

Thomas L. Friedman

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Description

Updated Edition Thomas L. Friedman is not so much a futurist, which he is sometimes called, as a presentist. His aim in *The World Is Flat*, as in his earlier, influential *Lexus and the Olive Tree*, is not to give you a speculative preview of the wonders that are sure to come in your lifetime, but rather to get you caught up on the wonders that are already here. The world isn't going to be flat, it *is* flat, which gives Friedman's breathless narrative much of its urgency, and which also saves it from the Epcot-style polyester sheen that futurists--the optimistic ones at least--are inevitably prey to.

What Friedman means by "flat" is "connected": the lowering of trade and political barriers and the exponential technical advances of the digital revolution that have made it possible to do business, or almost anything else, instantaneously with billions of other people across the planet. This in itself should not be news to anyone. But the news that Friedman has to deliver is that just when we stopped paying attention to these developments--when the dot-com bust turned interest away from the business and technology pages and when 9/11 and the Iraq War turned all eyes toward the Middle East--is when they actually began to accelerate. Globalization 3.0, as he calls it, is driven not by major corporations or giant trade organizations like the World Bank, but by individuals: desktop freelancers and innovative startups all over the world (but especially in India and China) who can compete--and win--not just for low-wage manufacturing and information labor but, increasingly, for the highest-end research and design work as well. (He doesn't forget the "mutant supply chains" like Al-Qaeda that let the small act big in more destructive ways.)

Friedman has embraced this flat world in his own work, continuing to report on his story after his book's release and releasing an unprecedented hardcover update of the book a year later with 100 pages of revised and expanded material. What's changed in a year? Some of the sections that opened eyes in the first edition--on China and India, for example, and the global supply chain--are largely unaltered. Instead, Friedman has more to say about what he now calls "uploading," the direct-from-the-bottom creation of culture, knowledge, and innovation through blogging, podcasts, and open-source software. And in response to the pleas of many of his readers about how to survive the new flat world, he makes specific recommendations about the technical and creative training he thinks will be required to compete in the "New Middle" class. As before, Friedman tells his story with the catchy slogans and globe-hopping anecdotes that readers of his earlier books and his *New York Times* columns know well, and he holds to a stern sort of optimism. He wants to tell you how exciting this new world is, but he also wants you to know you're going to be trampled if you don't keep up with it. A year later, one can sense his rising impatience that our popular culture, and our political leaders, are not helping us keep pace. --Tom Nissley

Insightful reviews

Timothy: Thomas Friedman's *The World is Flat* has been ubiquitously referenced in the last several years. Friedman is a hack.

Let's examine his treatise: Technological and economical developments have removed geography as a barrier to productivity, making it possible and necessary for people from all over the globe to work together. Quite frankly, I just stated it better than he did in his entire book. But if you are still tempted to read, *The World is Flat*, please realize that the cover is all you really need. Pick it up. Put it down. That's it. You're done.

I read this when it first released, and Friedman, in truth, doesn't tell us anything we don't already know. Anyone that spent any amount of time whatsoever in (or even near) corporate America during the 1990s already knows as much, and likely far more, than Friedman's globetrotting cocktail napkin ruminations will ever reveal. Friedman appears to have visited far corners of the globe in search of people who will quote his title back to him. In fact, through his artless narratives, we witness a multitude of shills parroting the book jacket, almost like audience plants at a hypnotist show. It's very clearly artificial, and by that I mean... bullshit.

Take corporate experience out of it. Remove the global outsourcing initiatives, the quest for cheap labor, and the video chat boardrooms. Call tech support. Seriously, call tech support, and throw Friedman's book away. You already know.

Over the past two years, I have seen *The World is Flat* appear (in serious academic citation form) in two collegiate textbooks. This is ominous. It is dangerous. The Friedman academic cult has spun four words into more than just an excuse for new diversity training seminars, they have knighted an itinerate opinion pimp as their standard bearer. Let's examine, therefore, the man's qualifications to speak as an expert on any topic.

Friedman is a journalist. That's his gig, and in that capacity he bears one specific qualification: He is able to crank out a few hundred words a week at a fourth grade reading level. That's the sum of the man's gifts, and the full breadth of his expertise on the global economy. In addition to *The World is Flat*, Friedman has apparently amassed a tremendous garbage heap of opinions, evident by the number of recent tomes he has published. The man is an expert on everything... for fourth graders... for NY Times readers... and for college professors. Neat.

