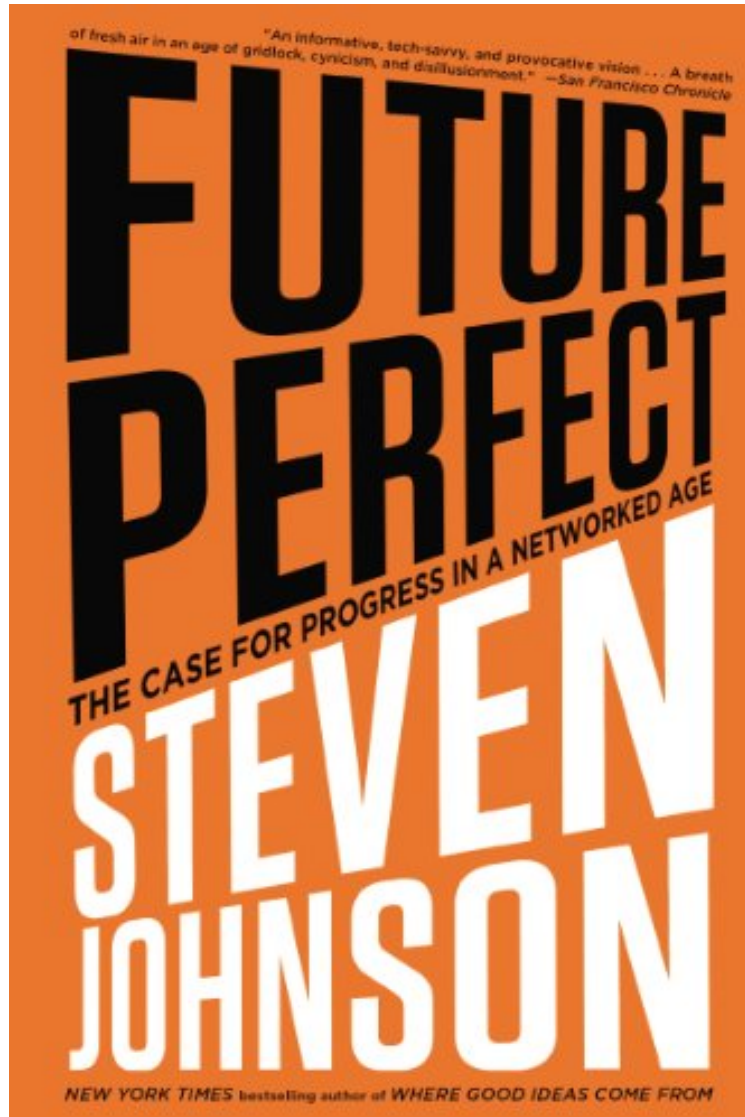


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## Future Perfect: The Case For Progress In A Networked Age

Steven Johnson

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**Steven Johnson : Future Perfect: The Case For Progress In A Networked Age** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Future Perfect: The Case For Progress In A Networked Age:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Documents the revolutionary change in society made possible by the Internet  
By Ashish Singal  
As an extreme technophile, I am certainly a tad biased in writing this review. However, Johnson's observations really gave a philosophical underpinning to the movement that the Internet has created. His argument is that the Internet makes information cheaper, which in turn allows "peers" to share data and information, rather than information coming down from a hierarchy. When innovation comes from the edges of the network, rather

than the center, then the full power of the network is unleashed. Though detailed analysis and countless examples, he shows how the Internet is making this possible. However, I think he also comes across very balanced. He pulls examples not just from the last 20 years, but also sometimes from centuries ago to illustrate his point. The "peer progressive" mentality was not created by the Internet, but the Internet has enabled it to spread in a way never before possible. The writing and stories were thoroughly captivating as well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Progressively PeerBy Susan BerryImagine gardens of roses located in every country or territory in the world. Then, imagine you are a bumble bee. You can go sample any rose anywhere in the world. There is no law that restricts you. The catch? The only sense you have to detect a rose remains for sampling (i.e. the bloom has not been lopped off by a dead header and which is not occupied by one of your fellows bees) is a built-in antenna. There is no collective hive. Information can be found in small congregations of bees, and individual bumble bees thatellip;wellhellip;fly to his or her idiosyncratic drummer. You cannot fly to all these locationsmdash;your bumble bee body and wings have a finite capacity to fly. If you were able, you would spend most of your life searching for information or the bushes would have stopped blooming. No life-sustaining nectar either way. Poof! You land on the sidewalk and the local cat has a new play toy. How and where does your antenna get usable informationmdash;information that is accurate, timely, and adjusted to your needs as a bumble bee in search of nectar, rather than information for a spider in search of insects for its next meal, or bushes that have been so fumigated that the nectar is not to your liking? Future Perfect attempts to provide a methodology for answering this question. In Johnson's book, peer progressives are the bumble bees. Each bee has information that is useful to another beemdash;the question is which bee? If there was a collective hive, it would be a LeGrand Star. These frameworks are hub and spoke and if turned vertical are the hierarchical structures found in a lot of everyday life. Peer-to-peer networks (bee-to-bee) also exist in almost every facet of life:\*\* in governments's relations with other governments and citizens through apps and other modes of a citizen giving their opinion or reporting a problem, participatory budgeting, proxy or delegate voting, law enforcement car tag readers, medical research and insurance exchanges;\*\* in journalism through the proliferation of blogs and on-line media resources,\*\* in the Internet through Wikipedia, Twitter, Facebook (limited to the extent that it is a hierarchical company), blogs, websites, and other forms of social media and open source applications;\*\* in incentives through Kickstarter, Open Government Initiative, on-line competitions for the next development of the novel application, software, machine or item;\*\* in the corporate world through innovative styles of management employed by Whole Foods, New Balance, Starbucks, and Georgia PowerI bought Future Perfect thinking it would be more technically substantive, like Hello Avatar. The section of Kickstarter and like crowd funding sources was exciting as the virtual game reality in Hello Avatar. Other than a bit on the soap box politically, which is natural given Johnson being a political junkie, I had no substantive complaints about the subject matter. I would have liked to have seen Johnson's take on peer progressive networks in healthcare, and the environmental causes as well as a more nuanced view of education networks. It would be interesting to read a subsequent edition of Future Progress. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I liked this book so much that I purchased it AFTER ...By Kimber LeeI liked this book so much that I purchased it AFTER checking it out of the library and reading it. It facilitates hope for the future.

Combining the deft social analysis of Where Good Ideas Come From with the optimistic arguments of Everything Bad Is Good For You, New York Times bestselling author Steven Johnson's Future Perfect makes the case that a new model of political change is on the rise, transforming everything from local governments to classrooms, from protest movements to health care. Johnson paints a compelling portrait of this new political worldview -- influenced by the success and interconnectedness of the Internet, by peer networks, but not dependent on high-tech solutions -- that breaks with the conventional categories of liberal or conservative, public vs. private; thinking. With his acclaimed gift for multi-disciplinary storytelling and big idea books, Johnson explores this new vision of progress through a series of fascinating narratives: from the "miracle on the Hudson" to the planning of the French railway system; from the battle against malnutrition in Vietnam to a mysterious outbreak of strange smells in downtown Manhattan; from underground music video artists to the invention of the Internet itself. At a time when the conventional wisdom holds that the political system is hopelessly gridlocked with old ideas, Future Perfect makes the timely and inspiring case that progress is still possible, and that innovative strategies are on the rise. This is a hopeful, affirmative outlook for the future, from one of the most brilliant and inspiring visionaries of contemporary culture.