The Flight of the Creative Class: The New Global Competition for Talent: Richard Florida

- Author: admin
- Filed under: Recommended
- Date: Oct 22, 2008

Editorial Reviews

From Publishers Weekly

Following up on *The Rise of the Creative Class* (2002), Florida argues that if America continues to make it harder for some of the world’s most talented students and workers to come here, they’ll go to other countries eager to tap into their creative capabilities—as will American citizens fed up with what they view as an increasingly repressive environment. He argues that the loss of even a few geniuses can have tremendous impact, adding that the “overblown” economic threat posed by large nations such as China and India obscures all the little blows inflicted upon the U.S. by Canada, Scandinavia, New Zealand and other countries with more open political climates. Florida lays his case out well and devotes a significant portion of this polemical analysis to defending his earlier book’s argument regarding “technology, talent, and tolerance” (i.e. that together, they generate economic clout, so the U.S. should be more progressive on gay rights and government spending). He does so because that book contains what he sees as the way out of the dilemma—a new American society that can “tap the full creative capabilities of every human being.” Even when he drills down to less panoramic vistas, however, Florida remains an astute observer of what makes economic communities tick, and he’s sure to generate just as much public debate on this new twist on brain drain. 25-city radio tour.

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