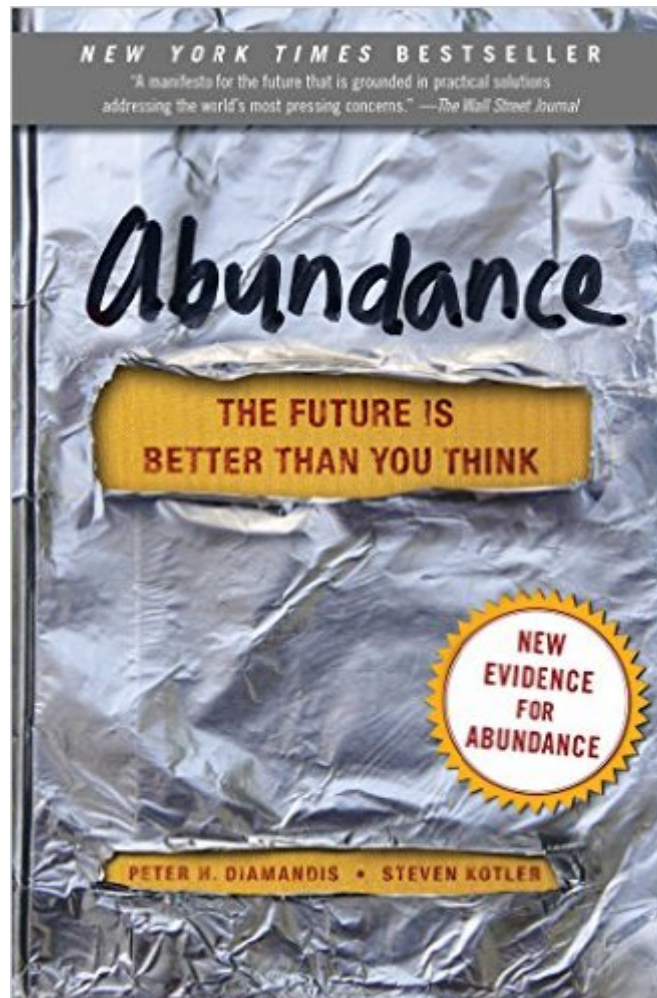




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# Abundance: The Future Is Better Than You Think



## Synopsis

The New York Times bestselling “manifesto for the future that is grounded in practical solutions addressing the world’s most pressing concerns: overpopulation, food, water, energy, education, health care and freedom” (The Wall Street Journal). Since the dawn of humanity, a privileged few have lived in stark contrast to the hardscrabble majority. Conventional wisdom says this gap cannot be closed. But it is closing fast. In *Abundance*, space entrepreneur turned innovation pioneer Peter H. Diamandis and award-winning science writer Steven Kotler document how progress in artificial intelligence, robotics, digital manufacturing, synthetic biology, and other exponentially growing technologies will enable us to make greater gains in the next two decades than we have in the previous 200 years. We will soon have the ability to meet and exceed the basic needs of every person on the planet. *Abundance* for all is within our grasp. Breaking down human needs by category—water, food, energy, healthcare, education, freedom—Diamandis and Kotler introduce us to innovators and industry captains making tremendous strides in each area. “Not only is *Abundance* a riveting page-turner but it’s a book that gives us a future worth fighting for. And even more than that, it shows us our place in that fight” (The Christian Science Monitor).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“I’d like readers to read the Peter Diamandis book with his coauthor, because if they did that, they would see that while the headlines are really bad in the world today, the trend

lines are pretty good. Extreme poverty is down. [H]ealth care is improving dramatically around the world. There are developments now which make me believe we might be able to do what we did in the 90s which is use technological developments to create more jobs than we lose. For the last few months, for the first time in literally more than a decade, 40 percent of the new jobs have been in higher wage categories. I think people should read this and get some good ideas. •

(President Bill Clinton) • “At a moment when our world faces multiple crises and is awash in pessimism, > redirects the conversation, spotlighting scientific innovators working to improve people’s lives around the world. The result is more than a portrait of brilliant minds - it’s a reminder of the infinite possibilities for doing good when we tap into our own empathy and wisdom. •

(Arianna Huffington CEO, Huffington Post) • “This brilliant must-read book provides the key to the coming era of abundance replacing eons of scarcity, a powerful antidote to today’s malaise and pessimism. • (Ray Kurzweil author of The Singularity Is

