

Quotes on the nature of rapid change in contemporary “Liquid Life”

Bauman, Z. (2005), *Liquid life*. Cambridge:Polity Press, Kindle Edition

“‘Liquid life’ is a kind of life that tends to be lived in a liquid modern society. ‘Liquid modern’ is a society in which the conditions under which its members act change faster than it takes the ways of acting to consolidate into habits and routines. Liquidity of life and that of society feed and reinvigorate each other. Liquid life, just like liquid modern society, cannot keep its shape or stay on course for long.” (Location 36)

“Extrapolating from past events to predict future trends becomes ever more risky and all too often misleading. Trustworthy calculations are increasingly difficult to make while foolproof prognoses are all but unimaginable: most if not all variables in the equations are unknown whereas no estimates of their future trends can be treated as fully and truly reliable .” (Location 36)

“Liquid life is a succession of new beginnings—yet precisely for that reason it is the swift and painless endings without which new beginnings would be unthinkable that tend to be its most challenging moments and most upsetting headaches. Among the arts of liquid modern living and the skills needed to practise them getting rid of things takes precedence over their acquisition.” (Location 50)

“The greatest chances of winning belong to the people . . . at home in many places but in no one place in particular. . . They ‘take novelty as good tidings, precariousness as value, instability as imperative, (and) hybridity as richness’. In varying degrees they all master and practise the art of ‘liquid life’: acceptance of disorientation, immunity to vertigo, and adaptation to a state of dizziness tolerance for an absence of itinerary and direction and for an indefinite duration of travel.” (Location 82)

“Smart missiles, unlike their ballistic elder cousins, learn as they go. So what they need to be supplied with at the outset is the ability to learn and learn fast. This is obvious. What is less visible however, though no less crucial than the skill of learning quickly, is the ability to instantly forget what was learned before. Smart missiles wouldn’t be smart if they were not able to ‘change their mind’ or revoke their previous ‘decisions’ without a second thought and without regret . . . All the information they acquire ages rapidly and if it is not promptly dismissed it may be misleading instead of providing reliable guidance.” (Location 2403)