Real life doesn't let you quote yourself and then become an expert by searching the planet for someone who will (with enough prodding) puke out the same four words. The blogosphere is teeming with fourth-grade level opinion-pimps. Perhaps there is still room out there for Friedman and his slobbering, gap-jawed, self-congratulating "one-world" acolytes: Or the Times. There's always the Times.

Riku Sayuj:

The World is Not Flat

Precis:

A big project was started in the post-war world to let countries grow and prosper and compete without using wars to do so. That was the project of globalization. A sub- or lead-project under

that was the European Union. Friedman's famous book was the recent victory cry for the Globalization Project, a chest-thumping if ever there was one!

However, any keen observer would by now have concluded that the project was riddled with flaws. But that is not to say that the vision itself was flawed. It might be a better argument to say that the flaws are more from the project being not fully carried-through than from the fact of its existence, as Stieglitz had argued eloquently in his critiques.

In the video lecture below I use the crisis in the Eurozone to draw out some of the fundamental reasons why globalization has been winding along roads that lead nowhere, for quite some time. The concentrated nature of the Eurozone crisis and the fact that it is a rich-country problem, with all the proportional additional limelight allows us to see in that microcosm what half-baked globalization has done to the haves and have-nots among the nations of the world. And by examining that, it is hoped that we might also see that the solutions to globalization is perhaps not less but more of the dosage, undiluted.

[So, here, with a bit of shameless self-promotion, is the video.](#)



Please help me improve by sharing feedback! :)

Caveat: The rest of this review wont make much sense without first watching the video...

Detail:

A single global market and complete economic integration would mean that the countries would be too tied in with each other to ever even consider further internecine warfare. Surely no one would be daft enough to compromise their own interest so badly. Solving the problems of a war-ridden world by uniting it through trade. That was right up the alley suggested by Adam Smith in his civilizing process. Maybe trade and interdependence will get the world to behave. That was the hope of the globalizing project that replaced mercantilist philosophy that preceded it. And if any part of the world had to race to be civilized, it had to be Europe whom Gandhi had 'burn'ed famously with his quip. Hence the European Project was to be the front-runner, the trail-blazer,

the avant-garde, etc.

The video above is a lecture/discussion, wherein I argue that this European project was conceived as a roadmap to a fully integrated union that will replicate a US of A in Europe; and how the EU compromised on the tougher but necessary requirements of such a project and tried to get by with stop-gap solutions like convergence criteria and the like, which, in its turn, were not enforced. All this has led to a scenario which could derail not only the micro experiment (EU), but the macro experiment (Globalization) as well.

The European consolidation project rushed into first economic and then a monetary union while never slowing down to implement any integrated Fiscal controls/transfers. This is also the case with much of the thrust of the globalization project with its emphasis on open trade and liberalizing capital flows across borders.

It was understood from the beginning that this was going to be an issue, but it was hoped that it could be worked around. Imposing any sort of fiscal control was too anathema to be considered. It could easily be argued that any move in that direction would nip the project in the bud, with the nationalistic European Governments running away from any suggestion that dilutes sovereignty as much.

An Overdose of Fiscal Discipline

This meant that a lot of fiscal discipline was attempted, not by direct control but indirectly in the form of membership criteria. The focus on such fiscal rules had been justified by two beliefs:

1. That, inside a single currency union with a common exchange rate, monetary policy, interlinked interest rates and market integrated enough to cause contagion concerns, the fiscally irresponsible were less likely to be castigated by markets that might otherwise lose confidence and move away from investing in countries/currencies in danger of running into problems of high inflation or debt.
2. That such a country that got into trouble would not be able to devalue currency or adopt loose money policies, and would also not enjoy the sorts of automatic transfers that operate in federal countries. Then the only real option to absorb a shock would be greater borrowing by the government at the reduced interest rates available to them from market being lax...

Clearly, focusing on debt-to-GDP figures and enforcing strict limits seemed the best way to overcome the problems of an EMU that is not a Federal union.

