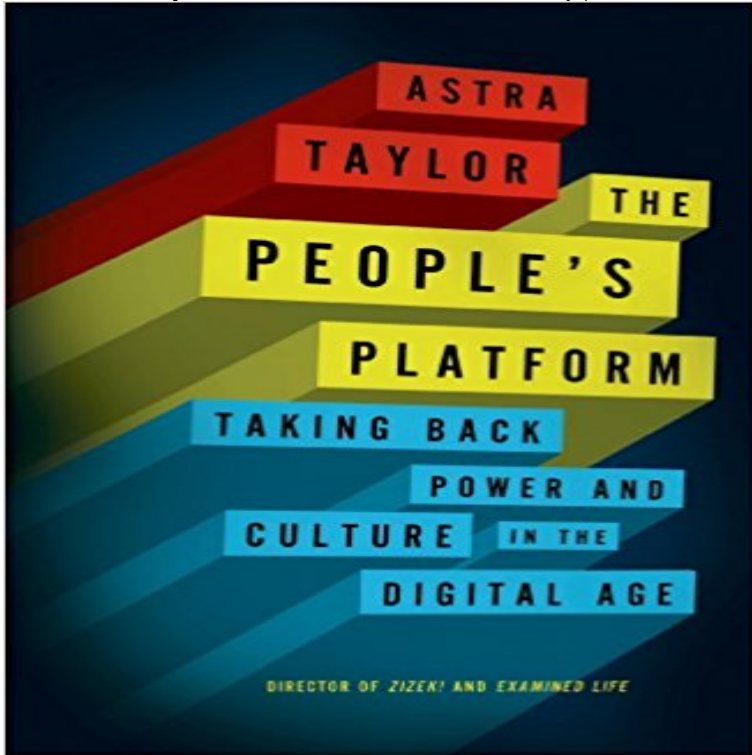


# The Peoples Platform: Taking Back Power and Culture in the Digital Age



From a cutting-edge cultural commentator, a bold and brilliant challenge to cherished notions of the Internet as the great leveler of our age. The Internet has been hailed as an unprecedented democratizing force, a place where everyone can be heard and all can participate equally. But how true is this claim? In a seminal dismantling of techno-utopian visions, *The Peoples Platform* argues that for all that we tweet and like and share, the Internet in fact reflects and amplifies real-world inequities at least as much as it ameliorates them. Online, just as off-line, attention and influence largely accrue to those who already have plenty of both. What we have seen so far, Astra Taylor says, has been not a revolution but a rearrangement. Although Silicon Valley tycoons have eclipsed Hollywood moguls, a handful of giants like Amazon, Apple, Google, and Facebook remain the gatekeepers. And the worst habits of the old media model—the pressure to seek easy celebrity, to be quick and sensational above all—have proliferated on the web, where aggregating the work of others is the surest way to attract eyeballs and ad revenue. When culture is free, creative work has diminishing value and advertising fuels the system. The new order looks suspiciously like the old one. We can do better, Taylor insists. The online world does offer a unique opportunity, but a democratic culture that supports diverse voices and work of lasting value will not spring up from technology alone. If we want the Internet to truly be a peoples platform, we will have to make it so.

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Alchemy marries art and science and is famously known for transforming a common material into gold. The Alchemical Garden will lead the community to transform on a number of levels : Alchemical Garden with Spring Wheat "Crop Circles" June, 2011 BUILD COMMUNITY: The Garden creates a gathering space for individuals to form a more intimate relationship with their community. The space is designed with visual features and seating areas to compel passers-by to pause, reflect, and have a multi-sensory interactive experience ( sight, smell, touch, taste, smell) with the garden and the community. Read the rest of this entry Categories: Alchemical Garden, Articulture, Current Events, Projects. Tags: alchemy, art, bike, crucible, ecology, garden, green art, hedge, hyper-accumulating, industry, living structure, Newburyport, permaculture, rail, sculpture, soil remediation, trail, tree guilds.

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