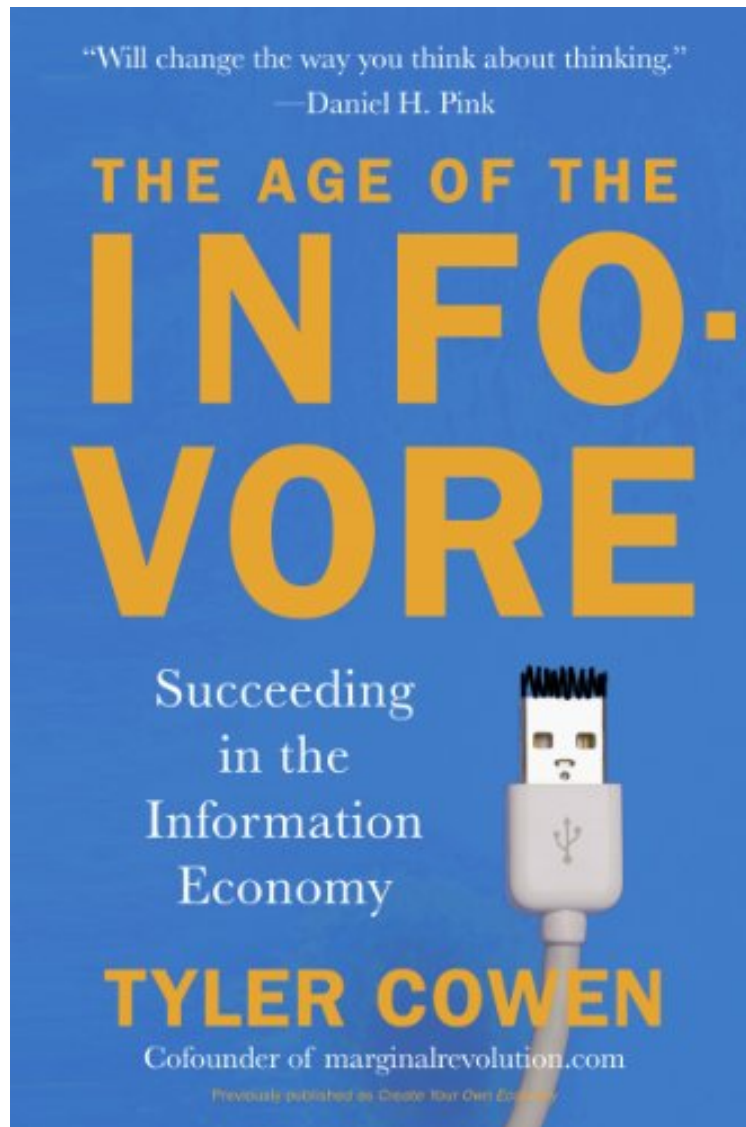


[Download] The Age of the Infovore: Succeeding in the Information Economy

The Age of the Infovore: Succeeding in the Information Economy

Tyler Cowen

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Tyler Cowen : The Age of the Infovore: Succeeding in the Information Economy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Age of the Infovore: Succeeding in the Information Economy:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. This is the softcover version of Create Your Own Economy By nathanb131 So this is a little embarrassing. After thoroughly enjoying Cowen's last book about the culture of personalized information and entertainment, I ordered this book thinking it would contain more insights and practical ways to absorb and filter information. I was wrong, it's the same book. Apparently 'Create Your Own Economy' was a

