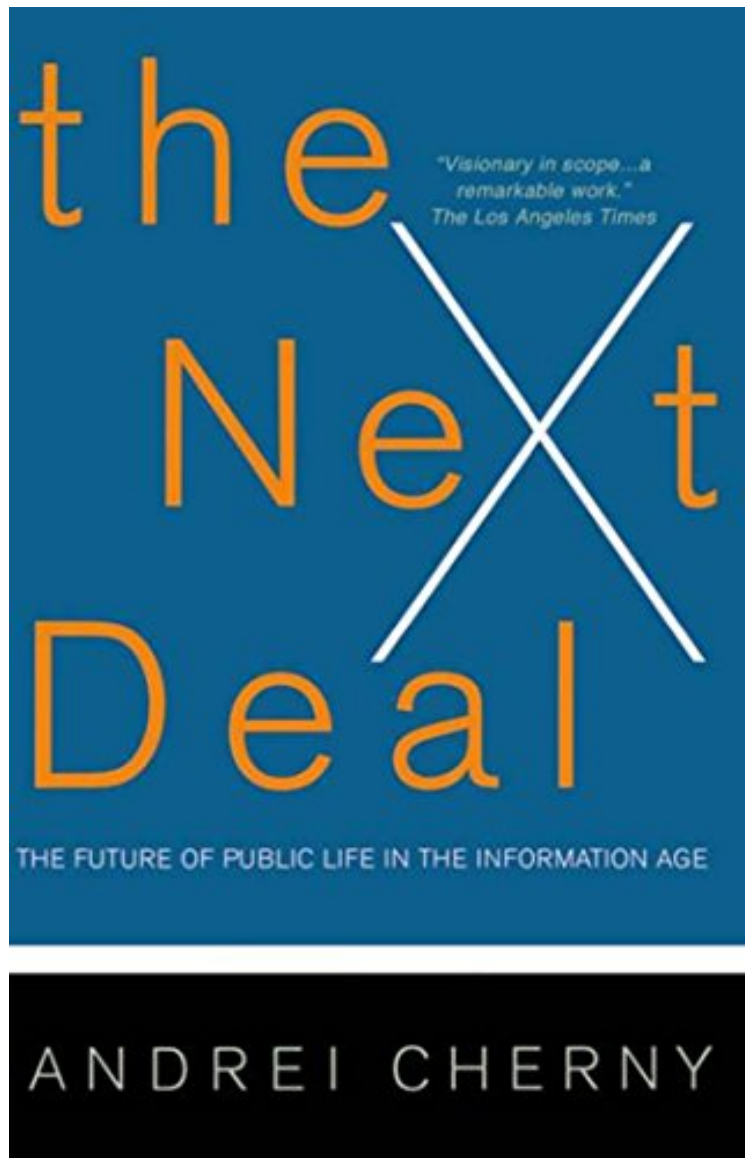


(Ebook pdf) The Next Deal: The Future Of Public Life In The Information Age

# The Next Deal: The Future Of Public Life In The Information Age

*Andrei Cherny*

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**Andrei Cherny : The Next Deal: The Future Of Public Life In The Information Age** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Next Deal: The Future Of Public Life In The Information Age:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Thought-provokingBy Trey GraysonAll members of what the author calls the Choice Generation ought to read this book regardless of party affiliation. Cherny pens a great history of the development of government in the US in reaction to the changes in the economy. In general, the book is readable and is filled with subtle humor.While I don't agree with all of his solutions, his main point that government needs to

change to adapt to the new information-based economy is dead-on. His futuristic approach to governing is in stark contrast to the populist, backward-looking campaign waged by his party during the last presidential election. The Dems could do well to listen to Andrei in the future.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A most Excellent read

By A Customer

This book is a refreshing departure from the typical "generation X" fare of whimpering and simpering about the spiralling national debt and budget deficits and those damned boomers. The author is a former aide in the Clinton Administration, but his past political engagements do not interfere with his clear-sightedness in viewing the current political scene. Cherny believes that the U.S. is on the cusp of a political and economic realignment on the order of what happened in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Back then, the nation went from being an agrarian society of farmers and small businessmen to an industrial society of wage earners and assembly line workers. In political terms, Cherny says, this came to be reflected in the New Deal government of large bureaucratic agencies. Today, the trend towards bureaucracy is being reversed by what Cherny calls "the Choice Generation" that will demand greater accountability, variety, responsiveness, and flexibility in public institutions. He believes that government needs to update itself to reflect changes going on in the e-economy so that it can effectively protect the interests of the people. He excoriates "Treadmill Liberals" and "Blockhead Conservatives" who do not appreciate this. Unlike many younger writers, Cherny has a light touch and wears his erudition gracefully. He glides effortlessly over the panorama of U.S. history and economic issues and weaves his thesis out of many disparate sources from Adam Smith to Frederick Winslow Taylor to Herbert Croly to modern political scientists. His balance and objectivity are also very good. His prose is crisp and clear. It is too early to say that Cherny is the next Walter Lippmann or Herbert Croly, but this is an important contribution to the dialogue on the proper role of government in America.

