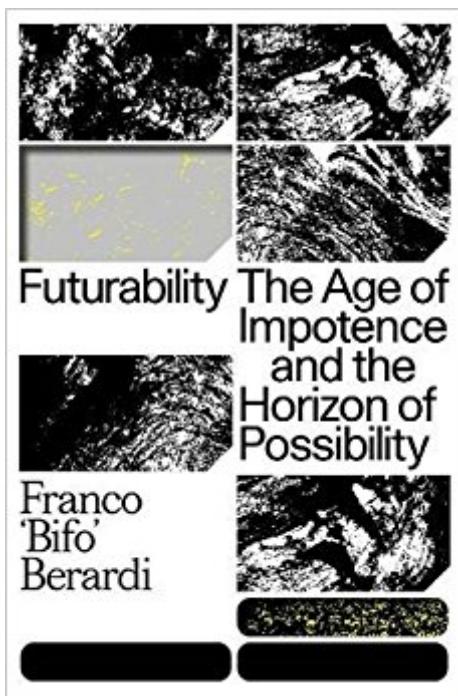


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Futurability: The Age Of Impotence And The Horizon Of Possibility



Synopsis

A comprehensive philosophy of contemporary life and politics, by one of the sharpest critics of the present. We live in an age of impotence. Stuck between global war and global finance, between identity and capital, we seem to be incapable of producing the radical change that is so desperately needed. Is there still a way to disentangle ourselves from a global order that shapes our politics as well as our imagination? In his most systematic book to date, renowned Italian theorist Franco Berardi tackles this question through a solid yet visionary analysis of the three fundamental concepts of Possibility, Potency, and Power. Characterizing Possibility as the content, Potency as the energy, and Power as the form, Berardi suggests that the road to emancipation unravels from the awareness that the field of the possible is only limited, and not created, by the power structures that implement it. Other futures and other worlds are always already inscribed within the present, despite power's attempt at keeping them invisible. Overcoming any temptation of giving in to despair or nostalgia, Berardi proposes the notion of Futurability as a way to remind us that even within the darkness of our current crisis lies dormant the horizon of possibility.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Franco Bifo Berardi is a writer and theorist based in Bologna. His work revolves mainly around the aesthetics of the contemporary psychosphere. His latest books include *Futurability*, *Phenomenology of the End*, and *The Soul at Work*. In the 1970s he was one of the founders of the pirate radio station Radio Alice, the magazine *A/traverso* and of the political

movement Autonomia. He has worked across media such as books, magazines, radio, TV and cinema.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Berardi's newest book. Having read two of his earlier books, The Uprising and Heroes, I was already prepared for some of the ideas he returns to in this book. Occasionally, I'm frustrated when authors revisit some of the themes they've addressed in earlier texts; one suspects they're simply dredging up old material as filler to reach some "length" worthy of a "book." This is not the case with Berardi. I saw his revisiting of themes as helping to clarify some of the ideas I didn't understand so well earlier. It might be the case that he more effectively presents some of the concepts in this text after carrying them around a few years. It might also be the case that I simply needed to be taken through some of these concepts again; a little review never hurt anyone as I remember hearing in school. This is not to say Futurability is simply a review of old material. Berardi appears to be constantly building upon where he's at in his understanding of where we're at, how we got here, and how we might be able to change things for the better. I'd recommend this book to anyone that's concerned about what the new few decades might bring us. And I'd especially highly recommend it to anyone that's grown weary of the usual wave of popular texts proclaiming to know and predict for readers what the future holds for us. Berardi's messages are not for the faint of heart or those that already know everything. His conclusions are powerful and they urge us to direct our energies toward activities many won't find comfortable or typical. But, then again, when was any goal really worth all that much really lying at the end of a comfortable or typical path.

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