poor performing title so they made the paperback with a different name. I now have 2 copies. I'm not sorry about that, since I can now lend out a copy without giving up mine. But I do feel silly for the error nonetheless. So a brief review of both: This is a counter-argument to the raft of recent books published that lament the loss of deep thinking that is caused by being able to google everything and be constantly inundated with data. (the shallows, etc) I've noticed this change in myself over the years, how I read many times more information than I ever did but it's in smaller digital snippets. That I do still read books but that is no longer the majority of my information consumption and furthermore I have much less patience to finish books. On the surface, many people would just assume this is a bad thing and means I'm not as deep or critical of a thinker as I used to be. Cowen argues otherwise. Remember how in grade school we were taught to read every boring word of the entire textbook chapter and felt guilty or were reprimanded if we didn't? Remember how we were taught that it was bad to mark up (interact with) our textbooks? We also learned that you are supposed to read the book cover to cover. I STILL have a hard time feeling guilty about not finishing books that start to become a waste of my increasing scarce attention. Cowen argues that we shouldn't confuse depth of thinking with sticking to one textbook of one subject for hours. He reminds us to let go of those old ways of learning and make it the fun exploration that it should be. I would wager that I know more about world history from reading articles on Wikipedia over the last 3 years in my spare time (maybe an hour per week on average) than all of the total history I learned about in my k-12 'education'. That's precisely due to fragmentation and focused engagement based on MY direction, not in spite of it. This is one of many examples of the advantages of information surplus. So the book has a lot of positive reasons on why it's not so bad to keep up with many brief information streams than the few that we grew up doing. The other thing the book is about is the autistic spectrum. I now have a better understanding of why I've always been obsessed with certain narrow subjects at every period of my life. I also now see the Autistic in a new light and recognize that I, like the author, certainly have some of those traits. It makes sense to me that most people labeled as Autistic are simply further down that spectrum than the rest of us and that there are certainly a good number of 'high functioning' people that are just not as far along that spectrum. By understanding the extreme cases we can have a better understanding of ourselves. I would like to see more books about HOW to go about filtering and organizing information that is written specifically for infovores. This is more a 'why' and 'what' book than a 'how' book. But embracing the idea that our current culture of info overload is a fundamental evolution in how we learn and live is a great start. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Personal Review of "The Age of the Infovore" By Norman DeLisle "The Age of the Infovore" is economist Tyler Cowen's personal panegyric to the cognitive abilities of people on the autism spectrum, and their critical importance in an age of endlessly flowing and incoherent information. He discovered his place on the autism spectrum when an adult with autism suggested the possibility. He has embraced his neurodiversity and explored its possibilities and the contributions that people who are neurodiverse make to our society. The central cognitive dimension that Cowen examines is the drive to create order that characterises many neurodiverse people. This drive allows such individuals to focus on a single arena of the world, and to bring a depth and scope of understanding to that arena that neurotypical people find very difficult. Sometimes the focus seems out of step with the larger society, and sometimes it seems prescient. In any event, it is driven by the internal experience of the person, and the activity brings great meaning to that person, and can do so to others (see how much of our entertainment focuses on collections). I know in my heart what Tyler Cowen means. I learned to read at the age of four and got my library card at the age of 6. From that first discovery of an infinite world of knowledge, I relentlessly tried to learn everything. I read whenever I wasn't asleep, and when I wouldn't be punished for it. I read everything regardless of topic. I often carried 2 or 3 books with me as I moved through my world. I won an award at a Catholic elementary school for a poem I wrote that praised science as the ultimate source of knowledge. I was hooked. I didn't find my personal focus until, after 21 months in Vietnam, I came to work in a medical clinic in 1970 that supported families with children who had significant brain damage and other characteristics, including autism. I latched on to the idea that I needed to understand change, and most especially intentional change, and I have pursued that understanding for the 40 years since. Whether my particular obsession will result in anything generally useful remains to be seen. I have used what I learned in my work in human services and rights advocacy to the good of myself and others. I want to thank Tyler Cowen for bringing dignity to what has always seemed to me a peculiar personal trait, and for his offering of a larger community to all of us with that drive for order. I think the book will have a wide audience of appreciation, but most of all to those who always felt outside the community of the normal, and wondered what good it was to be different. Tyler Cowen also has a great blog called "Marginal Revolution". 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read By Ben Taxy Original, well-written, thought-provoking. Would have been nice to have more suggestions about how specifically one might improve one's ability to categorize, organize and otherwise succeed. Still, an excellent book.

Previously published as *Create Your Own Economy* "Will change the way you think about thinking." — Daniel H. Pink, author of *A Whole New Mind* Renowned behavioral economist and commentator Tyler Cowen shows that our supernetworked world is changing the way we think — and empowering us to thrive in any economic climate. Whether it is micro-blogging on Twitter or buying single songs at iTunes, we can now customize our lives to shape

our own specific needs. In other words, we can create our own economy—and live smarter, happier, fuller lives. At a time when apocalyptic thinking has become all too common, Cowen offers a much-needed Information Age manifesto that will resonate with readers of Dan Ariely's *Predictably Irrational*, Steven Johnson's *Everything Bad is Good for You*, and everyone hungry to understand our potential to withstand, and even thrive, in any economic climate.

"Will change the way you think about thinking."—Daniel H. Pink, author of *A Whole New Mind*
"Delightful and provocative."—*Newsweek.com*
"Tyler Cowen has written one of the most stimulating defenses of Internet information culture."—*The American*
"A tour de force."—Robert H. Frank, author of *The Economic Naturalist*
About the Author Tyler Cowen is a professor of economics at George Mason University. He is a prominent blogger at marginalrevolution.com, the world's leading economics blog. He also writes regularly for *The New York Times*, and has written for *Forbes*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The Wilson Quarterly*.
Excerpt. copy; Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.
Preface When the economy is doing poorly, people "cocoon" and turn to less expensive pleasures. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, people cut back on the expensive evening out and looked to board games, radio, and family entertainment at home. People learned how to do more with less and those tendencies shaped American life for decades. The Great Depression wasn't just an economic event; it was also a cultural shift. And there is another cultural shift going on right now. In bad economic times people exercise more, eat out less and cook more, and engage in more projects for self-improvement and self-education. Usage at public libraries goes up and people will spend more time on the internet; (after all, once you've paid for your connection most of the surfing is free). These trends are more important than most of us realize and in this book I will tell you why. I will tell you why they are not just short-run trends but why they presage something much deeper about our future and about how we use information. The challenge is this: When a recession comes, rather than surrendering, what can we do to empower ourselves and create a better life? What technologies can we use and how? How can we use information in a more powerful way? To whom should we look as the new role models and the new heroes? How can we turn inward and improve who we are and how we organize our internal personal worlds? This book is about the power of the individual to make a difference and also to change an entire world, whether or not the supposed economic forces are on your side. To thrive in an era that produces and devours information like never before, you need to become more adept at finding, sorting, and absorbing ideas, news, and all kinds of data. The age of the infovore has arrived.