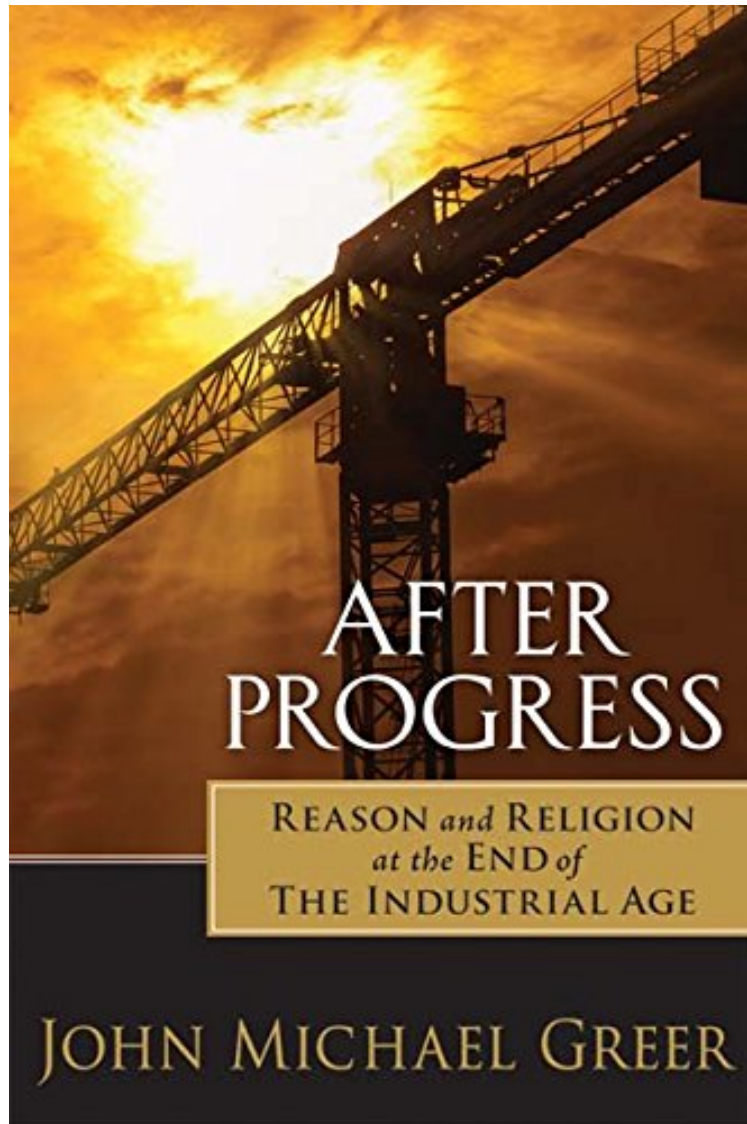


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After Progress: Reason and Religion at the End of the Industrial Age

John Michael Greer

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John Michael Greer : After Progress: Reason and Religion at the End of the Industrial Age before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised After Progress: Reason and Religion at the End of the Industrial Age:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The reality of a finite world By Albert Takes a hard look at the secular religion of "Progress"; and finds it instrumental in leading western civilization to imminent collapse. Most of us, and our leaders, have failed to face the inherent limitations of living on a rock in space that has finite

resources. Western civilization and technology is supported by ever increasing use of irreplaceable energy. We have now reached the point of diminishing returns; it takes more and more energy to obtain energy. Though this should be obvious to anyone it is, however, largely denied. As a consequence we are not preserving the resources that are left. We will soon begin a downward spiral during which we will lose our institutions and way of life. Recovery, if there is one, will be in the far future. An excellent well researched book by a learned author. Beautifully written. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is the best book by John Michael Greer. The subject is at least as important as his second most important book *The Long Descent*. Yes, this book is a bit choppy and redundant at times, but while those redundancies in other book would be a deterrent, while here they are an enhancement. They keep reminding the listener what this book is about. So, to keep things short, this book is essentially about the fact that the mass religion of this country is Progress: a belief that we climbed out of the slime millions of years ago and the world has gotten better and better since, and will continue to do so until....I don't know, utopia? Every segment of society is pointed in this direction, especially those living in Western societies. I truly do not want to ruin this book for anyone, so please purchase the book (go to New Society Publishers to make sure Mr. Greer gets the most out of your purchase). I would consider this the most important religion and philosophy book (and perhaps cultural) to come out the past 20 years. Theodore Roszak would be proud. If you are unsure of whether you wish to purchase this book, try out one of Greer's infamous blog postings. does not approve of web links, so please, if you are of interest, get a taste of this book by going to the web browser and typing "scrib.com john michael greer progress." It should be the top link. Good luck! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Preaching to the choir, reaffirming, time is now to change our habits. By candyman Love JMG's books and blog. This read is interesting and very knowledgable, filled with facts. It takes a bit longer to read, as I reread sections to grasp his line of reasoning. Obviously if you are thinking of reading his, you have an idea of its conclusions, but fascinating how JMG reaches the conclusions. Interesting how to piece this together as oil prices are now \$35/barrel, as compared to \$100/barrel when it was written. I think that reality just makes "after progress" that much closer!

