

CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
	A New Infrastructure for Society	1
	A Second Communications Revolution?	3
	Characteristics of the New Media	6
	Communication Capacities of the New Media	13
	The Nature and Design of this Book	17
2	Networks: The Nervous System of Society	19
	The Network Society and Other Classifications	19
	A Short History of the Human Web	21
	Networks at All Levels	24
	Causes of the Rise of Networks	29
	From Mass Society to Network Society	32
	Changing Relations in the Network Society	37
3	Technology	42
	Introduction	42
	Technical Foundations of the Network Society	43
	Telecommunication Networks	46
	Data Communication Networks	48
	Mass Communication Networks	51
	Integrated Networks	53
	Multimedia and Broadband Networks	55
	Future Trends	58
4	Economy	61
	Introduction	61
	Causes of the Current Communications Revolution	62
	A Flow Economy	65
	Markets, Hierarchies and Networks	72
	A New Economy?	76
	The Producers: From Infrastructure to Service Providers	81
	The Consumers: Pushers and Pulled	89
	Conclusions	93

5	Politics and Power	95
	Introduction	95
	The Vulnerability of Networks	96
	The Spread and Concentration of Politics	98
	The Claims of E-Government and Digital Democracy	103
	Power in the Organization	108
	Privacy and Personal Autonomy	112
	Conclusions	125
6	Law	127
	Introduction	127
	The Law Undermined by Networks	128
	Who Rules the Internet?	130
	Information and Communication Freedom	137
	Rights of Ownership	143
	The Right to Privacy	149
	Conclusions	154
7	Social Structure	156
	Introduction	156
	Space and Time in the Network Society	157
	The Blurring Spheres of Living	161
	Communities and Social Relations	165
	Unity and Fragmentation: A New Social Cohesion	171
	Networks and Social (In)equality	174
	The Digital Divide	177
	The Instability of the Network Society	186
	Conclusions	188
8	Culture	190
	Introduction	190
	Living in a Digital Culture	191
	The Quantity and Quality of New Media Content	199
	Changing Media Use	204
	Conclusions	208
9	Psychology	210
	Introduction	210
	Perception and the New Media	211
	Cognition and the New Media	217
	Learning with the New Media	224
	The Social Psychology of CMC	226
	Changes in the Human Personality?	233
	Conclusions	238

10	Conclusions and Policy Perspectives	240
	Introduction	240
	General Conclusions	240
	The Information and Network Society in North America, Europe, East Asia and the Third World	244
	Policy Perspectives for the Network Society	253
	Glossary	264
	References	272
	Index	288