



Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future

By Michael Bess

Download now

Read Online ➔

Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess

A panoramic overview of biotechnologies that can endlessly boost human capabilities and the drastic changes these “superhuman” traits could trigger

Biotechnology is moving fast. In the coming decades, advanced pharmaceuticals, bioelectronics, and genetic interventions will be used not only to heal the sick but to boost human physical and mental performance to unprecedented levels. People will have access to pills that make them stronger and faster, informatic devices will interface seamlessly with the human brain, and epigenetic modification may allow people to reshape their own physical and mental identities at will.

Until recently, such major technological watersheds—like the development of metal tools or the industrialization of manufacturing—came about incrementally over centuries or longer. People and social systems had time to adapt: they gradually developed new values, norms, and habits to accommodate the transformed material conditions. But contemporary society is dangerously unprepared for the dramatic changes it is about to experience down this road on which it is already advancing at an accelerating pace.

The results will no doubt be mixed. People will live longer, healthier lives, will fine-tune their own thought processes, and will generate staggeringly complex and subtle forms of knowledge and insight. But these technologies also threaten to widen the rift between rich and poor, to generate new forms of social and economic division, and to force people to engage in constant cycles of upgrades and boosts merely to keep up. Individuals who boost their traits beyond a certain threshold may acquire such extreme capabilities that they will no longer be recognized as unambiguously human.

In this important and timely book, prize-winning historian Michael Bess provides a clear, nontechnical overview of cutting-edge biotechnology and paints a vivid portrait of a near-future society in which bioenhancement has become a part of everyday life. He surveys the ethical questions raised by the enhancement enterprise and explores the space for human agency in dealing with the challenges that these technologies will present.

Headed your way over the coming decades: new biotechnologies that can powerfully alter your body and mind.

The possibilities are tantalizing:

- Rejuvenation therapies offering much longer lives (160 and even beyond) in full vigor and mental acuity
- Cognitive enhancement through chemical or bioelectronic means (the rough equivalent of doubling or tripling IQ scores)
- Epigenetic tools for altering some of your genetically influenced traits at any point in your lifetime (body shape, athletic ability, intelligence, personality)
- Bioelectronic devices for modulating your own brain processes, including your “pleasure centers” (a potentially non-stop high)
- Direct control of machines by thought, and perhaps direct communication with other people, brain-to-brain (a new dimension of sharing and intimacy)

But some of the potential consequences are also alarming:

- A growing rift between the biologically enhanced and those who can’t afford such modifications
- A constant cycle of upgrades and boosts as the bar of “normal” rises ever higher—“*Humans 95, Humans XP, Humans 8*”
- The fragmentation of humankind into rival “bioenhancement clusters”
- A gradually blurring boundary between “person” and “product”
- Extreme forms of self-modification, with some individuals no longer recognized as unambiguously human

From the Hardcover edition.

 [Download Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengin ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioeng ...pdf](#)

Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future

By Michael Bess

Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess

A panoramic overview of biotechnologies that can endlessly boost human capabilities and the drastic changes these “superhuman” traits could trigger

Biotechnology is moving fast. In the coming decades, advanced pharmaceuticals, bioelectronics, and genetic interventions will be used not only to heal the sick but to boost human physical and mental performance to unprecedented levels. People will have access to pills that make them stronger and faster, informatic devices will interface seamlessly with the human brain, and epigenetic modification may allow people to reshape their own physical and mental identities at will.

Until recently, such major technological watersheds—like the development of metal tools or the industrialization of manufacturing—came about incrementally over centuries or longer. People and social systems had time to adapt: they gradually developed new values, norms, and habits to accommodate the transformed material conditions. But contemporary society is dangerously unprepared for the dramatic changes it is about to experience down this road on which it is already advancing at an accelerating pace.