Progress is not just a goal in the West; it's a religion. Most people believe in its inherent value as enthusiastically and uncritically as medieval peasants believed in heaven and hell. Our faith in progress drives the popular insistence that peak oil and climate change don't actually matter; after all, our lab-coated high priests will surely bring forth yet another miracle to save us all. Unfortunately, progress as we've known it has been entirely dependent on the breakneck exploitation of half a billion years of stored sunlight in the form of fossil fuels. As the age of this cheap, abundant energy draws to a close, progress is grinding to a halt. Unforgiving planetary limits are teaching us that our blind faith in endless exponential growth is a dangerous myth. *After Progress* addresses this looming paradigm shift, exploring the shape of history from a perspective on the far side of the coming crisis. John Michael Greer's startling examination of the role our belief systems play in the evolution of our collective consciousness is required reading for anyone concerned about making sense of the future at a time when we must seek new sources of meaning, value, and hope for the era ahead. John Michael Greer is a scholar of ecological history and an internationally renowned futurist whose blog, *The Archdruid Report*, has become one of the most widely cited online resources dealing with the fate of industrial society. He is the author of over thirty books, including *Green Wizardry* and *The Long Descent*.

After Progress is a bracing introduction to John Michael Greer's big-picture thinking grounded in an all-too-rare knowledge of history, ecology, and evolution. Environmentalists and social activists will need to take courage in facing the raw realities that Greer reveals. But on the other side of grief comes gratitude for the chance to re-shape our activism in ways that might actually count. --- Michael Dowd, author, *Thank God for Evolution* and host, "The Future Is Calling Us to Greatness" It would be nice if there were a detox center for bad ideas; you know, the kind where you pay a year's living wage for a week at a posh spa, replete with infinity pool, gestalt therapy and the off-chance of a celebrity roommate? Until then, *After Progress* may have to do. It is everyman's self-help guide to unlearn just about every bad thing we like to teach our children but really shouldn't. --- Albert Bates, author, *The Post Petroleum Survival Guide* and *The Biochar Solution* Greer's extremely insightful *After Progress* takes the reader above the fray, and gives a bird's-eye-view of the civic religions that have tunneled throughout societies. It will be difficult for the reader to return from that view and fail to recognize our own civic religion, as well as the course it's paving for itself. --- Steven Dillon, author, *The Case for Polytheism* *After Progress* is a solid and necessary look at our Western belief in the inevitability of progress and why we need to adjust to the reality of a finite world. It's a thought-provoking book and provides a cautionary tale about human illusions of domination over nature and scientific rescue from our excessive consumption of natural resources that we ignore at our peril. --- Paul Kivel, educator, activist and author, *Living in the Shadow of the Cross* Our society's worship of the idea of progress constitutes a formidable roadblock to successful adaptation to what our climate-changed, resource-depleted future has in store. John Michael Greer doesn't just identify that roadblock—he dynamites and bulldozes it, using his characteristically sharp wit and expansive knowledge of cultural history. --- Richard Heinberg, author, *The End of Growth* and *Afterburn* *After Progress* invites us to challenge every assumption we have about the Western obsession with perpetual growth and its

driving myth of progress. John Michael Greer writes with a wit and clarity that masterfully unpicks the historical and psychological complexities of our political and social landscape, exposing the dangerous blind-spots of our collective perceptions and challenging us to step beyond them. ---Philip Carr-Gomm, author, *Druid Mysteries, The Druid Way and Sacred Places*. People say John Michael Greer is incredibly smart and that he really knows a lot; some even say he's outrageous — uh, excuse me, provocative and bold. But we're in extreme trouble and maybe we need extreme statements to wake us up. I would say that in *After Progress*, Greer lives up to his reputation. You want provocative and bold? It's here. ---Cecile Andrews, author, *Living Room Revolution*, and *Less Is More, Slow Is Beautiful, Circle of Simplicity*