



Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology

By Kentaro Toyama



Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama

After a decade designing technologies meant to address education, health, and global poverty, award-winning computer scientist Kentaro Toyama came to a difficult conclusion: Even in an age of amazing technology, social progress depends on human changes that gadgets can't deliver.

Computers in Bangalore are locked away in dusty cabinets because teachers don't know what to do with them. Mobile phone apps meant to spread hygiene practices in Africa fail to improve health. Executives in Silicon Valley evangelize novel technologies at work even as they send their children to Waldorf schools that ban electronics. And four decades of incredible innovation in America have done nothing to turn the tide of rising poverty and inequality. Why then do we keep hoping that technology will solve our greatest social ills?

In this incisive book, Toyama cures us of the manic rhetoric of digital utopians and reinvigorates us with a deeply people-centric view of social change. Contrasting the outlandish claims of tech zealots with stories of people like Patrick Awuah, a Microsoft millionaire who left his engineering job to open Ghana's first liberal arts university, and Tara Sreenivasa, a graduate of a remarkable South Indian school that takes impoverished children into the high-tech offices of Goldman Sachs and Mercedes-Benz, *Geek Heresy* is a heartwarming reminder that it's human wisdom, not machines, that move our world forward.

 [Download Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cul ...pdf](#)

Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology

By Kentaro Toyama

Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama

After a decade designing technologies meant to address education, health, and global poverty, award-winning computer scientist Kentaro Toyama came to a difficult conclusion: Even in an age of amazing technology, social progress depends on human changes that gadgets can't deliver.

Computers in Bangalore are locked away in dusty cabinets because teachers don't know what to do with them. Mobile phone apps meant to spread hygiene practices in Africa fail to improve health. Executives in Silicon Valley evangelize novel technologies at work even as they send their children to Waldorf schools that ban electronics. And four decades of incredible innovation in America have done nothing to turn the tide of rising poverty and inequality. Why then do we keep hoping that technology will solve our greatest social ills?

In this incisive book, Toyama cures us of the manic rhetoric of digital utopians and reinvigorates us with a deeply people-centric view of social change. Contrasting the outlandish claims of tech zealots with stories of people like Patrick Awuah, a Microsoft millionaire who left his engineering job to open Ghana's first liberal arts university, and Tara Sreenivasa, a graduate of a remarkable South Indian school that takes impoverished children into the high-tech offices of Goldman Sachs and Mercedes-Benz, *Geek Heresy* is a heartwarming reminder that it's human wisdom, not machines, that move our world forward.

Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #235543 in Books
- Published on: 2015-05-26
- Released on: 2015-05-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 1.13" w x 6.25" l, 1.26 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 352 pages



[Download Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cul ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology
By Kentaro Toyama**

Editorial Review

Review

"High-tech insider Kentaro Toyama's compulsively readable manifesto will change minds about all those new technological quick-fixes for poverty. From previous claims for radio and TV to today's claims for broadband, he convincingly shows that technological solutions are neither so new nor so quick. Technology does not solve problems; people do, Toyama reminds us. He balances his refreshing skepticism about technological utopias with inspiring faith in the motivation and creativity of human beings."

--William Easterly, professor of economics, NYU, and author of *The Tyranny of Experts*

"Everyone from field staff and managers to researchers and funders will benefit from his unique perspective; geeks and non-geeks, alike. Finally, we have a book that can help temper our technology addiction with an approach guided by critical thought and practical application." **--Trina Gorman, Monitoring and Evaluation consultant**

"If you find yourself even remotely optimistic about technology and development, you should read this book." **-- Chris Blattman, Associate Professor of Political Science & International and Public Affairs at Columbia University**

"It is notable... when a techie insider steps outside the tent to chastise his tribe at book length -- and has the gall to both criticize and dedicate the book to his former boss, Bill Gates." **-- Anand Giridharadas, The New York Times**

"Toyama lays down eloquently his bone of contention that technology merely amplifies the human condition." —**New Indian Express**

"Toyama's research reminds us that there are very few one-size-fits-all solutions. If technology is going to improve the lives of the world's poorest, it must be grounded in a deep understanding of human behavior and an appreciation for cultural differences." —**Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft and co-chair of The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**

"Read this book! With engaging stories and penetrating insight, Toyama reveals that even the most powerful technologies can't cure our social ills, and he inspires us toward a more deeply human kind of progress." —**Ben Mezrich, author of *Accidental Billionaires***

