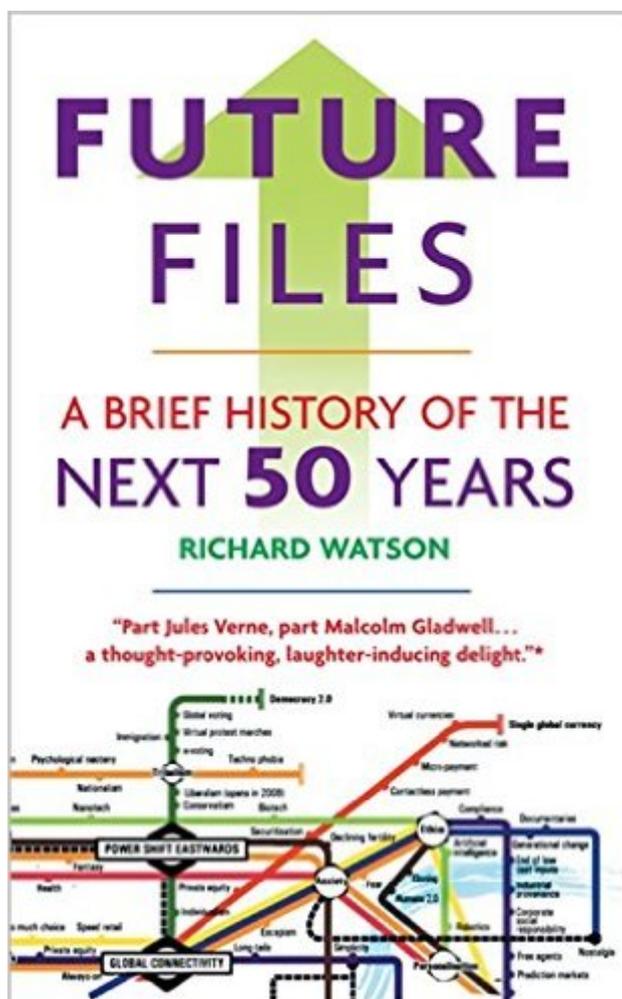


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# Future Files: A Brief History Of The Next 50 Years



## Synopsis

Future Files is filled with provocative forecasts about how the world might change in the next half century. It examines emerging trends and developments in society, technology, economy, and business, and makes educated speculations as to where they might take us.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Oh, in 2050, how happy we'll be. We'll have "soft" bathtubs that mold to our bodies, smart bullets (that follow bad guys around corners) and "gravity tubes" (small but weightless areas). An Internet that appeals to all five senses. Female Viagra. Driverless cars that are biodegradable and shift their paint jobs with our moods. Cash and coins will go away (we'll all have "wallet-phones"), as will desktop computers, nation-states (like Belgium) and insistence on proper spelling. You'll bag your own groceries and just walk out -- nano-transmitters will scan your purchases and e-mail you the bill. Doctors will listen for cancer (because aggressive but tiny cells still make noise). And the military will download combat "memories" into recruits' minds. That's what Richard Watson predicts in *Future Files*, anyway. Of course, futurists can be wrong. (Remember "paperless offices" and "more leisure time"?) Still, readers will enjoy Watson's browsable book, which states its organizing principles right off: The "5 Trends That Will Shape the Next 50 Years" include aging (it's not just America's Social Security system that's going to be strained); power-shifts to China (manufacturing), India (services) and the Middle East (finances); connectivity (cell phones, cell phones everywhere, and not a thought to think); GRIN technologies (advances in genetics, robotics, the Internet and

nanotechnology that will have computers outsmarting us); and the environment (with sustainability and conservation becoming badges of honor). But Watson also falls into two traps: hedging his bets and over-generalizing. Today, people like their food fast and convenient -- though there's also a slow-food movement brewing.

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