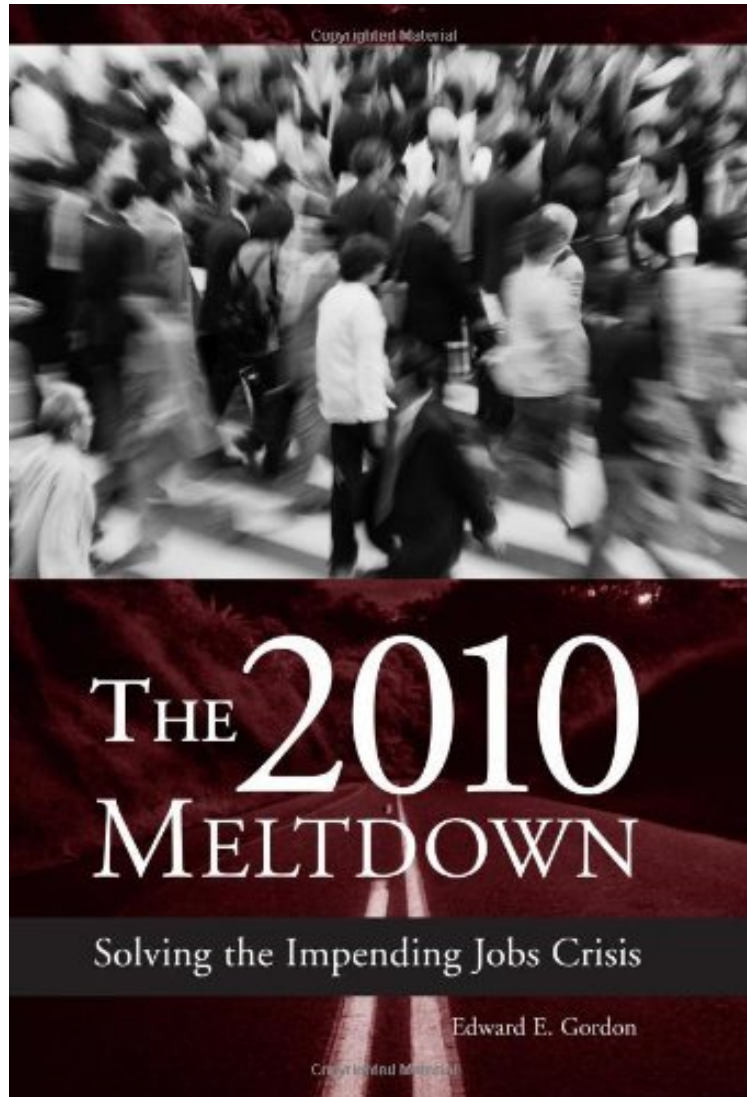


The 2010 Meltdown: Solving the Impending Jobs Crisis

Edward E. Gordon

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Edward E. Gordon : The 2010 Meltdown: Solving the Impending Jobs Crisis before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The 2010 Meltdown: Solving the Impending Jobs Crisis:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Torn by Two Visions of Ourselves By Jim L. Battin The 2010 Countdown grabbed my attention from the moment I opened it. It is well researched, data based, and yet exciting to read. Ed Gordon masterfully weaves facts, quotes, and anecdotes that engage readers of all learning styles through a history of the past, the reality of the present, and the hope of the future in dealing with the impending job crisis. While the book brings forth the start reality of labor shortages now and in the future, Gordon leaves the reader with a variety of solutions to consider. He draws conclusions from data that are not self evident but powerfully enrich his

message. This is a book that when you finally put it down and reflect, there is a sense of clarity that urges you to take action in your own way to be part of a hopeful future. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must read

By Jay Stephens This book provides the data that proves we are experiencing a skills crisis in America. Our culture promotes the "need" for a college education, yet only 15% of those who finish high school will ever attain a 2 or 4 year degree. What about the other 85% of our kids? We need to quit drinking the kool aid being distributed by the colleges and pay attention to the Technical schools. Our young people can earn a great living and have skills that are in high demand by getting technical training. This book tells about that need -- and suggests ways to fix it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book on coming high tech labor shortage

