



Preparing for Life After High School

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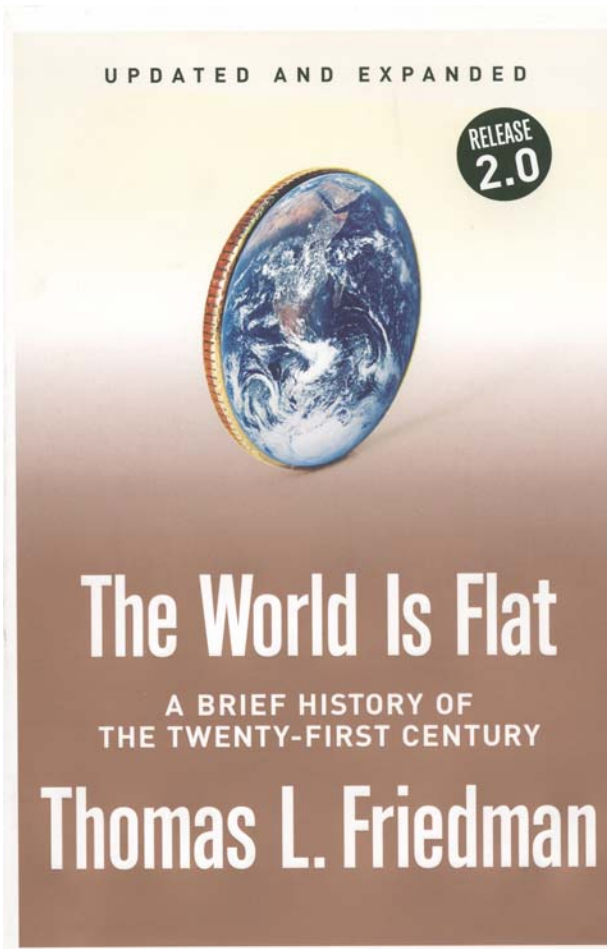


What class seat do you want in your trip through the job market?

- First class?
 - » Roomy seating and lots of choices (dinner with wine!)
- Coach?
 - » A bit tight, but you get to choose your seat (most of the time)
 - » A lot fewer choices (Coffee or pop? Peanuts or a cookie?)
- Freight?
 - » No choices about your handling
 - » Not all that goes in comes back out in good shape
 - » Some of what goes in just gets lost



Required reading for anyone in high school



Globalization 1.0, ca. 1500-1800:
“Where does my country fit into global competition?”

Globalization 2.0, ca. 1800-1990:
“Where does my company fit into global competition?”

Globalization 3.0, since 1990:
“Where do I (we) fit into global competition?”



Important numbers to focus on

- The most important number to focus on is 3,000,000,000
 - » This is number of people you will need to compete with for jobs once you enter the job market
 - » Approximately half the world's population today
 - » The other half are younger than you, but they will start looking for jobs during your working years
- Another important number is 5
 - » This is, on average, the predicted number of times you will be changing employers and/or careers before retirement

