

Asked to name which leading figures in politics and the media have grasped the new age reality, see my answers -link below

Sadly few amongst the noisier political cadres, but very much so amongst a growing band of very clever and perceptive writers across the world, with quite a few in the US itself.

I'm thinking of Kahneman, Sunstein, maybe Henrich, while the ever energetic Niall Ferguson hits it on the head when he says that 'it is impossible to comprehend the world today without understanding how much it has changed as a result of new information technology'. And I am a great fan of Parag Khanna (The Future is Asian), and of course of the brilliant Yuval Noah Harari. I'd like to say the same of my hero (and friend) Joe Nye, but even he is a bit taken still on America 'born to lead' etc (although understanding very well that there are really no top dogs any more in a network world and colossal military spend does not make you one). And there is always the marvellous Anne-Marie Slaughter, of whom I have been a great admirer for 20 years -and occasionally writes for the FT, I see.

But I think one just has to look much deeper below the surface to see what is going to blow up next – whether socially or politically. Edward O Wilson's Consilience is for me a sort of prescient bible.

(And coming back to the here-and-now surface I can't help noting that here in the UK, if the North and Midlands are giving socialism and the old left the boot, and the South is doing the same to the Tory right, and a new cluster is forming round reformed social democracy, conservation, environment, anti-dogma and good local politics, then the new age may at last be arriving here, too, and kicking the outdated Left-Right Party line-up into history!)