76 of 79 people found the following review helpful. Cherny "Gets It" - Information Age Public Policy

By Newt Gingrich

To have a 21-year-old Gore speechwriter mature into a 25-year-old public policy book writer and then have that book enthusiastically trumpeted by a conservative former Speaker of the House is a moment of unique achievement. Let me be clear. While Andrei Cherny is a liberal, he has written one of the most thoughtful books about public policy in the information age to be produced by anyone of any ideological background or from any partisan belief. Cherny does a stunning job of placing the progressive movement in the context of the rise of the industrial corporation and makes a profound case that the rise of information technology that moves from mass production to intense personalization and choice that will profoundly change the relationship between government and citizens. At one level these are not new ideas. Alvin and Heidi Toffler explained the general principles in 1979 in *The Third Wave*. What makes Cherny's contribution so impressive is the degree to which he embeds the technological changes of today in the parallel ideas and experiences of 100 years ago. Just as the rise of the industrial corporation created the systems and the structures that could be translated into professional bureaucracy and into systems such as the city manager form of government, so the development of the automatic teller machine, the self serve gas station, the internet based personal reservation system for airlines and the personally directed 401k all spell the rise of a personally directed citizen process that will transform the process of governance. I disagree deeply with some of Cherny's ideas, but I am in awe of his ability to take big concepts and embed them in American political history in a manner which will give them context and meaning for any citizen who wishes to study them. I unequivocally recommend this book to any citizen who wants to know how we can improve our country.

*The Next Deal* offers a highly readable blueprint for politics in the twenty-first century. The old-style one-size-fits-all government, Cherny argues, cannot accommodate the significant changes-including the moral revolution of the '60s and the technological revolution of the last fifteen years-that American society has undergone. Cherny proposes a "Next Deal" that will expand democracy by taking decision-making power out of the hands of experts and back into the hands of ordinary people.

From *Publishers Weekly*

A former Gore speechwriter and author of the 2000 Democratic Party Platform, Cherny offers a sweeping analysis of past, present and future American politics. He writes with the conviction that he and his generation are at the cusp of a major historical transformation, and he has a catchy name for everything: We have entered the "Information Age," which has spawned the "Choice Generation," the unjustly decried cohort that has grown up at the computer and expects immediate individual access to everything. This new incarnation of American individualism has asserted itself in the "New Economy" and can be credited with the politics of a "Choice Revolution," resisted by "Treadmill Liberals" and "Blockhead Conservatives." Just as agrarian, 19th-century individualism was replaced by big, centralized and hierarchical government suited to an urban and industrialized world, we now must move toward a decentralized system in which government programs provide citizens with the opportunity to tailor benefits to match their particular needs. No less important is the fulfillment of the "New Responsibility," which Cherny sees as "a necessary counterbalance to the individual autonomy of the Choice Revolution," through the "Citizen Corps," a program of universal national service for young people. However, the theoretical foundation for this combination of personal decision-making power and compulsory public obligation is unclear, and Cherny presents little outside evidence of a demand for linking individual choice with civic responsibility. Cherny may represent a new

breed of socially responsible techno-pseudo-Democrat, but he fails to convince that this is America's future. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist When he became an Al Gore speechwriter at 21, Cherny also became the youngest White House speechwriter in history. Now at 25 Cherny is rewriting Arthur Schlesinger's *The Vital Center* for the new century, exploring the implications and consequences of the information revolution for the economy, government, and society. Cherny traces the shifting balance between Jeffersonian and Hamiltonian ideas from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first. He argues that, while Hamiltonian centralization made sense in the age of the assembly line, his own "Choice Generation" will demand that Jeffersonian individualism be restored. Similarly, he examines Progressivism as defined by Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, maintaining that Wilson's approach has more to offer for the Internet future. Cherny's governmental prescriptions are the most detailed and will probably draw the most attention; he seems naively confident that the Internet will inevitably force business genuinely to empower workers, so his economic suggestions are minimal. As for "community," Cherny celebrates the "New Responsibility," again with little detail. Likely to get lots of chat-show attention; purchase accordingly. Mary Carroll Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved " *The Next Deal* tells us where our country is going -- and how we best can get there." -- Alan Wolfe, Boston College ". . . crisp, quick, engaging, and witty. . . will interest anyone eager to tackle the next generation of political challenges." -- Senator John F. Kerry, D-MA ". . . a trenchant and insightful guide to where the "Choice Generation" will take us from here. Short and deep." -- Jonathan Alter, "...what makes it almost visionary in scope is the blueprint it offers for the next phase of American political life." -- Los Angeles Times, 1/19/01 "Whether you agree with it or argue with it, you'll be grateful you read it." -- E. J. Dionne Jr., author of *Why Americans* "[Cherny is] one of Vice President Gore's most trusted thinkers." -- Los Angeles Times