The results will no doubt be mixed. People will live longer, healthier lives, will fine-tune their own thought processes, and will generate staggeringly complex and subtle forms of knowledge and insight. But these technologies also threaten to widen the rift between rich and poor, to generate new forms of social and economic division, and to force people to engage in constant cycles of upgrades and boosts merely to keep up. Individuals who boost their traits beyond a certain threshold may acquire such extreme capabilities that they will no longer be recognized as unambiguously human.

In this important and timely book, prize-winning historian Michael Bess provides a clear, nontechnical overview of cutting-edge biotechnology and paints a vivid portrait of a near-future society in which bioenhancement has become a part of everyday life. He surveys the ethical questions raised by the enhancement enterprise and explores the space for human agency in dealing with the challenges that these technologies will present.

Headed your way over the coming decades: new biotechnologies that can powerfully alter your body and mind.

The possibilities are tantalizing:

- Rejuvenation therapies offering much longer lives (160 and even beyond) in full vigor and mental acuity
- Cognitive enhancement through chemical or bioelectronic means (the rough equivalent of doubling or tripling IQ scores)
- Epigenetic tools for altering some of your genetically influenced traits at any point in your lifetime (body shape, athletic ability, intelligence, personality)
- Bioelectronic devices for modulating your own brain processes, including your “pleasure centers” (a potentially non-stop high)
- Direct control of machines by thought, and perhaps direct communication with other people, brain-to-brain

(a new dimension of sharing and intimacy)

But some of the potential consequences are also alarming:

- A growing rift between the biologically enhanced and those who can't afford such modifications
- A constant cycle of upgrades and boosts as the bar of "normal" rises ever higher—"*Humans 95, Humans XP, Humans 8*"
- The fragmentation of humankind into rival "bioenhancement clusters"
- A gradually blurring boundary between "person" and "product"
- Extreme forms of self-modification, with some individuals no longer recognized as unambiguously human

From the Hardcover edition.

Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #361433 in Books
- Brand: Beacon Press
- Published on: 2016-09-06
- Released on: 2016-09-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.80" h x 1.00" w x 5.80" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

 [Download Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengin ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioeng ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess

Editorial Review

Review

“In the future, accelerating technology and unexpected, revolutionary events—most of which will never be predicted by futurists—may produce a society as alien as some of our tools. Bess delivers an insightful philosophical analysis of how we must adjust.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Rejuvenation therapies that could potentially extend human lifespans to 160 years or more, chemical or bioelectronic cognitive enhancement that could double or triple IQ scores, bioelectronic devices for modulating brain processes including ‘pleasure centers,’ so-called ‘designer babies,’ and much more are poised to cross the threshold from science fiction to reality in the near future. Michael Bess offers a sober prediction of how such advances will directly affect human society, and the ethical dilemmas that could result. *Our Grandchildren Redesigned* is fascinating from cover to cover and near-impossible to put down. Highly recommended!”

—*The Midwest Book Review*

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

Michael Bess is the Chancellor’s Professor of History at Vanderbilt University. He has received major fellowships from the J. S. Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Human Genome Research Institute, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the Fulbright program. His previous books include *Choices Under Fire* and *The Light-Green Society*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Leroy Torres:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they're still students or that for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has various personality and hobby per other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great as well as important the book *Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future*. All type of book are you able to see on many resources. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

Rhonda Joiner:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive increase then having chance to endure

than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future book as beginning and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Jessie Loudermilk:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future book is readable simply by you who hate those straight word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer connected with Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future content conveys objective easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the information but it just different as it. So , do you even now thinking Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

William Pare:

The book untitled Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the girl idea with easy technique. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was published by famous author. The author will take you in the new era of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice learn.

Download and Read Online Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess #2KUP9A4QEIT

Read Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess for online ebook

Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess 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 Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess books to read online.

Online Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess ebook PDF download

Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess Doc

Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess Mobipocket

Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess EPub

2KUP9A4QEIT: Our Grandchildren Redesigned: Life in the Bioengineered Society of the Near Future By Michael Bess