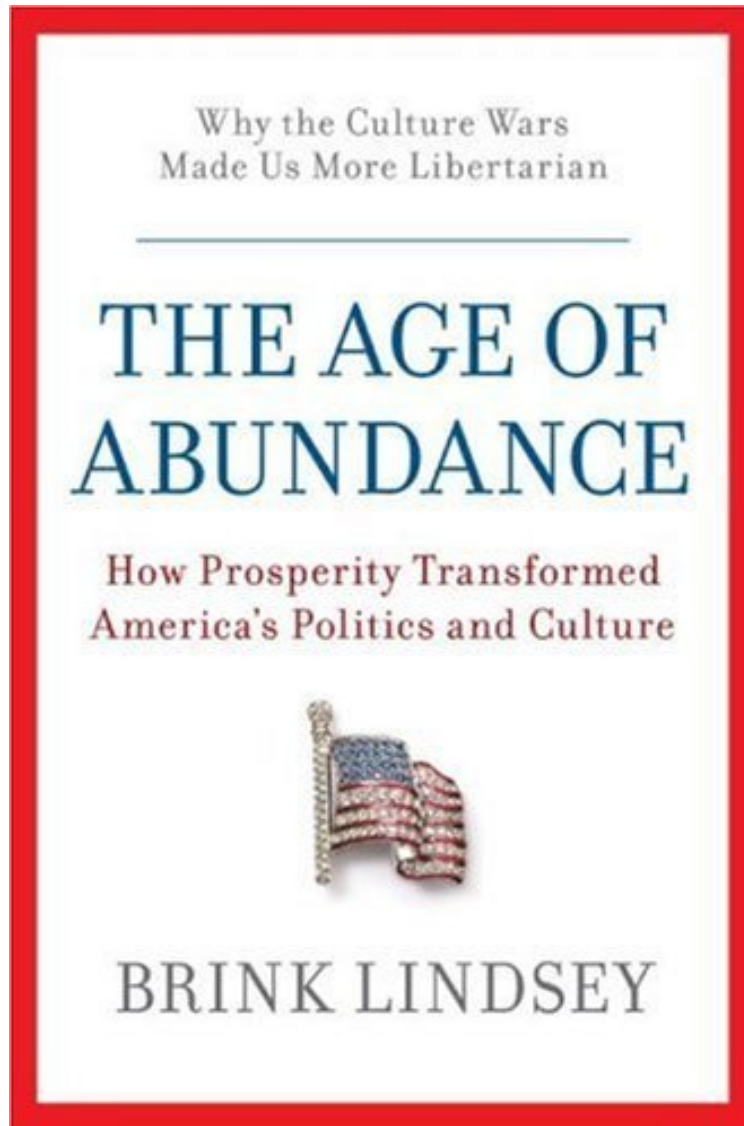


The Age of Abundance: How Prosperity Transformed America's Politics and Culture

Brink Lindsey

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Brink Lindsey : The Age of Abundance: How Prosperity Transformed America's Politics and Culture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Age of Abundance: How Prosperity Transformed America's Politics and Culture:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A fresh perspective on some familiar history By Customer Brink Lindsey seems like a really average American guy, which is surprising not because of his unusual name but because he's the Vice President for Research at the libertarian Cato Institute. When so many Libertarians (large L) seem like

wackos to most mainstream Americans, Mr. Lindsey does his movement a favor by offering this book. He presents a compelling case that libertarianism (small l) not only makes sense as an ideal for mainstream Americans, but in fact that mainstream America has been moving steadily in that direction since the culture wars of the 60's erupted and left most Americans wondering where all the weirdos -- left and right -- came from. He's much too respectful of both the Aquarians (a useful nomenclature that he seems to have coined) and the Evangelicals to call them "weirdos", but, as is typical of libertarians, he is very comfortable offering criticisms of both movements while at the same time acknowledging the beneficial contributions of both. The book retells the post-WWII history of the United States with some wonderful details added to the stories and personalities most Americans know well. Along the way, he offers his perspective of how mainstream America has adopted most of the libertarian leanings of these two political extremes while rejecting most of the more freedom-reducing elements. It's a refreshing presentation of recent history, and his main argument is compelling and enjoyable to read. An short adaptation of the book is available online at [...], it offers a decent taste of the book as a whole. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I lived a lot of this.... it's just as I remember By Customer Fascinating analysis, don't get blown away by the intro, which is far too technical for lay person to understand 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Chronicled Change By S. Cavote Provided an excellent explanation of our country's current social and political situation by chronicling how the nation's political center re-balances extremes on the left and right.

