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Platform Revolution: How Networked Markets Are Transforming The Economy - And How To Make Them Work For You



Synopsis

An inside look at the revolutionary business power of the platform - from the experts who helped discover how it works. Facebook, PayPal, Alibaba, Uber - these seemingly disparate companies have upended entire industries by harnessing a single phenomenon: the platform business model. Platform Revolution delivers the first comprehensive analysis of how platforms use technology to match producers and consumers in a multisided marketplace, unlocking hidden resources and creating new forms of value. When a company like Uber connects drivers with passengers, everybody wins - except traditional cab companies, which are scrambling to survive. Assumptions about operations, finance, strategy, and innovation all change. Platform Revolution explores the what, how, and why of this revolution and provides the first "owner's manual" for creating a platform marketplace. Revealing the strategies behind some of today's rising platforms, the authors explain how entrepreneurs - and traditional companies - can thrive in this new world. In cases as diverse as shoes, spices, dating, energy, home appliances, and education, Platform Revolution provides the essential guide to unlocking the potential of an economic landscape transformed.

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Customer Reviews

Every so often I lead workshops on pricing strategy. For the past several years I have been telling people that if you are in a conventional business (what Parker, Van Alstyne and Choudary call a 'pipeline business') and you are competing against a platform business you have already lost.

Pipeline businesses do not have winning strategies against multisided markets, or as this book calls them 'platform businesses.' This book is the single best introduction I have read to Platform Businesses. If you use (and if you are reading this you do use a Platform Business,), are working on or may compete against a Platform Business you need to read this book. I have been recommending it to my own team at TeamFit.co to my investees and to companies that come to me for pricing advice. Platform Revolution has many strong points. It explains the feedback loops and network effects (positive and negative) that drive platform business dynamics, the chapter on monetization is excellent and the chapter on governance is a must read (I think I will send a copy to Vancouver's mayor). The book even has a short section on data ownership, which is likely to emerge as a major social issue over the next decade (ask yourself, why does the company I work for own my employee records, why don't I own them too!). Platform Revolution is not perfect of course. My main complaint is the lack of useful diagrams. The book is sketch poor and I found that I had to keep a notebook and pencil beside me as I read to make sure I was following all of the interactions of forces and to give me some mnemonics to remember what I was reading. This is good in that it helped me to build up my own mental models, but I would prefer to have shared sketches that I could use in business planning with other people. I also found the characterization of the two sides of a market as 'producers' and 'consumers' limiting. This is not a useful model to describe many two-sided market interactions, as the authors themselves noticed when they talked about dating sites (dating sites are a good thing to study to learn a lot about very dynamic two-sided markets). I also found the discussion of Porter's Five Forces to be simplistic and dismissive. This seems to be an MIT thing as other people associated with MIT have the same blinkers. A more useful approach would be to look at how each aspect of the five forces gets drawn into platform markets. There are some other good books to read on this theme. I would also recommend Platform Ecosystems by Amrit Tiwana, Matchmakers by David Evans and Modern Monopolies by Moazed and Johnson. But Platform Revolution is an excellent place to start.

This a scholarly but very readable survey of platforms and their foundations, with broad scope and modest depth. As a technologist and entrepreneur I found this a very good way to quickly grasp the breadth of platforms and the transformations they cause. If you want a good Platforms 101, you won't be disappointed. This book orients you. If you want implementation details, you'll need to look elsewhere. There are many platform foundations to choose from.

In the Information Age, data is key to every aspect of business interaction. Connecting platform

users and facilitating match-making between producers and consumers will revolutionize the global economy as we know it and this book details how it all is happening right now with more to come in the future.

Disruptive technologies and Innovation will continue to affect our thinking and discoveries going forward in the 21st Century. The aim of marketing is to know and understand the customer so well the product or service fits him and sells itself. Peter Drucker. Mr Drucker said it well and Sangeet Choudary, Geoffrey Parker, and Marshall Van Alstyne have provided us with a great roadmap and historical context to learn the lessons that will serve us well into the balance of the 21st Century.

We see the world changing fast impacting our life however we do not see what is behind, how it is changing, why is changing. The book gives you a clear understanding of it. I would recommend to all company leaders to read and understand the revolution. Perhaps your business is already in jeopardy to be disrupted but you have not realized yet. When you do, it can be late!

This book was very instrumental in helping our strategy team find a common goal and language. It really helped our thinking stay centered. We did build on the concepts but that is expected. I would recommend the book to anyone really trying to understand what a "platform" is as being defined by the digital economy and the impact to value chain based business models.

Good primer if your new to this topic. Overall I added to my base of knowledge of the power of networked markets and how companies have leverage this framework in the past. Recommended.

I am totally fascinated by the platform business model. There are so many examples of the "scalability" and expansion of such a model to create massive value for the creator. This model is rapidly disrupting industries.

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