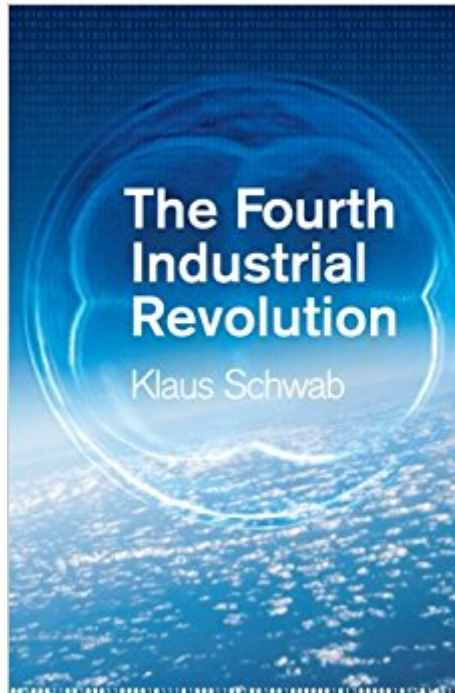




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The Fourth Industrial Revolution



Synopsis

Ubiquitous, mobile supercomputing. Artificially-intelligent robots. Self-driving cars.

Neuro-technological brain enhancements. Genetic editing. The evidence of dramatic change is all around us and it's happening at exponential speed. Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, has been at the centre of global affairs for over four decades. He is convinced that the period of change we are living through is more significant, and the ramifications of the latest technological revolution more profound than any prior period of human history. He has dubbed this era the fourth industrial revolution. Crowdsourcing ideas, insights and wisdom from the World Economic Forum's global network of business, government, civil society and youth leaders, this book looks deeply at the future that is unfolding today and how we might take collective responsibility to ensure it is a positive one for all of us.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is really very badly misconceived. And with all respect for Dr. Schwab's achievements with the World Economic Forum over the years, let's try to expose below why, sadly, this is so. As he says, there is a much different future coming for all of us, businesses and families alike. But no decision-maker in our midst is going to be left any better equipped to face that future as a result of reading the analyses and prescriptions - or really the lack of both - in this story. In fact, the Fourth Industrial Revolution may well have the impact of diverting energy away from all that ought to be thought and done about our collective socio-economic tomorrow. Now, in a perfectly serviceable (if not awfully readable) way, one is here walked through the list of all the modern and emerging techno-excitements : AI, robotics, wearable computers,

blockchain, Big Data, clouds, synthetic biology, etc, etc. But the speech soon becomes a sermon, a dirge of angst about what all the inventiveness of the modern world is doing to good human order. Like too many pastors / preachers before him, Dr. Schwab sees society's very own 3D-printed, hell-bound handcart waiting in the hard-drive. Hear the incantation start: "the new technology revolution which entails nothing less than a transformation of humankind". "Let us together shape a future what works for all by putting people first". "We are all in this together and risk being unable to tackle the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution and reap the benefits unless we collectively develop a sense of shared purpose". "It is our responsibility to ensure that we establish a set of common values to drive policy choices".

This is a first-rate and timely overview of the most extensive and profound transformation of the technological landscape in more than two centuries since the [first] Industrial Revolution. This transformation "the product of sustained research and development at an unprecedented scale over several decades, in congruent and conflating info-, bio-, nano-, neuro- and cogno-technologies, is already disrupting social structures, business models, the conduct of warfare, and the workings of both democratic and authoritarian polities around the world. As the technologies emerging from these development pipelines mature, and are combined in both foreseeable and presently unpredictable ways, the scale of the disruption will accelerate and expand, with consequences we cannot easily foresee. Those who care about the future must be better prepared. Professor Schwab records three aims: to raise awareness of the scale, speed and impact of the revolution; to outline core issues and highlight possible responses, and to provide a platform for public-private partnerships to address challenges and unlock opportunities. He and his team, drawing on the extraordinary knowledge resources of the communities of the World Economic Forum, have achieved these goals, combining the structural frame of physical, digital and biological drivers, with a brief discussion of inflection points, and consideration of the impacts of the emerging technologies on individuals, the economy, business, society, national polities and international security. The "Deep Shift" appendix, listing the present state and potential [r]evolution of 23 transformative technologies, is especially useful for those trawling for new insights.

This book is very interesting from especially three points of view. First, the author presents a complete catalogue of all the changes that have started that will change society. Second for each change he points out the potential benefit and dangers that are of equal magnitude. Third, he poses the questions that need to be answered to avoid disasters, and instead, gain benefits. At the end of

the book he recommends how to find the right answers and implement them. You will find many developments in different categories, biological, digitalization, employment, consumers, government, international security, identity, inequality morality, human connections and more. Klaus Schwab is uniquely qualified to write such a book. He founded in 1971 the World Economic Forum that organizes the yearly Davos conference where leaders from companies, governments and scientists meet in Davos. In between he meets with influential leaders from all over the world and organizes other conferences and directs research projects about for example competitiveness. An interesting and typical example, unknown to me, is the establishment of OpenAI in 2015 with the goal to "advance digital intelligence (including artificial intelligence) in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return." • Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, Solar City and Space X and a net worth of 12 billion is one of the founders. Google, Apple and IBM, also support this project. \$1 billion has already been secured to finance the development. Artificial intelligence is a good example of a development with the potential to deliver disaster and great benefit. It is a development that cannot be stopped. In most cases the author does not recommend what should be done.

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