Until the 1950s, the struggle to feed, clothe, and employ the nation drove most of American political life. From slavery to the New Deal, political parties organized around economic interests and engaged in fervent debate over the best allocation of agonizingly scarce resources. But with the explosion of the nation's economy in the years after World War II, a new set of needs began to emerge; a search for meaning and self-expression on one side, and a quest for stability and a return to traditional values on the other. In *The Age of Abundance*, Brink Lindsey offers a bold reinterpretation of the latter half of the twentieth century. In this sweeping history of postwar America, the tumult of racial and gender politics, the rise of the counterculture, and the conservative revolution of the 1980s and 1990s are portrayed in an entirely new light. Readers will learn how and why the contemporary ideologies of left and right emerged in response to the novel challenges of mass prosperity. The political ideas that created the culture wars, however, have now grown obsolete. As the *Washington Post* aptly summarized Lindsey's take on the contradictions of American politics, "Republicans want to go home to the United States of the 1950s while Democrats want to work there." Struggling to replace today's stale conflicts is a new consensus that mixes the social freedom of the left with the economic freedom of the right into a potentially powerful ethos of libertarianism. *The Age of Abundance* reveals the secret formula of this remarkable alchemy. The book is a breathtaking reevaluation of our recent past; and will change the way we think about the future.

From *Publishers Weekly* More than any other cause, economic prosperity transformed the United States after World War II into a nation unlike any other in recorded history, posits Lindsey of the libertarian think tank the Cato Institute. Although Lindsey (*Dead Hand: The Uncertain Struggle for Global Capitalism*) acknowledges that millions of Americans live below the poverty line, he argues that mass prosperity changed the equation in many areas, including gender relations, race relations, labor-management relations, parent-child dynamics and organized religion. The result was the rise of a politically liberal counterculture, a politically conservative backlash, the labeling of blue states and red states, and a multitude of other political phenomenon. Although the book offers details about political campaigning, drug use, and the rise of rock and roll music among other events that made headlines from the 1950s into the 21st century, the details often overwhelm Lindsey's hypothesis. Ultimately, the book reads more like a college freshman survey course textbook than a compelling narrative. (May) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* *Starred* Freed of the struggle to meet basic needs, Americans have been privileged to focus on their wants. With breathtaking analysis, Lindsey, vice president of research at the Cato Institute, offers a dizzying look back over American economics, politics, and culture to examine the complexities of abundance. Improvements to everyday life, from electricity to clothing, have led to preoccupations with self-realization, equal rights, and relentless struggles between the political Left and Right. Drawing on observations from Karl Marx, Abraham Maslow, and Herbert Marcuse, among others, Lindsey traces the transformation of American culture as prosperity has shaken tried-and-true social conventions and the organizing principles that centered on the allocation of scarce resources. Prosperity has brought with it a sense that anything is possible. Lindsey pinpoints the current tensions between the political Left and Right to a 1967 San Francisco love-in and the opening of Oral Roberts University, both "eruptions of millenarian enthusiasm." Despite the tumult, Lindsey sees common ground as more Americans adopt a libertarian view, affirming core values while making allowances for different lifestyles. Readers from a broad spectrum of beliefs will appreciate the breadth and ardor of Lindsey's analysis, if not his conclusions. Vanessa Bush Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved. "With breathtaking analysis, Lindsey...offers a dizzying look...over American economics, politics, and culture to

examine the complexities of abundance.rdquo;