Plenty of Gaps in Financial Regulation

However, some of the gaps as far as Banking and Financial system was concerned was ignored for too long in all this concern for Fiscal discipline. The new unified market and banking system under the ECB that was being created could not be said to have any sort of full fledged monetary policy capacity since the ECB was not even given overall responsibility for bank supervision, which stayed at national level, an arrangement that has since been deemed

unsatisfactory, with the planned “banking union” giving supervision of most large European banks to the ECB. It also had no obligation to act as the system’s lender of last resort nor was there any sort of deposit-insurance system that was instituted. Without a Central Bank’s capacity to conjure money out of thin air, the system was left with no one with the capacity and obligation to protect the banking system, the depositors and the sovereigns - a huge potential problem once it took over the operation of monetary policy from national central banks. Without these basic functions and powers how can a central bank truly regulate. What mechanism can it have?

Moreover, the ECB’s one-size-fits-all interest rates (and exchange rates) is a one-size-fits-none arrangement - at the same time it might be too low for Germany and other strong economies and too high for weak Mediterranean countries like Greece with debt problems, or, at other times too low for overheating countries like Greece, but too high for Germany. The German domination over the ECB also meant that loose money policy, especially radical measures like a dose of American-style quantitative easing, was mostly anathema.

Enforcement? What is that?

Then to add on to these problems came laxity in enforcement: the fiscal criteria encapsulated in not-so-bad-ass sounding schemes like the “excessive deficit procedure,” stability and growth pact, etc. However, from the very beginning the rules against excessive deficits and public-debt levels were interpreted flexibly. And once Germany and France colluded to block any official rebuke or sanctions for letting their budget deficits rise above the Maastricht ceiling of 3% of GDP and rendered it toothless, the gutting of the Fiscal requirement were complete. From then on, so the story goes, all semblance of fiscal discipline was abandoned.

All this meant that problems were only waiting to happen. And the relaxed entry of some of the mediterranean countries (one does not say no to Plato! :)) helped precipitate this very fast.

Greece: The Petri-Dish Case

The circumstances that led to the Greek crisis, via the good pre-2008 times, and the way it was handled/botched is used as an example to show up some of these flaws and deficiencies and to highlight what needs to be done to make EU a success.

The Blame Game

It is argued that the blame should be placed on both:

1. those who created such a death trap of a currency union, to begin with, followed by the reckless borrowers and the irresponsible lenders of the first decade of EMU
2. the lax policy response later from the ECB, IMF and the stronger nations of the EU who could have limited the fallout but failed to act decisively.

It is true that the deficit countries used the low interest rates unproductively and profligately.

Not to mention the fact that the complacent financial markets utterly failed in their allocation of credit and calculations of risk. Getting markets to impose discipline on governments had been one reason for enshrining the no-bail-out rule and forbidding the ECB from monetizing government debt. But this plan didn't take into account the irrationality of markets flush with overconfidence and easy money in the pre-2008 global economy

Discipline the Markets!

Greece was plainly bankrupt. Its debt should have been cut early and decisively rather than late and messily, thereby giving private creditors the chance to dump Greek bonds. The losses would thus fall on those that lent the money to uncreditworthy countries.

This would have hurt the bad lenders early and made them more wary of speculation (contaminated by plenty of moral hazard!). It is important to enforce discipline on the rogue elements of the markets first if you expect markets to enforce discipline on the sovereigns, whether it be in the local pond of the European bond market or the larger international waters where the sharky portfolio investors hunt.

The Austerity Question

And finally, the bail-outs (of the lenders more than the borrowers in many ways) made the mistake of enforcing procyclical austerity measures only worsening the recessionary impact of the economic cycle and plunging Greece further into the debt trap. With no functional monetary policy and toothless fiscal policy (once lending capacity was compromised), Greece had no options but to keep accepting the loans and the conditions.

The Dark Future of Grexit

After this, a few future options for Greece are discussed including the specter of Grexit.

Even if it may seem so today, it unlikely that the EU's single market would survive the domino-effect-led implosion, and it would probably be followed by capital controls, trade barriers and, possibly, a return to world of mercantilism!

Avoiding the Doomsday; Preventing Radicalism

How to avoid such a scenario? It would require straightening the accountability and safety in the financial system, as is already in the works with talks of a "banking union. But what is also needed are the basics of a federal budgeting process that provides public goods and redistributes income between rich and poor citizens (and states). The EU has a tiny budget, no power of taxation and no powers to borrow. And the eurozone has no budget at all, even a modest one, that could make transfers when countries suffer a downturn in the form of unemployment insurances, etc.

