

The information revolution a myth or a reality? / Limor Yagil

Abstract:

In recent years, an unceasing stream of books, newspaper articles, conferences and television programs have drawn our attention to profound technological changes which are transforming the structure of the world economy, the world politic and the world culture. We have been told there is an information revolution or an information exploding going on. We are told we now live in the Information Age. John Naisbitt summed up much of this sentiment in his best seller, Megatrends (1982) and more recently it is Alvin Toffler who has commanded our attention with series of books describing the changes being brought to our world by new information systems.

The general literature about the information society suggests that 80 per cent of the members of the information workforce collect, arrange co-ordinate, monitor and disseminate information about activities taking place within the production economy. The absolute and relative size of the information sector has grown as a consequence of the rapid multiplication in the quantity of transactions internal to the economy, which has followed in the wake of increased technical efficiency in production and distribution.

This thesis tries to propose a different approach to the "Information Revolution". In this thesis we argues with those which justify the existing of the Information Revolution, claiming that society is entering a period of transition from an industrial society to an information society. There is no doubt in the minds of information technology futurists that information and communication technology will being about, not only new prospects in communication and information but a whole new world, a societed transformation just as great or even greater than the "Industrial Revolution". Such transformation comprises a change in our values system from material to time value; from a system of the competition to a synergic economical system, from parliamentary democracy to participatory democracy.

But in fact, there no such a revolution and it is not at all clear that the information society is emerging in any of its dimensions. Without doubt, there are many innovations based on microelectronics. There are changes, but there have not revolutionizing impact on our whole way of life- our work, leisure, education, politics, family and even on our sexuality.

It is obvious that the rhetoric of an "information revolution" is becoming the dominant ideology of United States in the world, particularly after 1989. My thesis attempts to demonstrate how a number of developments in the information and

