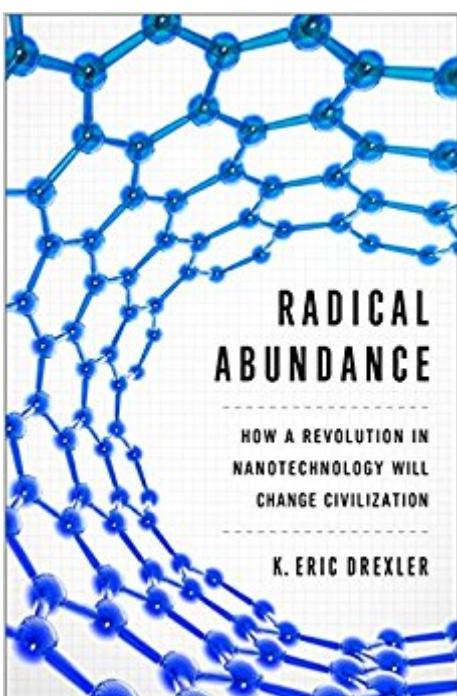


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Radical Abundance: How A Revolution In Nanotechnology Will Change Civilization



Synopsis

K. Eric Drexler is the founding father of nanotechnology—the science of engineering on a molecular level. In *Radical Abundance*, he shows how rapid scientific progress is about to change our world. Thanks to atomically precise manufacturing, we will soon have the power to produce radically more of what people want, and at a lower cost. The result will shake the very foundations of our economy and environment. Already, scientists have constructed prototypes for circuit boards built of millions of precisely arranged atoms. The advent of this kind of atomic precision promises to change the way we make things—cleanly, inexpensively, and on a global scale. It allows us to imagine a world where solar arrays cost no more than cardboard and aluminum foil, and laptops cost about the same. A provocative tour of cutting edge science and its implications by the field's founder and master, *Radical Abundance* offers a mind-expanding vision of a world hurtling toward an unexpected future.

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Customer Reviews

Kirkus—“A stimulating tour through current thinking about and future possibilities for nanotechnology, from one of its creators—A crackerjack piece of science and technology writing.—Albany Times Union—K. Eric Drexler writes in his accessible new book “*Radical Abundance*” that the digital revolution is about to give way to a form of production that will radically transform the world economy and that could also save the environment: nanotechnology, or more specifically, atomically precise manufacturing.—Nature Magazine—“Nanotechnology pioneer Eric Drexler bids us to leap in at the technological deep

end. We can transform the way we make everything from bridges to circuit boards, he argues, by harnessing molecular machines that operate on digital principles. The result? Desktop or garage facilities that use less fuel, land and energy than today's vast factories and supply chains. The technical and political challenges of unleashing atomically precise manufacturing are substantial, but Drexler cuts deftly through the complexities.

K. Eric Drexler developed, named, and popularized the concept of nanotechnology. Currently at the Programme on the Impacts of Future Technology at Oxford University, Drexler is a frequent public speaker on scientific issues, addressing audiences of politicians, business leaders, scientists, and engineers in the Americas, Europe, and Asia.

Rather disappointing. Then again, I have to say that I gave up halfway through the book; possibly I missed the good stuff. The first half is pretty much an *apologia* for what Eric Drexler called "nanotechnology" in his 1986 book, "Engines of Creation." That book triggered expectations which haven't been fulfilled in thirty years. The label "nanotechnology" has been applied to methods that don't resemble those Dr Drexler described in '86, so he eschews it in favor of the less exciting "atomically precise manufacturing" or "APM." His excitement has cooled, it seems. I was hoping for technical details and descriptions of methodology that I didn't find. What I found instead were chapters on the distinction between science and engineering, and the history of technology, written in what seems to me a defensive mood.

Writing this months after reading Radical Abundance and happy to report this book changed my life and career. I've always been an optimist, looking at the future as progress waiting to happen and wondering why anyone would see dystopia.. feeling sorry for them that imagine life getting worse. Having read Drexler, I'm convinced that the future is abundant and our challenge is to alert mankind that the difficult times of transition are going to be worth. We don't have all the answer, but the direction we are headed will mean a better world for all.

I have not read "Engines of Creation" but have read much about it. Radical Abundance shows the authors skill in science writing. Regarding atomically precise manufacturing, the author makes a convincing case for its advantages and its dangers. The dangers still haunt, as they did when he wrote Engines. Thus I was left think that his career and goals to help humanity might have been better spent if he had continued his early career in interest space colonization.

Refreshing optimistic view of our future. Illustrates the difficult and erratic path towards an unknown and complete new way of life. Shows what could be possible if we would be able to integrate "atomic precise manufacturing" into our production and consumption habits.

This is an important book. That said, parts are a bit repetitive, examples tend to be general rather than specific. Illustrations would add a lot to the book, but there aren't any. So it could have been better executed, but the message is very important and Drexler is the right person to deliver it.

very interested in this topic and bought the audio version and then the text. badly done. had to stop halfway through. did not bring this to life or give me any sense of how this was done. perhaps the last half of the book would have been better. will have to look elsewhere to learn about this.

It offers a great view of the future of nanotech. But the author doesn't address the mass unemployment that the precursor technologies of AI and robotics will likely cause. It seems like there's a step missing between here and the future of radical abundance.

While I thought Drexler's book "Engines of Creation" was seminal in this field of atomic precise manufacturing APM, this one is more a philosophical history lesson than a revelation of how APM will unfold in the future

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