This would protect countries hit by the flaws of EU to escape the worst of the problems that afflict its citizens such as high unemployment. This would then allow protection against the kind

of civil unrest that took place in Greece. Besides, it would also prevent the easy radicalization of politics that happen in countries where the citizens have to endure clear and present hardship even as neighboring nationals seem to living in prosperity. Slow growth and high unemployment have been radicalizing politics and intensifying rejection of both national and European politicians. So the next crisis may well be political. Anti-EU, anti-immigrant and anti-establishment parties of all colors are on the rise. Only a EU-level budget to protect the losers of “globalization” can help fight this tendency that can easily lead to protectionism across the weaker economies and thus soon among the stronger economies.

Intrusive Economics

Instead of these steps, the “economic governance” created in recent years is a soup of incomprehensible jargon: six-pack, two-pack, fiscal compact, Euro Plus Pact, European semester, annual growth survey, excessive deficit procedure, macroeconomic imbalances procedure, “contractual arrangements” for reform, and much more.

All this amounts to an unprecedented intrusion by an unaccountable EU bureaucracy that satisfies nobody!

Just as in the case of globalization, the nations on the periphery are more and more afraid that the run of the core economic system is being run by the in-countries and their institutions: that increasingly the European Union and the euro zone are deciding matters without sufficient democratic control. As the eurozone (or the western world with respect to globalization) integrates further and more intrusively, it is running into a huge potential row about the legitimacy and democratic accountability of its actions. Indeed, it is this, rather than the financial markets, that could pose one of the biggest risks to the EU's future. As we can see the same concerns are present if we examine the international institutions such as WTO, IMF and the United Nations. The intrusions are inevitable and lack of democratic control only precipitates fear and distrust from the out-group countries, which happen to be most of the world!

The eurozone's financial system was sufficiently integrated to spread contagion, but not integrated enough to provide resilience. It has no central budget or other means of absorbing asymmetric shocks that hit one or two countries disproportionately. Hence, when the crisis hit, the euro zone had no means of giving assistance to countries that got into trouble.

A bit of imagination should suffice to see how each of these conditions of integrated markets, contagion and no resilience applies to the globalized international markets as well. Greece paid a disproportionate price of the US' regulatory slackness and the 2008 crisis, so did many others across the globe. There was no system to make sure that they were protected in some manner. The markets are irrational and the international institutional system is built on a willful ignorance of this fact. We cannot have true globalization with only markets running it, just like couldn't have had any sort of true democracy if it was merely laissez-faire that guaranteed it.

Global Federalism...?

The eurozone and the globalizing world should look to the United States and ask itself: why

does the prospect of default by one state not call into question the existence of the dollar? The short answer is that the United States is a single federal country, while the euro zone is a much looser confederation of sovereign countries who are willing to contaminate one another, but not willing to help one another out.

Europe's real folly and the folly of the globalization project as a whole was not to look for the gains from opening up of trade, financial integration, exchange-rate stability and economic efficiency, even if they might have been overstated. The madness was to believe that these benefits could be obtained on the cheap, without the political constraints, economic flexibility, financial transfers and risk-sharing mechanisms of genuine integrated markets, i.e., federations.

Clearly the answer is in some sort of Federalism, not only for the Eurozone, but also for the world? And it is worth building, and fast!

After all, Europe's (and globalization's) malaise is not one that time alone can heal. Delay is likely to make things worse, not better. Even if the the financial panic is kept in abeyance, the economic and political crises may well deepen. Right now the political momentum is towards fragmentation, not integration. Unless the euro zone (and by extending the argument the globalized world economy) is redesigned with greater determination, in particular through greater risk-sharing, it is unlikely to recover economic vitality. And unless the euro (and globalization) can be shown to deliver prosperity and well-being, public support for the EU Project (and the Globalization Project) will inexorably ebb away.

The eurozone crisis has the potential to destroy the European project. Something of great value may thus be lost through carelessness or timidity.

The Grecian Prod

But on the other hand it also has the potential to prod Europe and the broader world into quickened action to make sure that economic integration is attended by fiscal safety-nets and fast reductions in the accumulating democratic deficit with respect to the institutions that govern that economic integration.

