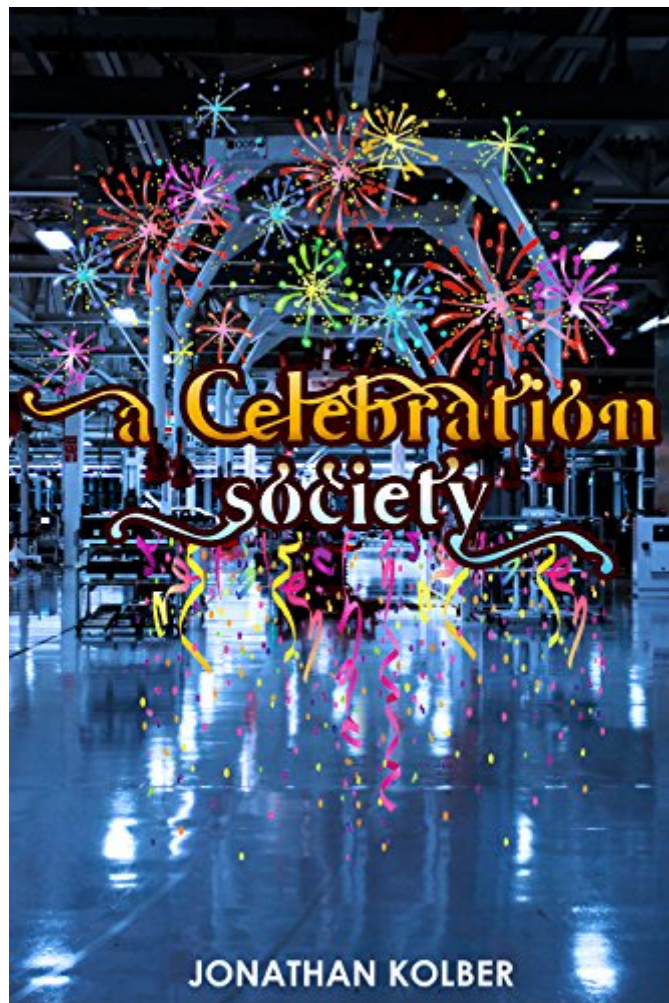


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A Celebration Society



Synopsis

Accelerating automation threatens to displace multitudes of workers. The proposals to deal with the crisis -- increased education and a guaranteed minimum income -- are insufficient. Here is a new solution from Jonathan Kolber, author of *Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations: a 21st Century Translation and Commentary*. "The author takes a systematic look at every function of a civilization: from economics to well-being to governance, and paints a picture of a civilization that is based on abundance instead of scarcity." ~Infoversant Book Reviews "Jonathan Kolber has not only produced a far reaching elucidation of many of today's (and more importantly, tomorrow's) global problems, but he has also done that rare and difficult thing - provided a thoughtful and detailed solution to them. If readers perceive the narrative of this book to be too far-fetched, then I suspect we will not be able to avoid the coming negative upheaval. If, on the other hand, people approach these ideas with an open and clear mind, I have faith for the future.Â Thanks are due to Jonathan for focusing this conversation in such a detailed way." ~Alexander R. Bandar, Ph.D. Founder/CEO of the Columbus Idea Foundry, the world's largest and most active community workshop

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Customer Reviews

This criticism claims that the Celebration Society isn't practical, because Kolber is taking potential preliminary results from research " or even just a theory/concept " and assuming they can be deployed en masse smoothly. (in particular) effective, widespread nanotechnology assemblers and disassemblers, asteroid mining, plasma converters etc etc as a given. To the author's credit, he does spell many of these assumptions out, but pays little attention to just how realistic they are. Sami Makelainen focuses solely on the "Matter" pillar of the book (one of Kolber's three "Pillars of Abundance"). As the book documents, Japan already has 3 plasma converters in operation, so their feasibility isn't in question. The question is just one of cost, and as anyone familiar with tech knows, costs plummet with widespread deployment. Likewise, asteroid mining "admittedly fanciful just decades ago" is now the focus of two very credible startups, Planetary Resources and Deep Space Industries. National governments such as China are eyeing this as well. Yes, nanotechnology assemblers/disassemblers remain pure speculation. However, the key understanding "which Makelainen apparently missed in his otherwise thoughtful critique" is that WE ONLY NEED ONE OF THESE TECHNOLOGIES to give us abundant matter. And when we've got abundant matter, energy, and software, we've got a provable basis for sustainable planetary abundance.

This is a book that politicians should read all over the World so that they can develop a vision of what society could be instead of being bogged down with the status quo, and hence very unimaginative. Jonathan Kolber has imagined the World in parts and as a whole in new ways and he has references for all of his suggestions for what we could be doing if we wanted to live in a creative and freedom-loving and rational society.

A very well written book pertaining to our future on jobs and society as a whole. The book is very well researched and very thought provoking. Jonathan has obviously put a lot of work into writing this book. The problems are laid out with education and income. The guideline is set for our future growth. It's up to us to make it happen.

The world of technology is becoming increasingly more exciting with every new advancement, yet one aspect that many consider troubling is the notion that ever more jobs are being replaced by machines. This is not a new phenomena, as we've seen such shifts occur in the past. The agricultural industry once employed over 80% of the western population - that number being reduced to less than 5% today. Thus we are left asking, will technology create more jobs than it destroys, or are we doomed to live in a jobless world? In his book, *Celebration Society*, Jonathan Kolber tackles this question head on. He deals directly with the ramifications of many professions vanishing, and addresses the question of how a society can operate without individual economic growth as a goal - the answers of which may surprise you. He has taken the task of developing a workable societal system, where scarcity is not only removed, but human quality of life improves in staggering ways. Kolger accomplishes this with an exceptional level of investigation and historical perspective. If ever there was a book that came close to sufficiently collecting all the most intelligent ideas and thoughts on potential consequences of future technology, Kolber has achieved it with *Celebration Society*. He addresses a wide array of topics ranging from government, education, energy, ethics, access to life's essentials, lacking only a discussion on issues of private property. It is a rare treat to find a book with an intriguing subject, an engrossing writer, and a well researched topic. In *Celebration Society*, we have all three.

This is a meticulously researched, fascinating and thoroughly engaging speculative-nonfiction treatise. Kolber describes a possible post scarcity, post-employment society in the coming age of instantaneous information, and zero-marginal-cost abundant resources utilizing existing and emergent technologies. Of particular note was Kolber's philosophical reevaluation of what it could mean to be a valued, "unemployed" human being in a new kind of society based on abundance rather than scarcity. He displays broad, far reaching knowledge of the societal pitfalls we face as we career toward the end of capitalism. His ideas are incredibly thought-provoking, sound and should be carefully considered as an achievable goal. He offers a celebratory alternative to a potentially troubling time in our near future when accelerating automation will upset the very foundations of Western Society." - M. Bryant
Social Psychologist and Futurist

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