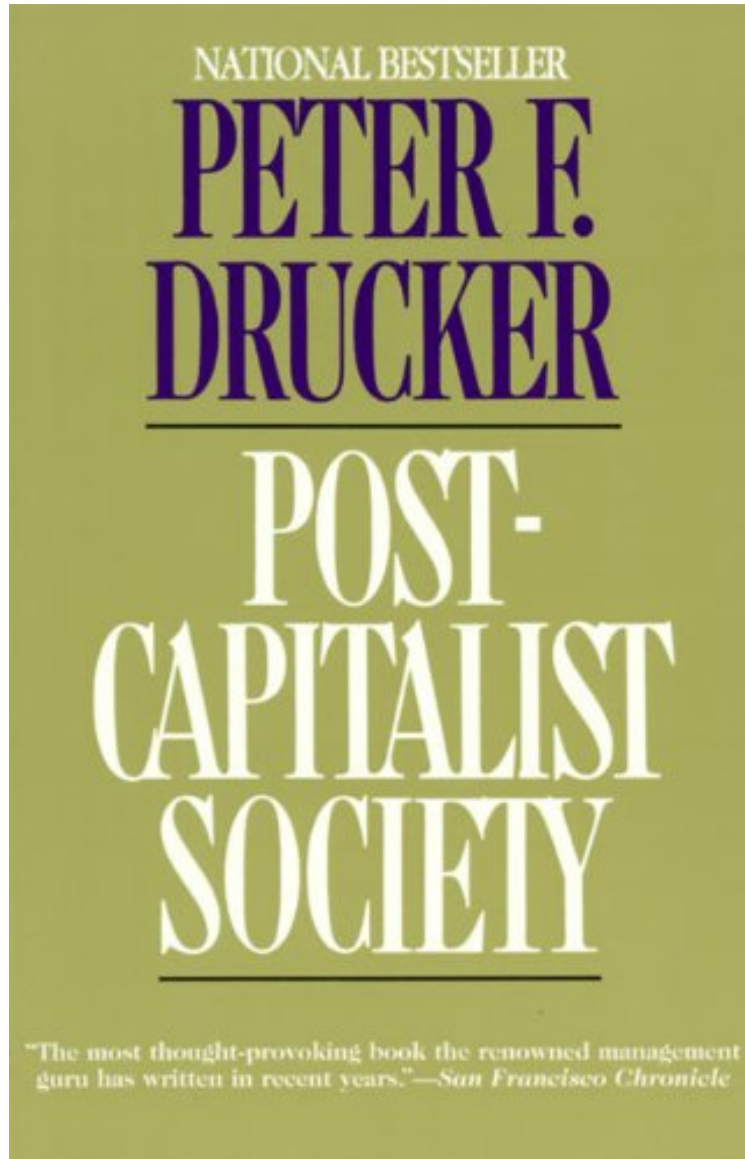


## Post-Capitalist Society

*Peter F. Drucker*

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**Peter F. Drucker : Post-Capitalist Society** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Post-Capitalist Society:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Best way to prepare for 2016By S. TrimbathIf you plan to be living and working past 2016, you need to understand today the fundamental ways that the world is changing. Drucker didn't give us a step-by-step manual for how to prosper under this new economic order. Instead, he tells us what's coming so we can modify our own steps now to keep pace with the changes. Non-academic, but definitely for the thinking-

person.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. We are becoming a world of Knowledge worker and Service worker, vs capitalists and laborers.By DavidReading this book from the vantage point of 2016, gives you that much more confidence in the books predictions because much of what it discusses have obviously taken place. However, it seems to have been a bit slower process than anticipated. The book makes a very interesting case for the replacement of a system of capitalists and laborers with a new system of knowledge worker and service worker. I would have loved to see a chapter with a recent update.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. That won't happen and if it did would like create unforeseen problems of its ownBy guyIt validates the fact that most of our problems are caused by the vagaries of human nature. It is accepted by me, at least, that most societal problems have their roots in human nature which as one author indicated would require a manipulation of genes. That won't happen and if it did would like create unforeseen problems of its own. The book is very well written, Understandable without complication,

Business guru Peter Drucker provides an incisive analysis of the major world transformation taking place, from the Age of Capitalism to the Knowledge Society, and examines the radical affects it will have on society, politics, and business now and in the coming years. This searching and incisive analysis of the major world transformation now taking place shows how it will affect society,economics, business, and politics and explains how we are movingfrom a society based on capital, land, and labor to a society whoseprimary source is knowLedge and whose key structure is theorganization.

