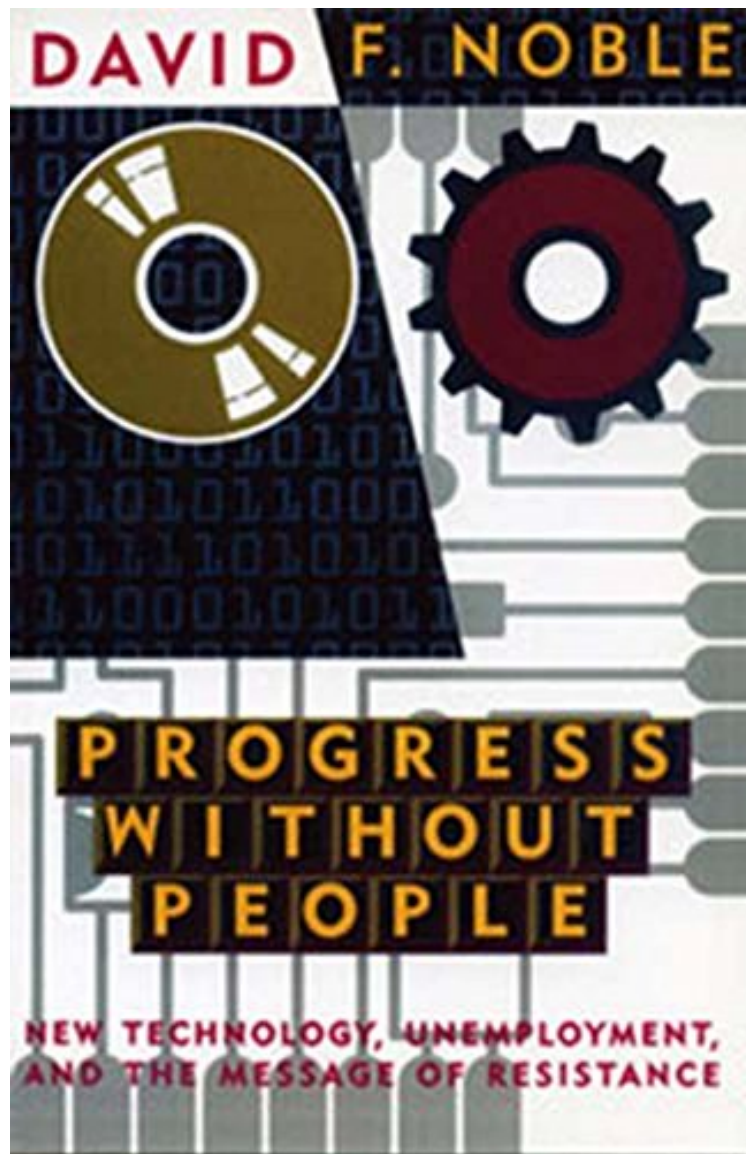


(Free) Progress Without People: New Technology, Unemployment, and the Message of Resistance: In Defense of Luddism

Progress Without People: New Technology, Unemployment, and the Message of Resistance: In Defense of Luddism

David F. Noble

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David F. Noble : Progress Without People: New Technology, Unemployment, and the Message of Resistance: In Defense of Luddism before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Progress Without People: New Technology, Unemployment, and the Message of Resistance: In Defense of Luddism:

27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding work; clarifies myths re: history of industry By Mark

RA standard myth is that the Luddites despised technological progress thoughtlessly, simply because it was technological. There are reasons why this story has become standard fare and they are explained in detail by David Noble in his book. The truth is, Luddites did not dislike technological progress in and of itself, they disliked the particular form it took. Shop tools could be developed to enhance the work of machinists or they could be developed to de-skill workers and place greater control in the hands of management. The latter is the manner in which industry progressed and that is what Luddites protested and why Luddism became a popular movement. To understand technology one should have a sense of the historical context in which it grew and especially the decision-making that led to its growth. Typically, those decisions are conscious and openly discussed, as Noble documents. "Progress Without People" is an enlightening and inspiring book, outlining technological progress from the days of the early 19th century through to the late 20th century. Written for popular audiences, the book is still very well documented should people be interested in further researching the subject. In my view this book is a classic, and should be read by anyone interested in the history of industry and technology. The only drawback is that it's published by an obscure publishing company and won't be found on the shelves of most bookstores. "Strange business, this crusading spirit of the managers and engineers, the idea of designing and manufacturing and distributing being sort of a holy war; all that folklore was cooked up by public relations and advertising men hired by managers and engineers to make big business popular in the old days, which it certainly wasn't in the beginning. Now, the engineers and managers believe with all their hearts the glorious things their forbears hired people to say about them. Yesterday's snow job becomes today's sermon." --Kurt Vonnegut, "Player Piano" (1952) .11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Excellent overviews of current problems via history. By Mr Majestik Noble does an admirable job of encapsulating and synthesizing the current (2003) dilemma - by deskilling workers and paying them less so the rate of return for business is larger - one ends up with a surplus of goods because the deskilled low paid workers cannot afford said goods. 2 of 70 people found the following review helpful. Tired socialist pap By Hendrick Lorentz David Noble recycles tired socialist and Luddite arguments in this cliché polemic. The amazing thing is that anyone still holds these opinions in the face of recent developments. If David Noble wants to return to the past, he should have written his book with a quill and made copies by hand. He criticises the very technology that he uses every day.

A provocative discussion of the role of technology and its accompanying rhetoric of limitless progress in the concomitant rise of joblessness and unemployment.

A fresh account for much of what is going on all around us...[Noble] sheds light on the new mode of production whose material and ideological basis gets scant attention elsewhere. -- The Catholic Worker Progress Without People is a lucid and masterful portrayal of what is happening in the real world of state-corporate power, and what it means for the people of the world. -- Noam Chomsky "Progress Without People is a lucid and masterful portrayal of what is happening in the real world of state-corporate power, and what it means for the people of the world." -- Noam Chomsky About the Author David F. Noble is a professor of history at York University in Toronto. He is the author of several books, including Beyond the Promised Land, Digital Diploma Mills, and A World Without Women.