Near) • “Diamandis and Kotler challenge us all to solve humanity’s grand challenges. Innovative small teams are now empowered to accomplish what only governments and large corporations could once achieve. The result is nothing less than the most transformative and thrilling period in human history. • (Timothy Ferris #1 NY Times bestselling author of The 4-Hour Workweek) “Now that human beings communicate so easily, I suspect that nothing can stop the inevitable torrent of new technologies, new ideas and new arrangements that will transform the lives of our children. Peter Diamandis and Steven Kotler give us a blinding glimpse of the innovations that are coming our way • and that they are helping to create. This is a vital book.” • Matt Ridley, author of The Rational Optimist • “Today, philanthropists, innovators and passionate entrepreneurs are more empowered than ever before to solve humanity’s grand challenges. Abundance chronicles many of these stories and the emerging tools driving us towards an age of abundance. This is an audacious and powerful read! • • Jeff

Skoll • “Abundance provides proof that the proper combination of technology, people and capital can meet any grand challenge. • • Sir Richard Branson, Chairman of the Virgin Group “Our future depends on optimists like Diamandis...even the most skeptical readers will come away from Abundance feeling less gloomy.” --New York Times Book Review “A manifesto for the future that is grounded in practical solutions addressing the world’s most pressing concerns: overpopulation, food, water, energy, education, health care and freedom. ” --The Wall Street Journal “A breezy case for optimism... Abundance: The Future is Better Than You Think...[is] a godsend for those who suffer from Armageddon fatigue.” --The Economist • “In Abundance: Why the Future is Better Than You Think, Peter Diamandis and Steven Kotler offer a vision of the

future that's truly awesome in both the most traditional and modern understandings of the word; it's as big as it is awe inspiring. "The Futurist" Abundance is not fantasy. It is a tale, say authors Diamandis and Kotler, of "good news; a spritely and exciting collection of reasons why, despite the ever-constant refrain that Earth is on the verge of disaster, we must stay positive." --Christian Science Monitor" Enough with the dystopian fiction and Mayan end-of-the-world predictions! According to tech entrepreneur and philanthropist Peter Diamandis and science writer Steven Kotler, things are getting better, not worse. " --USA Today"[Abundance is] fascinating and inspirational -- every politician should read it (but sadly that may be too much to hope for!)" --Lord Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal, UK"Welcome to the feel good future." -Smithsonian"A nice reminder of how far we've come." --The New York Times Book Review

Peter H. Diamandis is a New York Times bestselling author, and the founder of more than fifteen high-tech companies. He is the CEO of the XPRIZE (XPrize.org), Exec. Chairman of the Singularity University (SingularityU.org), a Silicon Valley based institution backed by Google, 3D Systems and NASA. He is Co-Chairman of Planetary Resources, Inc. and the Cofounder of Human Longevity, Inc. Dr. Diamandis attended MIT, where he received his degrees in molecular genetics and aerospace engineering, and Harvard Medical School, where he received his MD. In 2014 he was named one of "The World's 50 Greatest Leaders" by Fortune magazine. Steven Kotler is a New York Times bestselling author, award-winning journalist, and the Cofounder and Director of Research for the Flow Genome Project (FlowGenomeProject.com). His books include Bold, The Rise of Superman, Abundance, A Small Furry Prayer, West of Jesus, and The Angle Quickest for Flight. His work has been translated into thirty-five languages and his articles have appeared in over seventy publications, including The New York Times Magazine, Atlantic Monthly, Wired, Forbes, and Time. He also writes Far Frontiers, a blog about science and innovation for Forbes.com.

I have been a pessimist most of my life. I actually enjoy reading stories about failing companies and end of the world possibilities. I wasn't here at the beginning but maybe I can see the end of life on earth was my attitude:-) So when the book club choose this book I wasn't looking forward to it. But the first few chapters reminded me how lucky we are now. Then the chapters told me how rapidly the whole world is getting better. Countries in Africa don't have to run wires - they just need cell towers and after getting cell phones, which are computers, the people are connected to all the ideas

in the world. As countries improve their people's lives the population increasing rate goes down. We still have tremendous problems with water, food, and energy and the author describes the amazing ideas on how these problems are being solved. I got so excited I went to Wikipedia to learn more about hydroponics and airponics. Finally I realized that this is an amazing time. The ideas for solving water, food, and energy needs HAVE to be done. There are going to be tremendous changes. Will we need power companies if we have solar panels on our roofs? Can we grow our food in vertical buildings and turn farms into parks? Can we eliminate most auto dealers because electric cars have 90% fewer moving parts? Can we grow beef without the cow? Can we reuse our medicines by reconstituting them from human urine? Will capitalism or our Social Security programs still work if the population doesn't increase? Some of this comes from the book and some comes from my excited imagination while reading "Abundance". I am looking forward to incredible changes coming. "Abundance" is exciting.

