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In this follow up to Republic.com, his first appraisal of technology's effect on public discourse, University of Chicago Law School professor Sunstein waxes pessimistic about today's "nightmare" of limitless news and information options-and, more significantly, the limitless options for avoiding it. Gravitating toward those newspapers, blogs, podcasts and other media that reinforce their own views, citizens carefully filter out opposing or alternative viewpoints to create an ideologically exclusive "Daily Me." The sense of personal empowerment consumers gain-and subsequently equate with "freedom"-only fuels the "echo chamber" effect, which replaces a sense of democratic unity with accelerating polarization. Sunstein argues that the most obvious dangers of this effect-single-minded terrorists and hate groups who use cyberspace to communicate directly with receptive audiences-hide the more subtle and far-reaching consequences of the "growing power of consumers to 'filter' what they see": not only do diverse publics need to hear multiple voices, they also must cultivate a culture "where people actually want to hear what others have to say." This perceptive volume effectively illuminates the contradictory impulses at the heart of the citizen-consumer, demonstrating how "there can be no assurance of freedom in a system committed to the Daily Me"; though challenging and thought-provoking throughout, Sunstein's chapter of partial solutions proves underwhelming.

作者介绍:

Cass R. Sunstein is the Felix Frankfurter Professor at Harvard Law School. His many books include "Worst-Case Scenarios", "A Constitution of Many Minds", and, with Richard Thaler, "Nudge".

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标签

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评论

想到wj必问：一句话给我说清楚这本书讲什么。Well, Internet facilitates fragmentation, speeds up consumption treadmill, transforms the citizens to be consumers and make self regulation less doable for the information producer.

我倒是他说的那类会 wall myself off from topics that I would prefer to avoid 的
但我觉得大多数人并没有我这么怠惰 其实还都挺喜欢讨论 common topic 的

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书评

上大学的时候就知的书，今天最大的感受是，inert people 不是一种选择，而是一种非常难以突破的东西。Information cocoon, digital dividend, cyber cascade, spiral of silence, polarization, self insulation, treadmill effect。这些东西造成的同一个不良后果，就是 a sen...

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