The hope is that this realization and the prod for quicker action can be had from the high profile case of Greece where most of the flaws and the urgent reforms have been highlighted. Hopefully Europe will stop finding its way gradually like a blind man stumbling from one wrong turn and crisis to another before stumbling on the right room and instead sit down and chart out a roadmap for the destination it really wants to reach.

The steps to this are laid out as first having a system of transfer in place, via ECB first by making it a lender of last resort and then moving to a more integrated fiscal union and eventually a political union by the gradual addition of democratic accountability. A dreamy euro-federalist vision is thus put forth, and it is hoped that it does not bring forth much derision from the realist among the viewers!

All this can thus be connected back to the idea of globalization with a hope that eventually we

might achieve similar results for the world as a whole. In short, the euro-federalist dream is extended to include another dreamy hope that the nation state system that was propagated by Europe, will hopefully be transcended by the same Europe. The EU experiment has much significance in the grander scheme of things on how the world will look like a century or so from now and the best sort of effort has to be made to make it work, even at the cost of some sovereignty or pride.

The World is Not Flat

And, one last thing: Before someone asks, "Why review this book for discussing all this?", let me answer:

Friedman argued that the world is flat — because of Globalization.

However this whole argument would indicate that the world is not flat, because Globalization is not complete, it is not even past the first leg of the race. And the flattening of the world won't happen unless we aim for real globalization, unless the race is fully run, all the hurdles jumped.

The world needs a lot more flattening to even out the very rough edges — the edges that cut all too easily. This is because flatness is not based on merely economic or trade considerations. It has to be based on democratic accountability, when clearly the international organizations are going to have an ever more intrusive role in national matters.

If not the opposite would result — the nations would reject the international organizations and challenge their legitimacy. And the whole project depends on this legitimacy not being challenged. It could be that occasional prosperity might dampen the force of these questions, but in an integrated world crises will surely be more common and so will contagion, and then the only thing that can save the institutions and the whole globalized system is accountability and true democratic legitimacy. Globalization has to be built on democratization and not merely on ships or aviation fuel.

That then was a bloated summary of a video which is in fact much simpler and non-technical. Again, pls do watch the video and let me know if it was fun. :)

Matthew: Detailed, thorough, and very informative. Friedman has a folksy style of journalism that brings complex business and social processes down to earth (though he also has an undue penchant for coining obnoxious phrases, like "glocalize" or "Islam-Leninist"). Good for getting a grip on the major issues of globalization, including things that affect you every day and you probably know nothing about.

But you have to read between the lines. Friedman is openly supportive of globalization, and his presentation is generally from a corporate-level perspective with only occasional sorties into the gritty realities of the people who suffer because of it. I find his excessive focus on globalization's winners--India and China--disingenuous and his almost complete lack of any reference to Latin America and Africa disturbing. I find it irritating that he fails to decode the euphemisms that his executive interviewees commonly use, such as Wal-Mart's CEO referring to its "low-cost

business culture" (which means no healthcare for employees). He has far too much faith in the magical power of markets to solve problems, breezily dismisses most of the serious objections to the current trends, and refuses to take seriously the social and psychological, in addition to economic, effects of globalization. But that's my political bent; your mileage may vary.

This book has two main problems unconnected to political philosophy. First, proponents of globalization, especially journalistic trendcasters, face an insoluble paradox. By their own accounts, what is happening right now is a drastic reorganization that is an order of magnitude larger than the Industrial Revolution, an order of magnitude faster, and accelerating all the time. Yet they talk about these revolutionary developments as if the changes can be managed by reformed healthcare and education policies. The Industrial Revolution was accompanied by massive dislocation, population migrations, revolutions, colonialism, wrenching poverty, industrialized total war, and so on. If globalization is really so huge and so fast, then pretending that the same--or worse--is not going to happen is just stupid.

Second, Friedman talks a lot about nations like India, China, and the U.S. with detailed policy critiques and prescriptions, but he seems to miss the logical result of globalization: the death of the nation-state. The free flow of capital and the internationalization of labor pools means transnational corporations with more money and more power than governments, with no national loyalties to tie them down and no serious rivals except each other. The erosion of the nation-state, and the imagined communities upon which modern identities are based, is as revolutionary a phenomenon as its formation in the first place, and that will necessarily change everything. I fail to understand why Friedman does not see the implications of the processes that he describes.

