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More Human: Designing A World Where People Come First



Synopsis

People feel angry and let down by their leaders, as well as by the institutions that dominate their lives: political parties, government bureaucracy, and corporations. Yet the cause of this malaise, according to political advisor turned tech CEO Steve Hilton, is not being addressed by politicians on the left or the right. Hilton argues that much of our daily experience—from the food we eat, to the governments we elect, to the economy on which our wealth depends, to the way we care for our health and well-being—has become too big, too bureaucratic, and too distant from the human scale. *More Human* sets out a radical manifesto for change, aimed at the root causes of our problems rather than just the symptoms. Whether it's using the latest advances in neuroscience to inform the fight against poverty and inequality, or applying lessons from America's most radical schools to transform our children's education, this book is an agenda for rethinking and redesigning the outdated systems and structures of our politics, government, economy, and society to make them more suited to the way we want to live our lives today. To make them more human.

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Customer Reviews

I thought this was a decent book to read with some good ideas, and would have given this 4 stars had Mr. Hilton not incredulously and furiously argued for certain things that I thought were just plain absurd and/or ignorant. This is a book filled with a collection of Mr. Hilton's proposals of areas where "things" need to be "more human". He does not linger long on opposing arguments, maybe a sentence here or there, and mostly just plows right past them without really answering their

challenges. So I'm going to present the opposing arguments in this review, so this will sound harsh, but I paid \$30 for this book! I want to be smacked out of my conservative worldview by convincing arguments!- He does not like money in politics, and thinks it should be limited somehow. He does not like the Citizens United decision. This is a common sentiment, though he does not devote much time thinking about the alternative. For example, should Hillary Clinton be able to censor documentaries that portray her in a negative light, which was the issue under debate with the Citizen's United case?- He does not like the government's general lack of due diligence with it's policy crafting. He also thinks it should be more like Silicon Valley and have hackathons and stuff. I can't disagree with the due diligence part, the government *absolutely* should follow up with their policy decisions to make sure they are being implemented exactly as expected, and things should be adjusted if otherwise. But good luck getting the government to do that! And you're simply not going to be able to hire great "hackers" if you're going to pay them a government salary, with pay scaling strictly with tenure and authority.

I did not much like Kirsten Dunst in Spiderman. Too plain, too girl-next-door, too whiny. Completely different story as Marie Antoinette, though. I mean OH MY GOD was she perfect in that role. Haughty, sultry, manipulative, vaguely Germanic. Is there any German in her? Probably. Still, she's got nothing on Steve Hilton. He's probably a re-incarnation. And he knows it, of course. Like when he proclaims that those who want to see food produced through more human, less barbaric means are often dismissed as out of touch. You know: "let them eat seasonal, organic, locally sourced, fair-trade cake" And so it is that the author himself sums up the whole book on page 120 "You don't believe me, be my guest and go read it; however be warned that 1. The tone is that of a rant, a whiny (that word, again) "luddite" manifesto 2. Half the stuff that bothers him is on the mend 3. The other half really does not matter 4. The "more human" theme was added on top; it truly isn't a common thread So he worries about food quality, but the truth is Kellogg's breakfast cereal is stuck on the shelves these days, along with fizzy drinks. Young people, poor young people, are eating better than ever before. The tide has turned. He worries about how wasteful we are with energy, but Western European per capita energy consumption peaked in 1974, Japanese in 1990, South Korean in 1998 and US, finally, in 2008. The tide has turned. He worries about the rich entrenching their children's privilege through a donation-fuelled and tutor-enhanced attendance of the top universities, while from the other side of his mouth heralding the advent of continuous lifetime education through MOOCs like Udacity.

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