From Publishers WeeklyDrucker's vision of a "post-capitalist society"--one in which knowledge is the basic resource and nation-states compete with transnational, regional and tribal structures--is hardly original. What is new in this invigorating essay is his far-reaching analysis of the economic crisis of militarized, wasteful "megastates" like the United States and the former Soviet Union, which have failed to bring about a meaningful redistribution of income. Improving American productivity, he writes, will require investment in human resources and infrastructure (as Japan, Germany, Korea and Taiwan have done) and a drastic restructuring of organizations, including the elimination of most management layers. The federal government, Drucker asserts, should contract out tasks in the social sphere, confining itself to the role of policymaker. Among his other provocative proposals: jettison military aid to other countries; create a public audit agency to eliminate pork-barrel deals and special-interest politics; and hold schools accountable for students' performance. He also urges the creation of transnational institutions to cope with the environment, terrorism and arms control. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalDrucker, the leading guru of management ( *Managing the Nonprofit Organization* , HarperCollins, 1990), argues that we are in the middle of a great social transformation, akin to the Renaissance, which is symbolized by the computer. The primary resource is no longer capital, land, or labor but knowledge (hence "post-capitalist"). Knowledge has become the means of production and creates value by "productivity" and "innovation" through its application to work. The new class of post-capitalist society is made up of knowledge workers and service workers. (In a similar vein, Robert B. Reich's *The Work of Nations* , LJ 3/15/91, terms knowledge workers "symbolic analysts" and service workers "routine producers" and "in-person servers.") The economic and management challenge is to make both knowledge and service workers more productive. The social challenge is to preserve the income and dignity of service workers (who lack the ability to become knowledge workers but constitute the majority of the work force) and prevent class conflict between the two. This is a provocative book that synthesizes much of Drucker's oeuvre. It will be in demand in both academic and public libraries.- Jeffrey R. Herold, Bucyrus P.L., OhioCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sPerceptive takes on the ``postcapitalist" era, which, according to Drucker (*Managing for the Future*, 1992, etc.), got under way shortly after WW II. Every few centuries, the author notes, the West undergoes a convulsive transformation that, within 50 or so years, ushers in a whole new world. Identifying the Renaissance and Industrial Revolution as prior turning points, he asserts that the Global Village is in the midst of another watershed makeover that has already caused substantive changes in its economic, moral, political, and social landscapes. Drucker argues, for instance, that the same forces that put paid to Marxism as an ideology and Communism as a social system are making capitalism obsolete as well. In other words, knowledge (not labor, land, or other forms of capital) has become the planet's primary resource. The emergence of so-called ``knowledge workers" able to put their specialized learning and/or competencies to use, he says, suggests that employees now own ``the means of production." Although the author concludes that markets will remain the effective integrators of economic activity, he believes that the implications of the ongoing shift will prove increasingly significant for the management of commercial enterprises and other key institutions. The same holds true for what Drucker designates ``the post-capitalist polity," in which transnational, regional, nation-state, even tribal structures compete and coexist. As concerned with prescription as description, the author doesn't shy away from calls to action that could make the unstable new world he envisions more productive and peaceable. He advocates, for example, the encouraging of environments that permit corporations to focus on their core responsibilities via partnerships or alliances, and the nurturing of autonomous nonprofit organizations that will restore the bonds of community as well as deliver grass-roots services. A thinking person's guide to the challenging world

ahead. -- Copyright copy;1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.