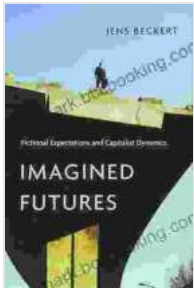


Imagined Futures: Fictional Expectations and Capitalist Dynamics



Imagined Futures: Fictional Expectations and Capitalist Dynamics by Jens Beckett

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4046 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 380 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Fiction has always played a role in shaping our expectations for the future. From the utopian visions of Thomas More's *Utopia* to the dystopian nightmares of George Orwell's *1984*, fiction has helped us to imagine both the best and worst that the future holds. But what is the relationship between fiction and capitalism? How does fiction shape our expectations for the future, and how do those expectations in turn drive capitalist growth?

In *Imagined Futures: Fictional Expectations and Capitalist Dynamics*, I argue that fiction plays a crucial role in shaping our expectations for the future and, in turn, driving capitalist growth. I draw on a wide range of examples from literature, film, and television to show how fiction has created a shared imaginary of the future that is both utopian and dystopian,

and how this imaginary has been used to justify both progressive and reactionary policies.

Utopian Visions and Capitalist Dreams

Utopian visions of the future have long been a staple of fiction. From the ancient Greek myths of a golden age to the Christian promise of heaven, humans have always dreamed of a better future. These dreams have often been used to justify the pursuit of capitalist growth, with the promise that the future will be better if we just work harder and produce more.

The idea that the future will be better is a powerful motivator for capitalist growth. It leads us to invest in new technologies, to start new businesses, and to work long hours in the hope of a better life for ourselves and our children. However, as I argue in the book, these utopian visions are often unrealistic and can lead to disappointment and disillusionment.

Dystopian Nightmares and the Limits of Capitalism

Dystopian visions of the future are also common in fiction. From the totalitarian nightmares of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* to the environmental catastrophes of Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, fiction has warned us of the dangers of unchecked capitalism. These visions have often been used to criticize the excesses of capitalism and to call for a more just and equitable society.

The fear of a dystopian future is a powerful force for change. It can lead us to demand better working conditions, to fight for environmental protection, and to challenge the power of corporations. However, as I argue in the book, these dystopian visions can also be counterproductive. They can

lead to despair and inaction, and can make it difficult to envision a better future.

The Power of Fiction

Fiction has the power to shape our expectations for the future, and these expectations in turn drive capitalist growth. By creating a shared imaginary of the future, fiction helps us to envision both the best and worst that the future holds. This imaginary can be used to justify both progressive and reactionary policies, and it can motivate us to work for a better future or to despair of the future altogether.

It is important to be aware of the power of fiction and to use it wisely. We should not be afraid to dream of a better future, but we should also be aware of the dangers of unrealistic expectations. We should also be critical of dystopian visions of the future and not let them paralyze us from action.

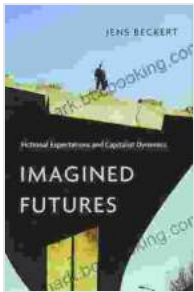
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In *Imagined Futures: Fictional Expectations and Capitalist Dynamics*, I argue that fiction plays a crucial role in shaping our expectations for the future and, in turn, driving capitalist growth. I draw on a wide range of examples from literature, film, and television to show how fiction has created a shared imaginary of the future that is both utopian and dystopian, and how this imaginary has been used to justify both progressive and reactionary policies.

I believe that it is important to be aware of the power of fiction and to use it wisely. We should not be afraid to dream of a better future, but we should

also be aware of the dangers of unrealistic expectations. We should also be critical of dystopian visions of the future and not let them paralyze us from action.

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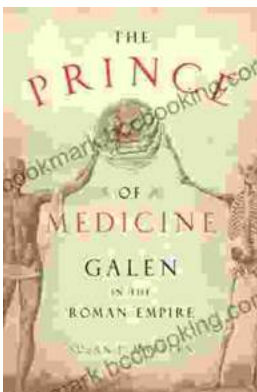


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