"Controversial yet inspiring...*Geek Heresy* is a must read for anyone who is passionate about social change...Everyone from field staff and managers to researchers and funders will benefit from his unique perspective; geeks and non-geeks, alike. Finally, we have a book that can help temper our technology addiction with an approach guided by critical thought and practical application." —**Global South Development Magazine**

Winner of the 2016 PROSE Award in Business, Finance & Management

"It is notable...when a techie insider steps outside the tent to chastise his tribe at book length — and has the gall to both criticize and dedicate the book to his former boss, Bill Gates. Kentaro Toyama, a computer

scientist who once ran a lab for Microsoft Research, seems determined to burn his bridge to the technology world with *Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology*... The book takes a spike-studded tire iron to the efforts by technology entrepreneurs and their enablers to reimagine how we eat, learn, heal, govern and battle poverty.”—**Anand Giridharadas, *New York Times***

“In this incisive book, Toyama cures us of the manic rhetoric of digital utopians and reinvigorates us with a deeply people-centric view of social change. ...*Geek Heresy* is a heartwarming reminder that it's human wisdom, not machines, that move our world forward.” —**National Geographic Online**

“Everyone working in any facet of education and educational nonprofits needs to read *Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change From the Cult of Technology*; put down whatever other books you're reading—you are reading, right?—and get a copy of this one.” —**Seliger & Associates**

From the Inside Flap

After a decade designing technologies meant to address education, health, and global poverty, award-winning computer scientist Kentaro Toyama came to a difficult conclusion: Even in an age of amazing technology, social progress depends on human changes that gadgets can't deliver.

Computers in Bangalore are locked away in dusty cabinets because teachers don't know what to do with them. Mobile phone apps to spread hygiene practices in Africa fail to improve health. Executives in Silicon Valley evangelize novel technologies at work even as they send their children to Waldorf schools that ban electronics. And, four decades of incredible innovation in America have done nothing to turn the tide of rising poverty and inequality. Why then do we keep hoping that technology will solve our greatest social ills?

In this incisive book, Toyama cures us of the manic rhetoric of digital utopians and reinvigorates us with a deeply people-centric view of social change. Contrasting the outlandish claims of tech zealots with stories of people like Patrick Awuah, a Microsoft millionaire who left his engineering job to open Ghana's first liberal arts university, and Tara Sreenivasa, a graduate of a remarkable South Indian school that takes children from dollar-a-day families into the high-tech offices of Goldman Sachs and Mercedes-Benz—*Geek Heresy* is a heartwarming reminder that it's human wisdom, not machines, that move our world forward.

About the Author

Kentaro Toyama is W. K. Kellogg Associate Professor at University of Michigan's School of Information and a fellow of the Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT. Until 2009, he was assistant managing director of Microsoft Research India, which he co-founded in 2005. At MSR India, he started the Technology for Emerging Markets research group, which conducts interdisciplinary research to understand how the world's poorer communities interact with electronic technology and to invent new ways for technology to support their socio-economic development. The award-winning group is known for projects such as MultiPoint, Text-Free User Interfaces, and Digital Green.

Toyama co-founded the IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD) to provide a global platform for rigorous academic research in this field. He is also co-editor-in-chief of the journal Information Technologies and International Development. Prior to his time in India, Toyama researched computer vision and multimedia at Microsoft Research in Redmond, WA, USA and Cambridge, UK, and taught mathematics at Ashesi University in Accra, Ghana. Toyama graduated from Yale with a PhD in Computer Science and from Harvard with a BS in Physics. He was born in Tokyo and raised in both Japan and the United States. He lives in Ann Arbor.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennifer Darby:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology. Try to make the book Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology as your pal. It means that it can be your friend when you experience alone and beside those of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So, let's make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Cora Morrell:

The e-book with title Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology contains a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This book exist new information the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world now. That is important to you to find out how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you in new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

Carol Williams:

Can you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt while you are in the book store? Try and pick one book that you find out the inside because don't evaluate book by its deal with may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not seeing that fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe your answer could be Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology why because the wonderful cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint you actually. The inside or content is fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

Carl Fox:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to you personally is Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology this reserve consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how do the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some research when he makes this book. That is why this book suited all of you.

Download and Read Online Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama #0EZMJ794KTP

Read Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama for online ebook

Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama books to read online.

Online Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama ebook PDF download

Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama Doc

Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama Mobipocket

Geek Heresy: Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology By Kentaro Toyama EPub