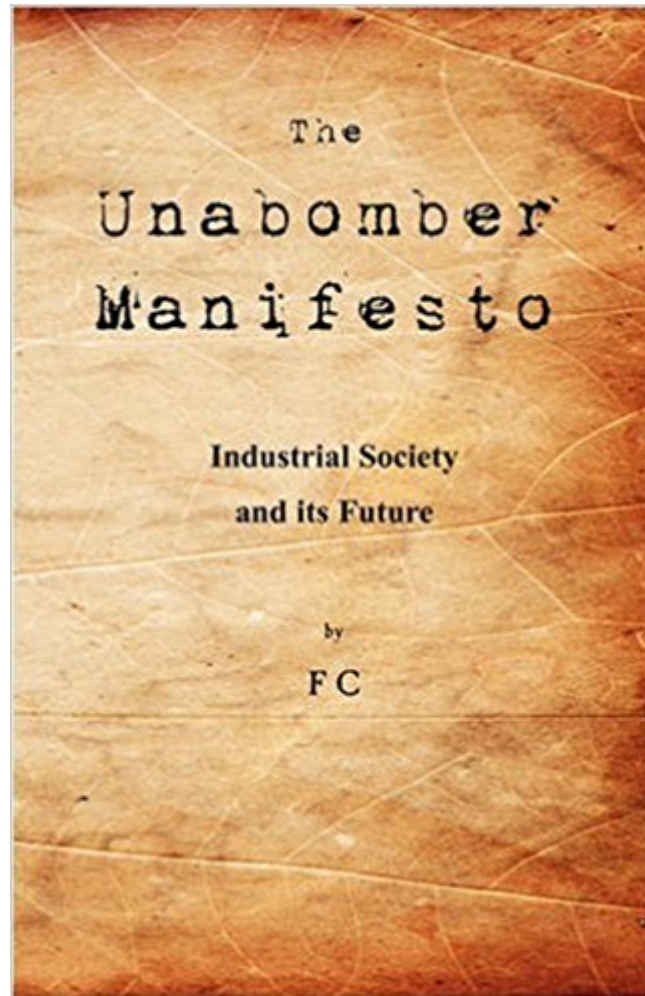




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The Unabomber Manifesto: Industrial Society And Its Future



Synopsis

In 1971 Dr. Theodore Kaczynski rejected modern society and moved to a primitive cabin in the woods of Montana. There, he began building bombs, which he sent to professors and executives to express his disdain for modern society, and to work on his magnum opus, *Industrial Society and Its Future*, forever known to the world as the Unabomber Manifesto. Responsible for three deaths and more than twenty casualties over two decades, he was finally identified and apprehended when his brother recognized his writing style while reading the 'Unabomber Manifesto.' The piece, written under the pseudonym FC (Freedom Club) was published in the New York Times after his promise to cease the bombing if a major publication printed it in its entirety.

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Customer Reviews

Read this book and see how eerily it applies to today.

Needless to say the actions and murders are not condoned at all. But looking at this manifesto from strictly an academic and sociological point of view, it's not farfetched to say that Kaczynski was an absolute genius. This book is way ahead of its time and very and eerily accurate as to the state of the world today. Ted predicted the rise of the alt left, the PC culture we live in today, but perhaps his best claim was that people are so bored today that they create artificial problems in society. A must read for anyone with half an IQ, you can't help but see his predictions for the world happening today.

First let me state that I in no way support, condone or admire any of the terrorist actions taken by the author as the Unabomber, I was intrigued enough by the Wikipedia posting of this pamphlet to get the hard copy, so as to sit down and spend some time inside the mind of someone outside the realm of our normal everyday life. And I realize that as a result of buying this, I am now, no doubt, on at least one Government watch list, such is the world we now live in, but information is information and for the moment at least, I have the right to read what I want to. This is not an easy pamphlet to read, it really does meander all over (endless footnotes and citations), as Kaczynski's mind seems to have and yet I found myself in unwilling agreement with some of his arguments (or rants, if you prefer) against the effects of a technological society on the rights and well being of the individual and the planet. Now the reader must bear in mind that this "work" was done over some time, but started long before the Green Movement was most Westerners new religion, so to say that the author was in some ways prescient about the global tipping point we find ourselves at and the true root of it all (technological society/Big Business) at least in Kaczynski's mind, is troubling, after all, isn't he criminally insane? How can he be "right" or "correct" about anything, or more to the point, how can his "manifesto" find any resonance with those of us professing to be sane in an increasingly insane world? Perhaps this work called to the Luddite or the closet conservative in me, but regardless of its origins, I thought it worth the read. Enter at your own risk... here there be dragons.

Mr. Kaczynski writes a very well-elaborated essay on Industrial or modern-day society. He makes very intellectual and sincere observations on the modern world regarding its focus on technology and the associated economic and political systems created around it, which together he defines as "the system". He goes on to explain how the system has infiltrated core human activities such as our jobs, our entertainment, and our concept of mental health. He then explains how the shift from our instinctual survival-based existence to one of pure technological advancement came about. He describes this in terms of goals related to human behaviour and contentment. In essence he states that technology came about to aid our survival needs, but (perhaps once our needs were being sufficiently met) technology eventually evolved as a goal in itself. The focus shifted from how can we meet our human needs to how can technology keep evolving. New systems were created in economy and politics, for example, to govern this new quest of technology. As a consequence of this shift from the human to the industrial, he discusses, there comes a new wave of problems in government and lack of intellectual stimulation. The system therefore has created new problems

which the system then tries to control via methods such as the entertainment industry, psychotropics, and military groups. Mr. Kaczynski's premise is that none of these problems would be problems if the basic focus had remained on the human and meeting his instinctive goals. He then calls forth a revolution on this modern society in order to create a paradigm shift that will bring us closer to what it is to be human in the flesh. However, unlike traditional revolutionaries, he does not propose a change in governmental head or even governmental method, but rather a complete absolution on what we've come to regard as Industrial Society. It is hard to flaw this piece of writing from a literature point of view. It is reasonably well-researched, broad, and cohesive. Strikingly, it is very sincere, though one may want to flaw Mr. Kaczynski's views (especially considering those that brought about his crimes and subsequent imprisonment), his arguments are so well elaborated that they are difficult to refute if only because he makes it so easy to follow his train of thought.

I read this when it was first published in the New York Times. The Unabomber said that if they printed it, he would halt his attacks. I went to the public library, the Harold Washington branch, and a woman in a yellow sweater laid it out for me on a big oak table. It was a strange time in my life, when I was living alone in my Chicago apartment with no hot water, confused by my curiosities. I had no friends other than the people I worked with at Cedric's, a used bookstore that was like a second home for people who probably didn't have a first home. We chain smoked inside, you could do that then, and talked about unusual baseball tactics like the suicide squeeze. A couple of guys had lived in Detroit after coming home from Vietnam and they were fans of the Tigers. I remember how surprised I was, I had expected the manifesto to be a clot of incoherent thoughts, but instead it was clear and well organized, almost mathematical. The author was unknown. The violence sat underneath it. Though I didn't want to admit it, I was drawn to his thoughts about technology, how we'd lost our connection to struggle, that the struggle to survive was the purpose of our lives. The librarian in the yellow sweater stacked and restacked the same books at the end of the table several times. Occasionally she looked at me as if I were a polite demon, hoping that if she remained calm I would disappear. I returned to my apartment that night and called an ex-girlfriend. She reminded me of the time we went camping at the Wisconsin Dells.

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