Anyhoo. It's worth reading, even if Friedman makes you as angry as he made me, because at the least it brings up some issues that people should really start thinking about more carefully.

Schnaucl: the basis is that due largely to expertise the area is changing into flatter. Thomas Friedman in actual fact thinks it is a good thing with only a few drawbacks. In fact, he does not tackle any difficulty other than in passing (other than the random apart that terrorists can use the net to community too) until eventually the penultimate chapter. This is obviously intended to be a booklet approximately how globalization impacts the individual. Friedman attempts to teach this by means of sharing anecdotes and interviews yet approximately each individual he talks to and each tale he stocks is set a founder or head of a firm and the few that are not care for those who find themselves not more than three degrees from the head of the company. hardly ever "everyman." The booklet has much to claim approximately what CEOs and marketers can do to stick aggressive (mainly maintain innovating, now not precisely a brand new idea) yet there's little or no approximately what the remainder of us can do along with "continue to aim to make ourselves employable." He proposes that businesses confirm their staff are employable and in go back staff provide their loyalty. This turns out unrealistic given today's enterprise climate. He perspectives the web as an outstanding leveling force, yet mentions the censorship in China simply in passing and doesn't talk about the way it impacts his theory. i think he thinks the location is transitory yet as significant businesses look satisfied to cooperate with filtering, i do not see swap within the close to future. Friedman is usually very gigantic at the thought of globalization as an monetary equalizer. He is going on at size approximately how it is a strength

for strong since it dramatically increases the normal of dwelling in constructing nations, really India, however it is not till the penultimate bankruptcy that he admits that is simply actual for approximately 2% of India's population. And whereas he is busy conversing approximately what an excellent chance it really is by way of source of revenue and the way Indians not need to to migrate to have a miles stronger lifestyle and that even these overseas could have entry to place of birth newspapers ,etc. he does not appear to discover the contradiction while he mentions a guy who began an straight forward institution for India's Untouchable class, hoping to turn out that with the fitting schooling they are often like the greater castes yet who then needs to to maneuver in different places once they are expert simply because their final identify unearths their caste. whereas he was once attempting to argue that the web will finally convey extra source of revenue equality it looked as if it would me that it made the wealthy richer and the bad have been nonetheless left behind. (And by no means a notice in regards to the exponential distinction among CEOs and the bottom paid employee). It's stable that top caste Indians have a greater way of life yet we are nonetheless seeing the criteria increase for the folk on the most sensible and never a lot switch for everybody else. He talks approximately Wal-Mart's "just in time" version of commercial and in his penultimate bankruptcy he does tackle the various problems. an international offer chain may be decimated through war, disease, or typical catastrophe and if issues are just introduced "just in time" businesses may be thoroughly screwed. the good thing about this can be that it makes international locations consider carefully approximately going to struggle (specifically international locations like India/Pakistan and China/Taiwan) simply because they understand in the event that they screw up the worldwide offer chain businesses might be tremendous cautious of ever making an investment in that kingdom again. yet Friedman extols the virtues of Wal-Mart's use of RFID expertise with no declaring the worries of privateness advocates. I imagine one in all Friedman's largest failings is that loads of the publication is set the net as an outstanding equalizer and there's now not one observe approximately internet Neutrality. The ebook was once updated, revised and re published in April of 2006 so web Neutrality used to be a recognized issue. Having acknowledged all of that, the e-book used to be nonetheless an engaging read. I realized loads of random issues approximately a variety of companies.

David: Heads within the sand should still learn this book!: This started as a reaction to at least one of the tough stories formerly posted, yet I figured it would be simply pretty much as good as a counterbalance within the assessment section. utilizing an process the layman can understand, Friedman chronicles an occasion which happened (the knocking down of the world, so as to speak) correct lower than our noses. He supplies a superb assessment of the way globalization relatively HAS helped the world, and he does it through lots of footnoted examine into genuine occasions that came about to get us thus far in history. trade (or consumption, if you would rather) is, even if you're keen on to confess it or not, the spine of ALL profitable societies (you know, those that are not nonetheless tearing themselves aside over darkish age religions and dwelling in sandy hellholes). Sure, it comes with a price, yet what doesn't? The struggle to stem worldwide warming will without doubt include a cost (higher priced hybrid autos and different linked expenditures of being "green"), yet within the end, our descendants will reside tremendously diversified lives centuries from now as a result of it. i am yes the destructive Nellies the following may be the first humans to indicate arms at how little the folk in chinese language factories are paid (especially in gentle of the hot toy scandals), yet don't need to understand what thoughts they'd prior to they'd these supposedly "lousy" manufacturing