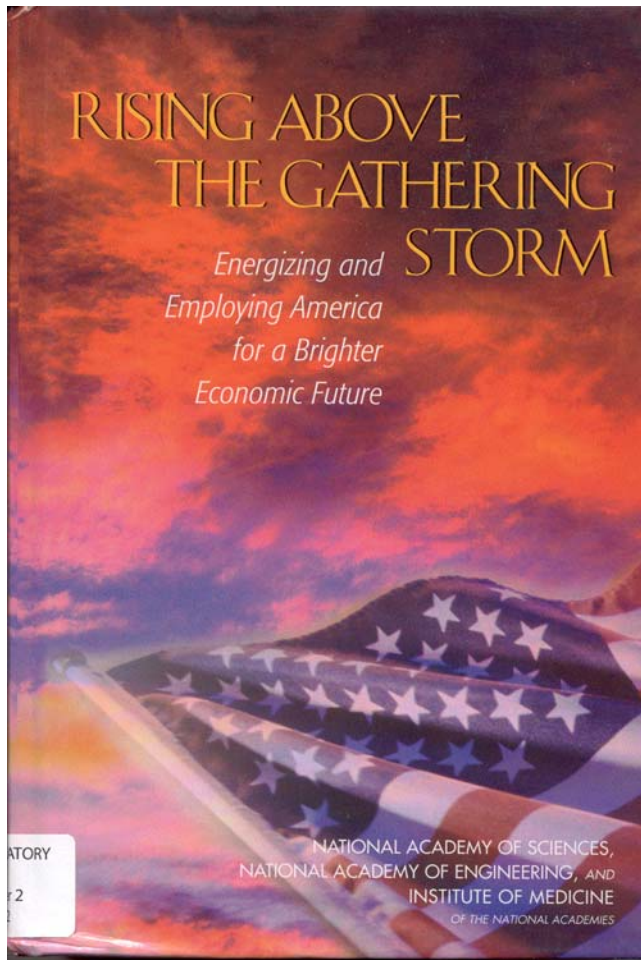


Some important points to make

- All honest work is honorable
- Unfortunately not all workers are honored
- All workers are in a market
- Many of our elders and ancestors did not have many great opportunities to choose from, but you do
- History is not destiny



What is needed for national prosperity in the future



“Without high-quality, knowledge intensive jobs and the innovative enterprises that lead to discovery and new technology, our economy will suffer and our people will face a lower standard of living.” – Executive Summary

“If you can solve the education problem, you don’t have to do anything else. If you don’t solve it, nothing else is going to matter much.” – Alan Greenspan



Possible strategies (more than one can apply)

- **First class:**
 - » Prepare to ride the innovation wave, since it will affect you anyway, no matter what class you choose
 - » Find or create a niche for your unique talents and dreams
- **Coach:**
 - » Prepare for local non-out-source-able opportunities
 - » Hard to outsource teachers, fire-fighters, police, welders, isn't it?
 - » Well, remember that 50 years ago most welders were not robots; today's non-robotic welders need a 2-yr college degree (tomorrow's welders may well need a 4-yr college degree)
 - » In some fast-food drive-in facilities the person taking your order and processing the bill may not be in the same state as your car
 - » Robotic surgery over the internet is just around the corner...
- **Freight:**
 - » try to out-compete the world by working for less



Innovation is ...

- Increasingly rapid in diffusing across society
 - » Automobile - 55 years to spread to 25% of population
 - » Telephone - 35 years
 - » Radio - 22 years
 - » PC - 16 years
 - » Cell phone - 13 years
 - » World Wide Web - 7 years
 - » Current product innovation to market time in electronics industry is 18 months
- Increasingly multidisciplinary and technologically complex
- Collaborative and diverse
- Global



Preparing to compete in the world economy

- In a flat, multidisciplinary world, *subjects don't matter; analytical ability and the creation, integration and concise expression of ideas matter*; isolation of subjects is an industrial-age anachronism
- Content was king until about 1990; *in the "Google age", content is cheap and abundant*. "Education is what's left after you forget everything you learned in school" has never been more true. It's all about learning to learn and learning to think critically.
- A creative, innovative environment *values diversity as an engine of ideas and communication ability as the highway*; being different is now an asset and working with different people is key
- *Integration between culture and education is essential* in a global economy



Thanks for the big picture, but what do I do now?

- Become literate and learn to excel
 - » Literacy in Science, Math and Writing/presentation skills will be key to any occupation in the future
- Build imagination and expressive ability
 - » Do something hard; take some risks
 - » Develop skill in Art, Music, Drama or Dance
- If you are not already bilingual, become bilingual
 - » If you are bilingual, consider becoming trilingual
 - » Learn histories and cultures as well as how to order dinner
 - » You will need to “get inside the skin” of many people from many cultures to succeed in future workplaces
- Find your dream and follow it
 - » If you think going to school for 9 months straight is tough, try going to work every day for the next 50 years!

A final thought: “Why does math matter?”



- Larry Page & Sergey Brin, co-founders of Google
- Age: mid-30s
- Net Worth: ~ \$18B/ea
- Discipline: computer science
- Creation: mathematical algorithm behind most efficient internet search engines

Google ranked 213th on Forbes 2000 list of the world’s largest companies; ranked 33rd in market value ahead of all auto manufacturers, except Toyota; ahead of Boeing, Caterpillar, Dow Chemical, Duke Energy, Florida Power & Light, Monsanto, PepsiCo, ...