

Summary of Book Contents.

AVOIDING THE COMING ANARCHY by David Howell

Picking up the Golden Threads

1. *Politicians and policy-makers everywhere must grasp that the microchip and the information revolution have changed human relations everywhere, amongst all generations and at every level of human society, from basic family relationships, life patterns and local communities, right up to the highest international level between nations and peoples.*
2. *The digital age's continuing impact on world affairs can be compared with the that of the printing press, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, and two world wars, and on the transformed character of both diplomacy and war itself. It could prove greater than any of these on human history.*
3. *Governments everywhere, to maintain a degree of order and authority, must change the axis of debate, discard and by-pass outdated ideologies, adjust to disparate and shifting populist pressures from left and right, and re-work the grand but shifting bargain between the nation state and the citizen.*
4. *A message of this book is that the microcircuit and technology have now impelled the need for a new kind of democracy and a new pattern of world power, communication and influence, to which democracies and their systems of governance fail to respond at their peril.*
5. *The rule of law, and the international rules-based order are all under intense pressure and attack, requiring immediate reinforcement. Constitutional reform, law reform and reform of the machinery government, all of which lie at the heart of future stability and progress, are where the threads of peaceful transition are to be found and followed.*
6. *Finding and shaping the unifying forces which will bind and keep together crumbling coherence in all societies is the most urgent and highest priority task to halt the already accelerating slide to civil disorder and to chaos.*

7. *Adjustment to this totally changed state of world conditions demands fundamental reform of liberal capitalism, and ascendancy of the property owning democracy as the keys to development , survival and prosperity – and to stable democratic forms and values.*
8. *A massive increase must now be engineered in share ownership, asset ownership and employee-based-investment in all free nations ,as part of overall financial reform and restoration of democratic capitalism, acting as a cohering strength in divided and fragmented societies.*
9. *New techniques of weaving together private and state sectors initiatives to achieve this, and to drive infrastructure investment world-wide must be invented or revived every where. The great energy transition, without which there will be no curb on rising carbon and methane emissions, will depend on private finance. Governments ca define, ordain and pump prime. But the private sector has the cash and most of the competences.*
- 10 *Institutions both national and global ,must be reconstructed out of 20th century patterns ,starting now, to lay the foundations of a new world of networks, embracing common values, trade, investment and security.*
- 11 *We now wait to see how much of what is required to keep order and prevent global chaos Donald Trump, who is himself a product of this new age, can deliver in the new epoch.*
- 12 *A multipolar world cannot be divided into, or addressed, as belonging to ideological blocks, or East and West, or in many cases official ideologies and state doctrines. Most nation, young and older, with their own technologically enhanced protective power, wish to be neither part of Chinese hegemony nor American domination or pressures. They are what has been christened The Neo Non-Aligned Nations, independent but liberally inclined states in a totally altered world order.*
- 13 *Much their largest grouping, with a third of humanity as its members, and associated in a non-centralised , voluntary, treaty-free modern membership assembly, is today's expanding 56 nation Commonwealth. It is to and through this sort of ordering and cooperative international network of states (the world's most extensive across the continents) that the golden thread of international peace and security now leads.*