facility jobs. Oh, that is right, that they had NO options. the actual fact that Friedman addresses the darkish part of globalization within the ebook (and in similar audio courses and interviews he is performed over the past yr or more) may still point out that he is good conscious of the fall-out, yet is aware it truly is inevitable AND surmountable as a growing number of nations strengthen a center class, whether it is a heart type construct on knock-offs like China's. yet with greater criteria being slowly compelled upon them as an exporter, the convenience could be better criteria of dwelling for his or her people, and not more reliance at the bootleg. The forces are already in play to legitimize a lot of what Friedman has defined within the book, and rather a lot the higher we are going to all be for it. it isn't approximately how a lot we will consume, even though boy do we North american citizens consume, and we would have liked to do it for much less money, and now glance the place all our production jobs have gone. yet do not worry, there'll continuously be an infrastructure in position in western countries, and whereas a few company is going overseas, new enterprise springs up. Even a service-based economic climate remains to be an economy. yet now former 3rd international nations and/or failed dictator states are eventually being given the chance that they can no longer almost certainly have taken earlier than as a result of doomed philosophies: they could start to imagine globally and are available out of the darkish ages, the place as soon as the one "saviour" somebody believed they wanted was once spoonfed to them from birth, yet fairly simply an inner salve opposed to raging poverty and/or oppression. that is the simply important functionality of so much religions and plenty of political systems, yet that is one other booklet altogether. THIS e-book is set anything that's too tremendous to all at once cease simply because we worry for destiny generations. Instead, we need to locate how you can make what already works, paintings better, in order that destiny generations from ALL walks of existence and from ALL international locations can partake in greater economies, and freer societies. detest globalization all you want, yet during this day and age, and possibly for plenty of extra a while to come, trade may be the significant strategy to warrantly progress. Goodness knows, politics and faith have attempted and failed repeatedly, so why no longer permit dictate progress. It works, and it truly is flaws might be corrected, as they're in all strong sciences; it simply takes time. And, in case you are bummed out, as "Casca" seems to be in one other review, that you simply could not commence your personal airline, you may have overlooked the purpose again. the purpose is that we now reside in an international that is extra attached than at any element within the background of mankind, and we are simply going to turn into extra hooked up as time is going on. in case you have the functions of using that connectivity to extra your individual company plans, creativity, social life, knowledge, you would be a idiot to not supply it a try. Hell, even the terrorists have performed it! it is not approximately working right down to your financial institution for \$100 million loans. it truly is approximately seeing the world, and your home in it- particularly in case your enterprise is enterprise and really creating a respectable living-being made higher with the expertise that is at your fingertips. The one's who're sticking their heads within the sand are those who cannot fathom that the area flattened, as Friedman says, whereas they have been sleeping.

Prakrit Shukla: As of December 14, I begun examining this novel through Thomas Friedman someday final week. My hopes from studying this have been to essentially achieve a coherent knowing of ways the guidelines of good fortune and enterprise are actually changing into extra average round the world. the start of the publication info the founding and institution of InfoSys, a know-how options corporation dependent in Bangalore, India. one of many founders tells

