform other areas of life. Hence, the "information explosion" in sociology, anthropology and urban studies has been matched by the attenuation of "information" in the public sphere to a conservative consensus castigating the victims of failed neoliberal policy. It is that mechanism: the ability to eliminate certain ideas--particularly contextualized dialectical analysis--from the terms of debate, that we find most invidious in "information society." And it is that mechanism of "network society" that Castells sometimes reproduces (at least in the case of the "underclass debate" cited above) in his own analysis. Given the pitfalls of "network society," what should we do?"-- Samuel Collins (Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, Towson University)<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=339914> of 35 people found the following review helpful. Senor Castells's 1st 2nd languages: mush; English. By A Customer My high hopes for this book were based on hype in a financial journal and were quickly dashed when I encountered sentences such as: "The full understanding of the current technological revolution would require the discussion of the specificity of new information technologies vis-a-vis their historical ancestors of equally revolutionary character, such as the discovery of printing in China probably in the late seventh century, and in Europe in the fifteenth century, a classical theme of communications literature." Note that the sentence would be more tractable if the final murky clause were dropped, if the unnecessary comma between 'century' and 'and' were also dropped, and if the awkward phrase 'probably in the late seventh century' were to be replaced with 'in about the seventh century'. Every other line of this book is like this sentence. I have been unable to detect a theme which is anything more than a verbose recitation of that which is obvious about the information age. Want to read something light and interesting which is related to the techno economy? Try "Crossing the Chasm" by Geoffrey Moore. It's a marketing book, but it's rather coherent and it explains quite a bit about the nature of the mad rush to innovate. I just completed "Conquests and Cultures" by Dr. Thomas Sowell. Dr. Sowell's work is somewhat related to the stated purposes of Senor Castells book in that 'Conquests' gives a historical world view of the ways in which peoples have fared at making the most of new technologies. I can't resist giving a tidbit from Dr. Sowell's book. Be advised that it does not typify the work. It is this: the advertisements for a coming PBS program blame white men alone for the near extermination of the American bison while attributing their resurrection to vague forces of liberalism; Dr. Sowell states that it frequently happened that Indians were hired by white men to do the hunting. -Mike O'Connor 10 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Network society: Informationalization and globalization By Suckwoo Lee This is the first volume of Manuel Castells Informational Age. The trilogy of Informational Age is the de facto classic in the sociology of information. This volume focuses mainly on the economic feature of the network society: informationalization and globalization; the transformation of the enterprise; the flexibility in labor market; interactive media; transformation of space (or, in Giddens term, time-space distanciation). You might ask what's the relevance to sociology? Naturally, it's related to question, what's the substance of sociology of information? Our day to day life can't clearly be distinguished from the economic affairs. Almost all the resources, whether they are material or human, appear as commodity or service which are tradable. Even the culture is organized on the market. Our identity and daily time table are deeply molded by our spot in the labor market. And that, the overall dynamics of social change comes from the economy. The epochal trends, such as globalization, informationalization, have been driven mainly by the economic needs. So the network society can't be grasped without the economics. But you should not conclude that the economics is the whole story. The market alone can't sustained even itself, not to say the whole society. The economy is embedded in the society. The economy and the society are intertwined with each other, but not determined by one another. So their relation could be called as the interaction. But when it comes to IT, the things are more complicated. IT can't act by in itself. IT is the resource to be mobilized by bodily actor. IT represents the epochal change in the environment. IT is not the variable in itself. Therefore we could say that the sociology of information is about the interaction between IT, economy and society. The argument of the field is like this: our activities are increasingly organized around networks. Networks have existed throughout the human history. But IT offers unprecedentedly elevated material basis. It allows the network pervasively to expand throughout the entire society and the globe. Over decades, we have observed sea change related to IT in economy, politics, and society. Those shifts are the object of the sociology of information. Castells trilogy is about that sea change. As I said above, the first volume focuses on economic features. But Castells work has some peculiar cast. Castells characterizing informational society as network

society makes the globalization be coalesced with informationalization. For this reason, some commentators classify Castells as a theorist of globalization. In fact, this and the second volume of the trilogy could be read as great illustration of globalization. It seems that Castells assumes that informationalization could be distinguished from globalization only on the analytical rationale. So he characterizes informational age as the network society. The term could be applied to both trends. Before closing the review, I should warn you that if you expect the firm theoretical founding, you should read first Castells Information City, as I mentioned in the review of the authors another book, The Internet Galaxy. For example, Castells coined the term of the mode of development to periodize the informational age. Its not a new mode of production like the capitalism, but a new mode of development which is different from industrialism or Fordism. But anywhere is the trilogy, you cant find such a theorizing. Without that kind of founding, the trilogy cant avoid being read as interesting but bulky sketching out the current affairs.

This first book in Castells' groundbreaking trilogy, with a substantial new preface, highlights the economic and social dynamics of the information age and shows how the network society has now fully risen on a global scale.

Groundbreaking volume on the impact of the age of information on all aspects of society Includes coverage of the influence of the internet and the net-economy Describes the accelerating pace of innovation and social transformation

Based on research in the USA, Asia, Latin America, and Europe

s of the Second Edition: "We live today in a period of intense and puzzling transformation, signalling perhaps a move beyond the industrial era altogether. Yet where are the great sociological works that chart this transition? Hence the importance of Manuel Castells' multivolume work, in which he seeks to chart the social and economic dynamics of the information age . . . [It] is bound to be a major reference source for years to come." (Anthony Giddens, The Times Higher Education Supplement) "Adam Smith explained how capitalism worked, and Karl Marx explained why it didn't. Now the social and economic relations of the Information Age have been captured by Manuel Castells." (Wall Street Journal) "So far, the person who has straddled the world of social theory and Silicon Valley most successfully is Manuel Castells. Castells enjoys a growing reputation as the first significant philosopher of cyberspace." (The Economist) "A must-read." (Wired) "This book goes a considerable way to helping us make sense of today's global information economy and our place in it." (Financial Times) "A brief review cannot do it justice. No other scholar has approached the subject of the information age in as engaging and innovative a way as this author. Strongly recommended for academic libraries." M. Perelman, California State University From the Back Cover A little over a decade since its first publication, the hypotheses set out in Manuel Castells' groundbreaking trilogy have largely been verified. In a substantial new preface to the first volume in the series, Castells demonstrates, in the light of major world trends, how the network society has now fully risen on a global scale. The book discusses how the global economy is now characterized by the almost instantaneous flow and exchange of information, capital, and cultural communication. These flows order and condition both consumption and production. The networks themselves reflect and create distinctive cultures. Both they and the traffic they carry are largely outside national regulation. Our dependence on the new modes of informational flow gives enormous power to those in a position to control them to control us. The main political arena is now the media, and the media are not politically answerable. Based on research in the USA, Asia, Latin America, and Europe, Castells, formulates a systematic theory of the information society and details the new social and economic developments brought by the Internet and the 'new economy'.