

“In my words it’s half encyclopedia, half commonplace book, half a secular bible, half survival guide, half . . . yes, that’s a lot of halves, but I hope you get the picture. I have never encountered a book that is so hard to characterise yet so hard, despite its weight, to put down. . . . *Lean Logic* is neither a policy manifesto nor a dry technical guide. It’s an incredibly nourishing cultural and scientific treasure trove.”

—**JOHN THACKARA**, founder and director of Doors of Perception and author of *How to Thrive in the Next Economy*

*Lean Logic* is David Fleming’s masterpiece, the product of more than thirty years’ work and a testament to the creative brilliance of one of Britain’s most important intellectuals.

A dictionary unlike any other, it leads readers through Fleming’s stimulating exploration of fields as diverse as culture, history, science, art, logic, ethics, myth, economics and anthropology, comprised of more than 400 essay-entries covering specific—and often interlinked—topics such as Boredom, Community, Debt, Growth, Harmless Lunatics, Land, Lean Thinking, Nanotechnology, Play, Religion, Spirit, Trust and Utopia.

The threads running through every entry are Fleming’s deft, original, and often playful analysis of how our present market-based economy is destroying the very foundations—ecological, economic and cultural—on which it depends, and his core focus: a compelling, grounded vision for a cohesive society that might weather the consequences. A society that provides a satisfying, culturally-rich context for lives well lived, in an economy not reliant on the impossible promise of eternal economic growth.

The decades Fleming spent honing his life’s work are evident in the lightness and mastery with which *Lean Logic* draws on an incredible wealth of cultural and historical learning—from Whitman to Whitefield, Dickens to Daly, Kropotkin to Kafka, Thoreau to Toynbee, Shakespeare to Schumacher, Locke to Lovelock, Homer to Homer-Dixon—in demonstrating that many of the principles it commends have a track record of success long pre-dating our current society.

Fleming acknowledges, with honesty, the challenges we face. But rather than inducing despair, *Lean Logic* is rare in its ability to inspire optimism in the creativity and intelligence of humans to nurse our ecology back to health; to rediscover the importance of place and play, of reciprocity and resilience, and of community and culture.

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FLEMING

# LEAN LOGIC

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A DICTIONARY *for the* FUTURE

*and* HOW to SURVIVE IT



DAVID FLEMING

Foreword by JONATHON PORRITT



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