



The Sovereign Individual: Mastering the Transition to the Information Age

By James Dale Davidson, William Rees-Mogg

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Two renowned investment advisors and authors of the bestseller *The Great Reckoning* bring to light both currents of disaster and the potential for prosperity and renewal in the face of radical changes in human history as we move into the next century. *The Sovereign Individual* details strategies necessary for adapting financially to the next phase of Western civilization.

Few observers of the late twentieth century have their fingers so presciently on the pulse of the global political and economic realignment ushering in the new millennium as do James Dale Davidson and Lord William Rees-Mogg. Their bold prediction of disaster on Wall Street in *Blood in the Streets* was borne out by Black Tuesday. In their ensuing bestseller, *The Great Reckoning*, published just weeks before the coup attempt against Gorbachev, they analyzed the pending collapse of the Soviet Union and foretold the civil war in Yugoslavia and other events that have proved to be among the most searing developments of the past few years.

In *The Sovereign Individual*, Davidson and Rees-Mogg explore the greatest economic and political transition in centuries -- the shift from an industrial to an information-based society. This transition, which they have termed "the fourth stage of human society," will liberate individuals as never before, irrevocably altering the power of government. This outstanding book will replace false hopes and fictions with new understanding and clarified values.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The computer revolution, in the authors' dire scenario, will subvert and destroy the nation-state as globalized cybercommerce, lubricated by cryptocurrency, drastically limits governments' powers to tax. They further predict that the next millennium will see an enormous decline in the influence of politicians, lobbyists, labor unions and regulated professions as new information technologies democratize talent and innovation and decentralize the workplace. In their forecast, citizenship will become obsolete; new forms of sovereignty reminiscent of medieval merchant republics will spring up; electronic plebiscites will decide legislative proposals; mafias, renegade covert agencies and criminal gangs will exercise much more behind-the-scenes power. Davidson and Rees-Mogg, who publish Strategic Investment, a financial newsletter, present an apocalyptic exercise that is unconvincing. Appendices offer advice to "Sovereign Individuals" (members of the information elite) on how to invest, find tax shelters, avoid criminals and list one's business on the World Wide Web.

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From Library Journal

Following up their equally visionary *Blood in the Streets* (LJ 5/1/87) and *The Great Reckoning* (S. & S., 1993), the authors offer a sweeping analysis of the implications, especially financial, of the information age. According to Jupiter Communications, a research firm specializing in emerging technologies, in the year 2000 online transactions will total about \$7.3 billion, and new payment methods such as electronic money will be used for almost half of that amount. The authors explain that such developments are driving a "megapolitical" level of societal transformation similar in scope and significance to the end of the Roman Empire or the 15th-century gunpowder revolution. The key result of this information revolution will be the advent of the "sovereign individual" and the death of mass democracy and the welfare state. The authors are serious, conservative thinkers whose advice will attract attention on Wall Street. A major work; strongly recommended for academic libraries.?Dale F. Farris, Groves, Tex.

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From Booklist

Davidson and Rees-Mogg still hold out for the apocalypse. They've been sounding the alarm for more than a decade, first with *Blood in the Streets: Investment Profits in a World Gone Mad* (1987) and then in *The Great Reckoning: How the World Will Change in the Depression of the 1990's* (1991). What sets their books apart from those of other doomsayers is that a number of their specific forecasts have been accurate; it is their overwrought analysis that has gone astray. This time around they see citizenship becoming obsolete and national governments irrelevant. Violence will become more widespread and organized. In cyberspace, individual differences will no longer matter but know-how will mean everything. There will be a total transition to "the cybereconomy." The authors' warning: take cover while you can and take your money with you! *David Rouse*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Seth Sawyer:

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Ryan Harrison:

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