



The Power of Identity (The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture, Volume II)

By Manuel Castells

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This is an account of the two great and conflicting trends now shaping the world: globalization and identity.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In the second volume of his Information Age trilogy, Manuel Castells examines the threat posed to the nation-state by the rise of collective "resistance identities," which may over time develop into "project identities" with specific socially transformative goals in mind. His scope is broad, encompassing everything from Mexico's Zapatista movement to the rise of militias in the United States to broader antipatriarchal projects launched by feminists, gay communities, and environmental activists. Castell's dry academic style may be distancing to some readers; Benjamin R. Barber's *Jihad vs. McWorld* provides a similar argument (with equal intellectual rigor) in slightly more accessible prose.

Review

"Not since Weber has there been such a determined and largely successful effort to bring to bear the results and analytical perspectives of all the social sciences on the evolution of society." *Chris Freeman, University of Sussex.*

"These three volumes represent a staggering undertaking. Castells has attempted nothing less than to take stock of our entire contemporary world. He has succeeded beyond any reasonable expectation. Truly global in scope, yet sacrificing nothing of the concreteness and detail without which enterprises of this kind can be empty and unsatisfying, this trilogy must rank as one of the great works of 'grand theory' of our time." *Krishan Kumar, University of Virginia.*

"... the first great philosopher of cyberspace, a big thinker in the European tradition who can nonetheless tell the difference between a bit and a browser." *G. Pascal Zachary, Wall Street Journal, Europe.*

"This is a magisterial effort to paint a comprehensive view of the current-day world society in all its political, economic, social and cultural aspects, as well as its developmental tendencies.... the best candidate available for the role of main reference book for the next century." *Zygmunt Bauman, Universities of Leeds and Warsaw.*

"Manuel Castells, one of the age's most extraordinary thinkers, is the guru's guru." *The Guardian.*

"*The Information Age* may be the most important analysis of the interaction between technology, economics, politics and religion ever produced." *Cliff Barney, Upside.*

"*The Information Age* trilogy stands as a synthesis of Castell's work over the past two decades. As such, it is an excellent source for students and academics alike, offering a range of accessible and usable introductions to the work of one of the most influential theorists. It highlights the achievements of recent global scholarship, while pointing its readers - whether they be advanced level, undergraduate or graduate students, or more established researchers and teachers - towards exciting and challenging research terrains. It is a book which will accompany us into the new millennium and beyond, helping us to make sense of the puzzling mix of newness and the ever-the-same which is 21st century capitalism. A new world indeed." *Alan Latham, University of Auckland.*

"So full are the shelves now with shallow and indulgent works on the postmodern condition, essays trapped in their own technological determinism or narrow moralism or political wishful thinking, that it has seemed unlikely that a space would be found for an enduring work of sociology examining the new world as it is

changing. But Manuel Castells has found and filled that space on the shelf - and for a long time to come."
Anthony Smith, THES.

"A *magnum opus* if there ever was one, these three books together constitute, in my view, the finest piece of contemporary social analysis to come available for at least a generation. *The Information Age*, written by Castells at the height of his intellectual power, launches him into the pre-eminence of those whose work must be read by anyone seriously engaged with trying to make sense of the world today." *Frank Webster, The British Journal of Sociology.*

Review

"Every now and then one reads a book of social science that is uplifting and mind expanding. These books are ambitious and lustrous, teaching us much about our world. Such is this work from the brilliant sociologist Manuel Castells. There is no other sociological work today that brings together in one panoramic expanse so many of the changes now occurring. This is a story not simply of global economic change, but of cultural upheavals. It is a tale not simply of the decline of sovereign states, but of the emergence of the new bases of power. And it is a narrative not merely about computer technology or the media, but of the very terms in which those agents work."

—**Anthony M. Orum**, *Contemporary Sociology*

"A magnum opus if ever there was one. In my view, the finest piece of contemporary social analysis for at least a generation."

—**Frank Webster**, *British Journal of Sociology*

"A truly stunning achievement. A scholar who, with remarkable mastery, has brought his experience over a lifetime to bear on astonishingly diversified data set, pulling them together into a compelling account of the complex relationship between the progressive and the reactionary, the globalizing and particularizing forces that are transforming our perplexing world."

—**Benjamin Barber**, *The Los Angeles Times Sunday Book Reviews*

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