

Cowen, Tyler. Average is over: powering America beyond the age of the great stagnation. Dutton, 2013. 290p index ISBN 9780525953739, \$26.95

The track record of those who forecast, whether on Wall Street, in Washington, or in Major League Baseball front offices, is reasonably abysmal. The 2013 economics Nobel Prize to Eugene Fama, godfather of the efficient market hypothesis, attests to the inherent difficulties associated with trying to pick winners. Nevertheless, in *Average Is Over*, Cowen (George Mason Univ.), economist, author, and blogger, jumps into this fray. He sees a world in which a small percentage of the population, well educated and working efficiently with more and more sophisticated machines in the information age, will thrive; the rest will languish. A logical "bookend" for this volume might be the author's *The Great Stagnation* (2011). However, in terms of the broader themes of rapid change, increasing income inequality and societal segmentation, this reviewer prefers Charles Murray's *Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010* (CH, Jul'12, 49-6588). The dozen chapters in *Average Is Over*, loosely organized around three anchors, are largely intellectual "think pieces" by a very talented scholar and gifted writer. Summing Up: Recommended. General readers, all levels of undergraduate students, professionals.