Contents

Preface ix

1 Introduction 1

2 Self-Organization and Cooperation 11

2.1 Characteristics of Self-Organizing Systems 11

2.2 Self-Organization and Dialectical Philosophy 17

2.3 Self-Organization as Ideology: Hayek's Theory of Competition 23

2.4 An Alternative: Self-Organization in Society as Human Cooperation 31

2.5 Conclusion 34

3 Society and Dynamic Social Theory 35

3.1 Anti-Luhmann: Niklas Luhmann's Revolution in Social Science? 35

3.2 Humans and Society 40

3.3 The Self-Organization of Social Systems 49

3.4 Dialectics and Evolution 58

3.5 Society as Dynamic System 62

3.6 Modern Society as Dynamic System 71

3.7 Conclusion 96

4 The Rise of Transnational Informational Capitalism 98

4.1 Conceptualizing Contemporary Society 98

4.2 The Rise of Transnational Informational/Network Capitalism 105

4.3 Conclusion: Cooperation and Competition in Transnational Network Capitalism 119

5 Social Internet Dynamics 121

5.1 The Internet as a Dynamic Techno-Social System 121

5.2 Web 1.0 as Dynamic Techno-Social System 123
5.3 The Rise of Web 2.0 and Web 3.0: Communication and Cooperation Online 125
5.4 Virtual Reality and Cyberspace 136
5.5 Conclusion 138

6 Competition and Cooperation in the Informational Ecology 140
6.1 ICTs and Transport 140
6.2 A Weightless Economy? 142
6.3 Virtual Products as a Foundation of a Sustainable Society? 143
6.4 Conclusion 146

7 Competition and Cooperation in the Internet Economy 148
7.1 The "Network Enterprise": Cooperation as Ideology 148
7.2 Informational Capitalism: Commodity or Gift Economy? 157
7.3 Class Competition in Informational Capitalism 189
7.4 Conclusion 209

8 Competition and Cooperation in Online Politics 213
8.1 Digital Exclusion: Digital Divides 213
8.2 Digital Inclusion: eParticipation as Grassroots Digital Democracy 225
8.3 The Absolute Violence of Competition in the Information Age: Information Warfare 247
8.4 Competition by Control: The Rise of Electronic Surveillance 267
8.5 Cooperating Social Movements Online: Cyberprotest 277
8.6 Conclusion 294

9 Competition and Cooperation in Cyberculture 299
9.1 Cyberculture Defined 299
9.2 Virtual Communities 304
9.3 Cyberculture: Socialization or Alienation? 327
9.4 Conclusion 333

10 Conclusion 335

Notes 355
References 357
Index 381