By Wikileaker This is a fairly comprehensive overview of the coming high-tech labor shortage. The other reviewers here have adequately summarized Gordon's thesis; I will merely contribute a few additional points that occurred to me as I was reading it. The main reason for the shortage of skilled workers is too few graduates from technical and trade schools. Gordon points out throughout the book that this education problem is largely one of culture, not resources. He avers in plain language that American students simply waste too much time doing stuff like watching television and goofing around on Facebook. Learning isn't "cool". It's boring. These may seem obvious points but in my experience too many of the other authors on this subject seem to be afraid to say so out loud. Gordon says plainly that this culture MUST change. It is true that there are several other important problems with the education system -- waste, bad teachers, insufficient teachers, too much faith in technology, and the myth that children won't learn unless subject matter is presented as fun. But rectifying these other problems will result in little progress until the youth culture in America changes. The author mentions another aspect of the culture problem: the business emphasis on short-term planning and goals. This mainly takes the form of business decision-makers saying something like "To heck with worker training and continuing education; all we're after is profits in the next quarter and upgrading our workforce won't contribute to that. If we need to, we'll just import the next crop of Indian graduates on H1Bs." Gordon doesn't put it quite like that, but I thought I'd paraphrase for brevity. Here's an anecdote from my own personal experience that illustrates how business contributes to the education problem. First, the kids are out of class for three months every summer, and the schools sit vacant. For those who don't know, this is an archaic practice we have inherited from the days when most citizens worked in agriculture, and the child labor was needed in the summer to harvest the crop. Second, the next town over where I live (Norfolk VA) is Virginia Beach. Over there the hotel people, the restaurateurs, the novelty shops, car rental places, etc. get most all their business in the summer months. So you can imagine that the business people like having the kids out of school for the summers. Third, Va. Beach citizens in recent years have been trying to pass legislation to modernize the public school calendar by implementing year-round attendance. Guess who won't let that needed legislation pass the City Council. THAT's partly why we have an inadequate workforce! Back to the book: One thing Gordon overlooks is the coming progress in automation technologies. By this I mean, of course, robotics and machine intelligence. It seems inconceivable that these forthcoming developments will not ultimately reduce the demand for human labor (I admit that in the short run it may well increase need for human labor). It may well turn out that the world comes to have TOO MANY humans for the remaining available jobs for which machines are unsuited. In this instance it would be necessary to find some way to keep the multitudes gainfully occupied. There is also talk of the "guaranteed minimum income" aka Social Security for All. This idea has been around for some fifty years now. I first read about it in a book called "Free Men and Free Markets" by Robert Theobald, published back in the 1960s. Perhaps its time is soon to come. The book seems to emphasize the need for skills of a vocational nature; most of the examples cited seem to be STEM and high-end blue collar labor: air traffic controllers, welders, machinists, computer programmers, and such. Job categories requiring higher education do not receive much coverage. Apparently, according to this author, there is no forthcoming meltdown in this area. Not much attention is paid to the issue of supplying financial resources to the workers so much in need of starting and continuing education. The programs mentioned for this seem to be mostly cooperative arrangements between businesses and "community organizations" (NGOs?). The author is rather vague in this department. This theme of this book constitutes a quite large subject area and though Gordon covers quite a lot of ground, coverage is spotty in a few areas I have brought up. Overall, it's a good effort well worth studying. I especially like the emphasis on America's cultural problems that so few other books on the subject tend to shy away from. Four stars.

Ed Gordon marshals a vast amount of data to illustrate how various trends are converging to create a labor vacuum? with potentially disastrous consequences for economic competitiveness and individual opportunity. He sounds a wake-up call to business leaders, policymakers, educators, and concerned citizens, employees, and parents? anyone with a stake in our economic future. Moreover, he highlights innovative initiatives in training, education, and community development in the United States and around the world that can serve as models for positive action. Ultimately, *The 2010 Meltdown* is an optimistic book about social change, setting an agenda for reforms in education, policy, and business investment that will promote economic freedom, renewal, and prosperity. It's the economy, stupid, is a refrain the United States will never live down, and not without reason. The relentless march of technological development and globalization continues to put pressure on all national economies,

providing opportunity for some and marginalization for others. Around the world, nations will need to overcome twin economic shocks: a wave of baby boomers will retire and leave the workforce, while too few young, well-educated people will be available to fill a rising tide of high-skill, technology-related jobs. Ed Gordon marshals vast amounts of data to illustrate how these trends are quickly converging, creating a labor vacuum with potentially disastrous consequences for economic competitiveness and individual opportunity. In the United States, for example, major studies agree that the majority of the jobs now being created require skills possessed by only 20 percent of the current workforce; meanwhile, a large pool of under-trained workers are seeing their jobs exported to developing countries, automated, or outsourced, while millions of high-paying jobs, in such fields as engineering, computing, and health care are going unfilled. In *The 2010 Meltdown*, Gordon sounds a wake-up call to business leaders, policymakers, educators, and concerned citizens, employees, and parents—anyone with a stake in our economic future. Beyond the demographic issues, he notes that such cultural factors as Wall Street's obsession with short-term results (which favors cost-cutting over long-term training) and neglect of math and science skills at school are contributing to a fundamental mismatch between labor supply and demand. But the news is not all grim. Gordon highlights innovative initiatives in training, education, and community development in the United States and around the world that can serve as models for positive action, and he outlines a plan for reversing the destructive trends before we reach a crucial crossroad by the year 2010. Ultimately, *The 2010 Meltdown* is an optimistic book about social change, setting an agenda for reforms in education, policy, and business investment that will promote economic freedom, renewal, and prosperity.