Further Reading, Listening and Viewing

This book crystallizes two decades' worth of advocacy, writing about and working on issues of digital human rights. In writing it, I relied on several million words' worth of blog posts, archived at both boingboing.net/author/cory_doctorow_1 and pluralistic.net.

I have attended hundreds of conference talks and presentations on the subjects of this book, and a few stand out as significant:

- Yochai Benkler: After Selfishness—Wikipedia 1, Hobbes 0 at Half Time (Berkman Klein Center)
- Sumana Harihareswara: What Would Open Source Look Like if It Were Healthy? (Github)
- How Markets Co-opted Free Software's Most Powerful Weapon (Benjamin Mako Hill, LibrePlanet)

There are far more podcasts worth your time than you can possibly listen to, but there are some that anyone interested in tech criticism really should tune in to, including *Trashfuture, Tech Will Not Save Us* and *This Machine Kills*.

On tech and competition, I recommend the blog *Naked Capitalism* and Matt Stoller's newsletter *Big*.

You might think that law review articles aren't your cup of tea, and in the main, you're probably right. However, I strongly implore you to try these three open-access, highly accessible, recent landmark papers. The first is Lina Khan's "Amazon's Antitrust Paradox," published in 2017 in the *Yale Law Journal* when Khan was a third-year law student. Today she is chair of the FTC and is turning the ferociously argued material in

that paper into national policy. Second is Dina Srinivasan's 2019 Berkeley Law paper "The Antitrust Case Against Facebook: A Monopolist's Journey Towards Pervasive Surveillance in Spite of Consumers' Preference for Privacy," which makes a hugely important connection between privacy invasions and antitrust harms. Finally, there's Kate Klonick's 2018 "The New Governors," from the Harvard Law Review, which is essential to understanding the speech implications of monopoly platforms. Of course, there are a lot of books you could read, besides this one, if you want to learn more about the subjects covered herein.

On monopoly:

This is a golden age of anti-monopoly books, but even amid all that plenty, three titles stand out. The first is Zephyr Teachout's *Break 'Em Up: Recovering Our Freedom From Big Ag, Big Tech, and Big Money*. Teachout is a campaigning law prof who writes like a muckraking journalist in this accessible, infuriating work. Next is David Dayen's *Monopolized: Life in the Age of Corporate Power*. Dayen is a prominent journalist with a keen appreciation of the law, and his book is full of beautifully explained case studies. Finally, there's Tim Wu's *The Curse of Bigness: Antitrust in the New Gilded Age*. Wu is another campaigning law prof—he was Teachout's running mate in a bid for the New York governorship—who coined the term "net neutrality" and served as Biden's White House tech antitrust czar from 2020–2022. *Curse* is a brilliantly argued, swift-moving critical history of the rise and fall of US antitrust enforcement.

For tech criticism:

Start with my Electronic Frontier Foundation and Verso colleague Jillian C. York's *Silicon Values: The Future of Free Speech Under Surveillance Capitalism*, the best work on content moderation and speech in a global context, hands down. For an older international perspective on tech and its impact on movements for self-determination, read Rebecca MacKinnon's now-classic *Consent of the Networked: The Worldwide Struggle for Internet Freedom*. For a scathing, take-no-prisoners takedown of the ad-tech industry, read Tim Hwang's *Subprime Attention Crisis: Advertising and the Time Bomb at the Heart of the Internet*. For an equally ruthless insider's takedown of startup culture, read Wendy

Liu's *Abolish Silicon Valley: How to Liberate Technology From Capitalism*.

On innovation:

Andrew "Bunnie" Huang's *The Hardware Hacker: Adventures in Making and Breaking Hardware* (2017) is half practical advice for would-be reverse engineers, half deep philosophy of how all new things are made by nonconsensually tearing down and rebuilding the stuff around you. Claire L. Evans's brilliant *Broad Band: The Untold Story of the Women Who Made the Internet* is a novelistic history of the role of women in the rise of digital computers, and comprises dozens of case studies about how neglected minorities produce innovation by seizing the means of computation and reworking tools to make them fit for purpose. Aaron Perzanowski's *The Right to Repair: Reclaiming the Things We Own* is a timely and urgent look at how tech monopolies use the rhetoric of innovation to punish actual innovators who divert their products from landfills, all in the name of increasing shareholder returns. Finally, there's Half Letter Press's long-overdue reissue of *Prisoners' Inventions*, a 2003 classic that collected the beautiful schematic drawings and closely observed technical notes of an inmate in California named Angelo, who documented his fellow prisoners' incredibly creative and inspiring works.

Finally, a novel:

Tamara Shopsin's *LaserWriter II*, a fictionalized memoir of Shopsin's time as a repair technician at TekServe, New York City's legendary independent Mac repair shop. Shopsin weaves a beautiful tale that is a hymn to community-scale technological self-determination. She is also a daughter of Kenny Shopsin, co-founder of Shopsin's, the greatest diner on Earth, where the menu has hundreds of options and parties of five may not be seated.