Abundance is the most enjoyable, exciting and motivating book I have read in a long time. Over the years I have read many books about the future, particularly about the technology of the future and how it will affect our lives. 32 years ago I was sitting here under the skylight of my then unfinished home architectural office reading another book that got me excited about the future: Alvin Toffler's The Third Wave. He was telling me that in the near future, many of us would be working at home "telecommuting" and that there would be a personal mini-computer in most homes, as common as a refrigerator, I think he said. I was all charged up about this wonderful future, then realized it was the middle of a week day, I was in my home office, and there was a computer on my desk, very primitive by today's standards, but a "personal mini-computer" nevertheless. But 1980 was quite a ways back on the still close to flat part of that exponential curve of technological progress that you may have seen in some of the magazine articles about Abundance, the book. I read it as a Kindle application on my iPad, PC, and iPhone seamlessly going from one to the other, depending on whether I was in my office, the kitchen, on the Stairmaster at my club, or in bed. On the PC or my iPad, I could click on any of the many highlighted references and be taken to the appendix and returned to where I had been reading with another click. On the PC, an internet reference in the text or appendix would take me to that external referenced article or graph or website. On the iPad, it would also take me back to where I was reading in the book when finished. This was the most elegant and useful integration of a book with Kindle technology that I have seen to date. Had the publisher chosen to allow 's text to speech feature, I would have used my Kindle too. That may seem a little off-point, but I include it to illustrate just one of the changes we have so adapted to in those

32 years that we just take them for granted. Dr. Diamandis makes a seemingly air-tight case for an exponential acceleration of change to solve the problems that face us now and in the future, whether it is in energy, scarcity of resources, health, education, and even freedom. He seems to share much of the vision of the future of his colleague Ray Kurzweil, who is referenced and quoted in the book, along with many, many other experts. Dr. Kurzweil and Dr. Diamandis are the co-founders of Singularity University. ([singularityu.org](http://singularityu.org)) There are many excellent talks and other resources on the web by both of them, including a very recent fifteen minute or so talk by Dr. Diamandis at TED ([ted.com](http://ted.com)). Just the existence of Singularity University and TED.com are confirmation of the rapid and impactful changes in communication and education discussed in the book. They include an interesting quote from *The Rational Optimist* where the author of that book, Matt Ridley compares the cross-pollination of ideas facilitated by communication to the mixing of genetic information in the natural world. There were a couple of things in the book that I frankly wish were not there. Why the authors drag the name of Sarah Palin into a discussion of confirmation bias strikes me as inappropriate and more of an example of their own confirmation bias than hers - but then they would say that is just my confirmation bias. Less annoying but still a negative mark to me was a contradiction in two references to Thor Heyerdahl, the Norwegian explorer who sailed the raft Kon-Tiki across the Pacific in 1947. In the first they refer to Kon-Tiki as a raft, which it was, but in a reference a few pages later they describe the process of building it as if it were a dugout canoe, which it was not. Yes, I know - trivial, but it undermines the credibility, at least to me. But I don't want to make too much of my small disagreements. This is a powerful, optimistic, well documented and well written look at our future. That future is coming, whether we like it or not, so we had better get our minds ready to recognize it as it occurs. I suppose the one concept that keeps reoccurring to me in the days since I finished the book is the thought that the ideas that may change my life in unforeseen ways may come from some kid in Nepal or Siberia or Somalia. He or she may be a part of the bottom billion now, but how many more potential Mozarts or Einsteins or Hawkings or Edisons or Whitneys or Fords or Kamens are out there to be discovered and allowed to blossom? How many will take their dirt-cheap laptop and connect up with the Kahn Academy or something like it and learn to create world-changing products or ideas? As the creator of the X-prize and his many other accomplishments, Peter Diamandis has in my mind reserved a very honorable place in the future history of the world. With this current book, I think he has shown us how exciting and wonderful a history that is likely to be.

Refreshing break from so much doom and gloom I've been exposed to recently. Particularly liked

the practical and data driven conclusions about our potential for addressing today's most pressing human challenges like poverty, energy and fresh water scarcity, etc... A bit weak on addressing the inequality inherent in the structural economic changes underway (and being driven further by some of the breakthroughs mentioned). The authors did mention broadly the democratizing effects of many of the technologies emerging but, I'd like to understand the impacts on inequality a little better. It seems these changes portend a rising elite financial class as well as a rising "bottom billion" (very exciting stuff on this front) but, an ever shrinking middle (average is over). Are we destined for a future where a larger but, vastly more powerful elite are more and more separated from the rest of us who will have to be content with cheaper and better entertainment? Also concerning is the real (already happening?) potential for the financial elite to become the biological (genetic) elite as well? At the end of the day, I loved the book and will become a student of abundance with a keen eye on how society might leverage these emergent technologies to further democratize health, wealth, and access. I am more hopeful than skeptical now but, still plenty skeptical.

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