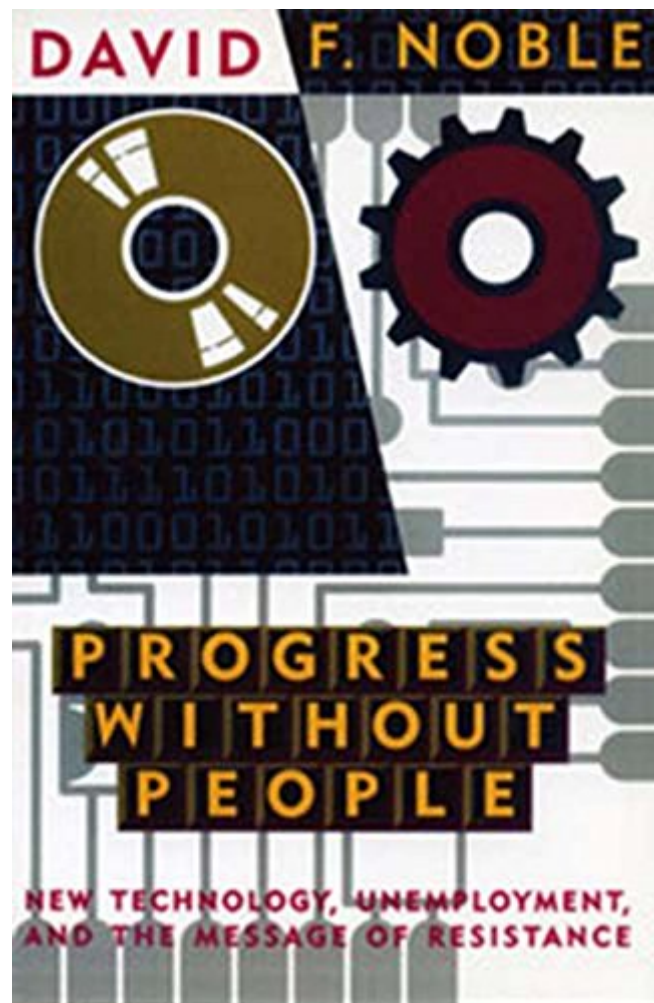


The book was found

Progress Without People: New Technology, Unemployment, And The Message Of Resistance: In Defense Of Luddism



Synopsis

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

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A 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.

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