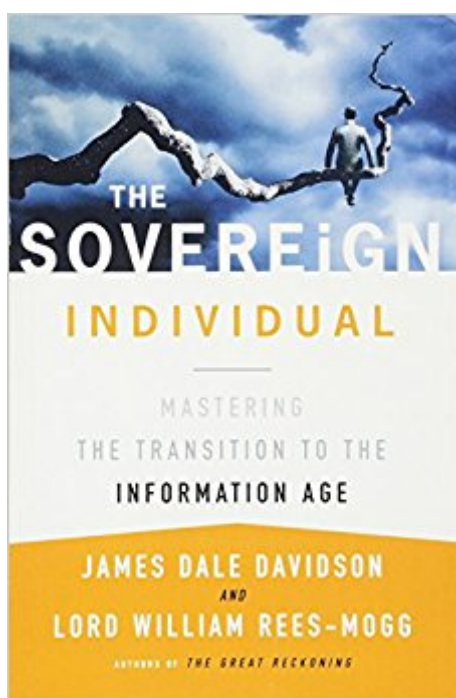


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# The Sovereign Individual: Mastering The Transition To The Information Age



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The computer revolution, in the authors' dire scenario, will subvert and destroy the nation-state as globalized cybercommerce, lubricated by cybercurrency, 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. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Read it twice. The predictions seem to be shaping up, albeit slower than I had hoped. But then all predictions that I have ever read do not come as quickly as predicted. or hoped. The alternative news sources here in 2015 carry predictions of their own that seem to be borrowed from this book.

Complete Review on Beach Street News

I've read all of the books by Davidson and Rees-Mogg, and was pleasantly surprised by their latest effort. The thing that's particularly inspiring about this book is the opportunity to consider futures that

are not promoted by typical pundits and "experts." It's refreshing to be able to not only have an alternate view, but also to be able to review the research that has gone into the analysis, which enables one to see how the model being presented was developed. Even if reality does not show up exactly as presented, it's certainly thought-provoking.

I can't emphasise how important it is to read and understand this book.

The amount of technology detailed here before its emergence is just hilarious.

I read this book knowing nothing about its authors; after reading it I have subscribed to James Dale Davidson's financial newsletter! In a world that appears to have gone mad with fear and self-doubt, Davidson and Rees-Mogg provide a grand theory that explains why the world is the way it is in general. What they call "megapolitics" helps to explain how technological innovation drives not only the economy but also international relations. This book challenged my understanding of the internet by showing how advanced telecommunications changes the fundamental relation between the individual and the state. Even if you do not agree with Davidson and Rees-Mogg's theory, the bibliography of this book is so well researched that it alone justifies the purchase. I enjoyed the book so much that I purchased a copy for my family to read. A "must read" hardly does this book justice.

Excellent book when read in a hindsight perspective.

so many great insights, so many relevant conjectures (especially about cyber currency)the authors espouse views that are kind of... obnoxious. there is certainly truth to them, but when they say that the living conditions for factory workers were improved time and time again without any effort on the part of factory workers I just want to slap them. It's such a lame way to look at things. certainly true in a way, but such a bad way to look at things, and so ignorant of the flip side. excessively libertarian.

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