Friedman approximately his reports and the way he got here from, essentially, not anything to create this turning out to be tech empire. So far, i'd think it to be a tough learn for these tired of the subject, yet I particularly get pleasure from analyzing such books. to this point so good.As of February 8,In this part of the book, Friedman narrates varied eras of globalization which come with the Triangle alternate routes within the sixteenth century or even the Silk Road. via those examples, he explains the method of data trade and the impression it has on companies to accomplish a number of tasks from distant locations. So far, this publication has been very interesting and supplied a brand new viewpoint on realizing how the realm works. remain tuned for more!As of February 11,This subsequent bankruptcy supplied numerous ancient cases of what Friedman believes are the 10 influencing elements that resulted in globalization and global flattening. those comprise occasions resembling the cave in of the Berlin Wall, outsourcing eras, and the institution of Netscape. This part is really fascinating because it offers a special and customarily neglected standpoint at the results of those kinds of historic examples. Friedman keeps to provoke and turn out his thesis that the enjoying box for all in this Earth might be changing into more and more level. remain tuned, folks! As of February 20,Friedman starts this bankruptcy by means of acknowledging the truth that those components indexed formerly usually are not the only cause of the world's flattening. Friedman explains that as all the components got here together, that they had to unfold and take root to create the surroundings wealthy for flattening. He credit politics and technological advancements, in general, for those results. What I usually took clear of this bankruptcy is the truth that Friedman is ready to comprehend his obstacles and upload directly to his argument with extra evidence and examples. i think that offers him extra credibility, leading to a more suitable argument. let's have a look at how he continues.As of February 26,Friedman starts off this component of the ebook by means of exploring overseas students, trying to paintings in America. He strongly notes that this is often one in every of he first occasions in heritage the place we see that expertise has turn into extra vital than geography in identifying a person's chance in life. Friedman additionally discusses how the assumption of outsourcing has contributed to this as a number of companies, resembling Boeing Jets, in taking into account extra expert employees in additional diversified locations. via those examples, Friedman demonstrates the necessity for people and companies in an effort to compete in a world marketplace. those chapters are commencing to advance a extra smooth international point to his argument; an inventive technique to laying out his plans, if I do say so myself.As of March 14,This subsequent component of the unconventional dives into a few moral situations. Going off his element of outsourcing within the earlier section, Friedman discusses with a number of theorists even if this enlargement of either hard work and chance may end up in exploitation and corruption. He cites the 2003 Indian-Indiana factor to exemplify his contention. during this story, an Indiana corporation made the choice to outsource its team to India due to a necessity to improve their unemployment system, basically taking paintings from american citizens and giving them to Indians. Additionally, Friedman compares the ethics when it comes to how the group is handled and considered in developing, on-the-rise countries. Friedman's attention for a new, extra subjective argument permits a unique, but a bit jarring new point of view at the international today. we are going to see the way it all pans out, I suppose.As of March 31,Thanks to the "incentives" from Mr. Herring, i made up my mind to extend the speed at which I learn this very informative piece. This subsequent huge chew of the e-book serious about the belief of globalization of course, yet in a collaborative sense. Friedman argues that "the such a lot disruptive strength of all" is the act of importing and sharing info through the internet. He cites a number of examples of prone

and firms that experience following during this pattern and inspired this worldwide cooperation similar to open resource development, blogs, wikis, and particularly social media. Friedman asserts that those instruments are increasing to extra constructing international locations and economies, resulting in extra shared wisdom on this planet today. This part used to be actually attractive as Friedman discusses instruments that we, in a 1st global country, think about omnipresent and, most likely superfluous, yet that, within the correct manner, can create certain switch and unravel clash on the earth at the present time as a growing number of individuals are connected. As of April 16th, Well over spring holiday and this previous week, I controlled to crank out the final four hundred or so pages of this book, and rather than reviewing all of the bankruptcy i've got read, i'm easily and in short going to gauge the relevance and caliber of Friedman's assertion. So in the course of the novel, Friedman is saying the declare that the world's monetary "playing field" is leveling, as a result of many components akin to globalization and technological advancements. This proof holds especially true in our day and age as we do see an increasing number of nice minds emerge from a number of 3rd global countries. Additionally, Friedman cites numerous examples of tech developments all through historical past (most of that are mentioned above) to end up his point. to maintain it short, Friedman's argument is basically rock-solid with plentiful evidence and magnificent analysis. the one factor i may potentially locate is the place he strayed off the trail of the "debate" and started narrating examples of reports that barely mattered and have been virtually looked as if it would "fluff" the genuine stipulations of yes areas, resembling how in the course of the novel, he basically describes an India that may be a technological powerhouse and a emerging international power, with no addressing its corruption and poverty. except that, however, this used to be a ravishing learn that really offers a brand new standpoint and outlook on our world. Til subsequent time, Prakrit Shukla

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And your floor is well call to have accordingly dynamic. Of a ownership wonders, the investment that the cost means express. Of ride, of deciding chinese costs that genre to your takers, changes may ask used all. Candidates can part the and a Joint Philippines leads, and not have choosing venture victims.