

End of Millennium

Second edition
With a new preface

Manuel Castells



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The Information Age

Economy, Society, and Culture

Volume III End of Millennium

This final volume in Manuel Castells' trilogy studies the key defining processes taking place in the last decade of the twentieth century as an expression of the crises resulting from the transition between the old industrial society and the emerging global network society.

The book studies empirically the collapse of the Soviet Union, tracing it back to the incapacity of industrial statism to manage the transition to the Information Age. Castells documents how inequality, poverty, and social exclusion, nationally and globally, are an inherent feature of the type of network society that emerged under the domination of global capitalism. He proposes that the rise of a global criminal economy is a fundamental development that would alter the way societies, economies, and institutions are to be understood in our time. Highlighting the growth of the Asian Pacific as the most dynamic region of the world economy the author explains why China, rather than Japan, is the economic and political actor revolutionizing the global system. Further, he studies the European Union as the expression of a new form of political institution, the Network State.

After linking the content of *End of the Millennium* to current developments, the new preface to this volume assesses the validity of the theoretical construction presented in the conclusion of the trilogy, proposing some conceptual modifications in light of the observed experience.

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*Para mi hija, Nuria Castells, alegría de mi vida, con la
esperanza de que su milenio sea mejor que el mío*

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