

I A N A N G E L L

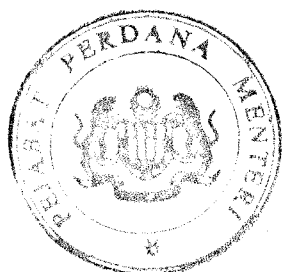
THE **NEW**
BARBARIAN
MANIFESTO

HOW TO **SURVIVE**
THE INFORMATION AGE

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I A N A N G E L L



PUSTAKA PERDANA



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Preface

You may find the writing style of this book rather strange. You may even think that it reads like a sermon, preaching 'hellfire and damnation'. It is intended to be strident – after all it **is** a manifesto. But don't let the tone put you off. There is a good reason for this choice of style; for although much of the book foretells an age of doom and gloom for the many, it also contains a message of salvation for the few. Please persevere because the book does hint at how you and yours can join the latter elite band.

I want to convince you that a 'brave new world' is being forced upon unsuspecting societies by advances in information technology. This is a brutal and brutish world, a world of barbarians, where the certainties of the 20th century, its power bases and its institutions are collapsing. With illustrations from around the world, but particularly from Britain and the United States, I will show that this is no nice neat tidy transition, but a severe and total dislocation with the past. Individuals, companies, communities and countries will either be catapulted into a new prosperity, or relegated to poverty, obscurity and extinction.

The message of *The New Barbarian Manifesto* is quite simple. The way that a society arranges its economic production feeds back into social behaviour and eventually reshapes that society's norms. Advances in new technology are amplifying forces that are highly disruptive to economic performance, and are consequently undermining societal stability. The impact of these forces on the creation and ownership of wealth means that our 20th-century socio-economic institutions must either mutate or die. The 20th century, the century of the masses, is over. Like all mass cultures, it has eventually degenerated into the natural state of societal entropy, the gradual running down to disorder and chaos.

This book is structured to enable you to understand these forces and use them to advantage, with pointers to becoming a winner in this new age. In the introduction and in the first three chapters, collectively called **Impact of the superhighways**, I will discuss the new forces and also the rejuvenated old

pressures now unleashed by information technology. In the next part, **Work and employment**, I will show that the nature of work has changed fundamentally, and that every state will face the major problem of finding employment for its unemployed and unemployable citizens. In **Assault on the status quo**, I will focus on two particular 'virtues' of today's 'advanced' societies, namely the redistribution of wealth through taxation, and universal suffrage, and will expose their degeneracy. The consequential breakdown of our society is then mapped out in the next part, **Transition**. The following part, **Recognizing the new order**, will show how to see through the societal rituals that blind us to the disintegration happening all around. The penultimate section will use the new insight to identify **The winners** (and losers), and the final chapter will show **How to become a winner**, how to be a 'new barbarian'.

We all have two choices: follow 'new barbarians' and advance to an uncertain future, or obey 'old barbarians' and their fundamentalist gospel of a false past. The new barbarians represent the winners in the new economic reality, leaving the losers to circle their wagons around old values and rituals, easy prey for the old barbarians. The outcome of their coming battle will be a world of three zones. The first world is the libertarian realm of new barbarians that supports the rights of the individual, not of the tribe. The second world is an uneasy compromise between old barbarian ideologies and the modern world; its mode of governance focuses exclusively on the rights of the collective. Might is right in the third world, a place of terror and repression. Putting it simply, the three worlds are an open society, a closed society and no society.

If trapped in the two lesser worlds, we will be forced to conform to old barbarian rituals. Therefore, we must throw in our lot with the new barbarians. The alternative is to be left to the mercy of the masses, forced to accept the mind control of religious, political and ethnic bigotry – or suffer the consequences. The history of every human society has been of the tension between the individual and the collective, between the self and the tribe, between private aspirations and social norms. Today we are again faced with the three evils of socialism, racism and religious intolerance. We must flee to the first world of 'smart regions', to prosper in a climate of individualism and of intellectual and financial freedom. Should we fail to escape in large enough numbers, then a new Dark Age will engulf us all.

Welcome to the future. Welcome to the 'brave new world' of *The New Barbarian Manifesto*.

Ian Angell