



Utopia or Oblivion: The Prospects for Humanity

R. Buckminster Fuller

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Utopia or Oblivion is a provocative blueprint for the future. This comprehensive volume is composed of essays derived from the lectures he gave all over the world during the 1960's. Fuller's thesis is that humanity - for the first time in its history - has the opportunity to create a world where the needs of 100% of humanity are met. This is Fuller in his prime, relaying his urgent message for earthians critical moment and presenting pioneering solutions which reflect his commitment to the potential of innovative design to create technology that does "more with less" and thereby improves human lives . . . "This is what man tends to call utopia. It's a fairly small word, but inadequate to describe the extraordinary new freedom of man in a new relationship to universe - the alternative

Utopia or Oblivion: The Prospects for Humanity Details

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From Reader Review Utopia or Oblivion: The Prospects for Humanity for online ebook

Lee says

You have to digest Fuller's writing style in bits of less than 10 pages... but wow was this guy aware of where science was going and what humans were adding to it all. One of my all time favorite books.

Mark Siegmund says

essential primer for reading/understanding Buckminster Fuller's thinking, and blueprint for the future

Malbadeen says

Check out this cover (seriously people, click on the cover to enlarge it and take in the beauty as the rainbowed man). 5 f***ing stars for that cover!!!

It's soooooo much better in real life, if your nice to me I'll grace you with a viewing.

Arnold Hoogerwerf says

Some comprehensive thinking in there!

Whoof says

interesting but being a collection of lectures some of the chapters are redundant
also many of his ideas are cray

Online-University of-the-Left says

Full of terrific insights, especially his theory of wealth. But you'll have to get used to Bucky's weird style of long sentences with strings of adjectives of his own invention. It's worth it.

Jonnythrombosis says

i am almost at the end of the epilogue & this book has been both inspiring in many respect but quite disturbing in so far as it raises a big question for me - i think bucky has it right about ephemeralization & the

fact that with using less to do more we can support a massively larger population than most people are aware - i think he has refuted malthus & also darwin - however my thinking is that he is wrong about the great pirates extinction - it seems they have dug their heels well & truly in & are clinging to everything they can & thus my question is have we gone beyond the point where utopia is achievable for all humankind or is oblivion the inevitable outcome of the still operational great piracy?

Hock Tjoa says

Bucky has faith in humanity even though his approach is akin to that of the engineer: nationalities will fade into one humanity, scarcity--the cause of all wars--will end as "ephemeralization"--doing more with less--works its magic., the "universe is the aggregate of all human experience, consciously apprehended and communicated--it includes metaphysics" and so forth. There is some repetition and this vision is tied to the information available ca 1970. One wishes he were right.

Ottoleo says

diggity dig

Philip S says

This is a tough and tedious read. Fuller has a very academic writing style and loves to make up new words and dabble in his invented euphemisms. This makes understanding very difficult and time consuming. Some passages must be parsed several times before understanding what he's trying to say. Sometimes it's simply incomprehensible.

Fuller is a product of the utopian academic thinking that was prevalent in the 1960's. The world was evolving into a "world without borders" and the "international man." Students would be the vanguard of the proletariat and foster a design revolution which would create more with less (ephemeralization) and eliminate want. Nation states would become obsolete as they are only vehicles for the competition for limited resources, a problem solved by the design arts. To Fuller, it's all about "things."

History has borne out that there's more to life than "things." Man has a spiritual side, pride in ethnicity and/or race, a need to belong to tribe, or clan, or nation. Nation states and borders are not going anywhere soon.

There are some very interesting ideas in this book, but a lot of the essential framework of Fuller's ideas are obsolete in the age of Islamic terrorism.

John says

Rated: F

Nick Black says

Ramble ramble ramble. There's a good reason this has fallen out of print.

Amberae says

Got me through hours on a hippie bus to the national rainbow family gathering. Many a hippie picked it up, but could not make sense of it. Kept me from going insane, and made me realize what a wonderful man Fuller was. It now rots in my boyfriends car, he says it's "too heady."

Kelly says

A man ahead of his time. This should be required reading in high school today.

Luke says

A collection of essays, addresses, and statements by Fuller in 1964-65, making the argument that a) we now know there are enough resources in the world to sustain all of humanity b) because since the development of naval and aerospace technology (for a few hundred years, but not generally recognized) we have begun doing more-with-less but c) we're currently only getting the secondary benefits of this ephemeralization because it is directly developed for weapon- and war-making so d) accomplishing the success of 100% of humanity will not come through politics but d) through a design-science revolution in education e) reforming the environment in which humanity lives and is raised.

There's some strongly 60's idealism that seems necessarily quaint reading today, belief in the power of industrialization and television for good for instance. And a sense of urgency that is just a bit sad today, warning that waiting for the secondary benefits of development in 20 or 40 years (optimistic in itself!) is likely too late as we burn through our "savings account" of concentrated energy sources.

This collection is a little long and repetitive, but enjoyable to see the ideas repeated and reintegrated to different audiences; if you were to only read the chapters "How to Maintain Man as a Success in Universe", "Utopia or Oblivion", and "Design Strategy" you would get all of it. (These don't appear to be available outside this collection, however.)
