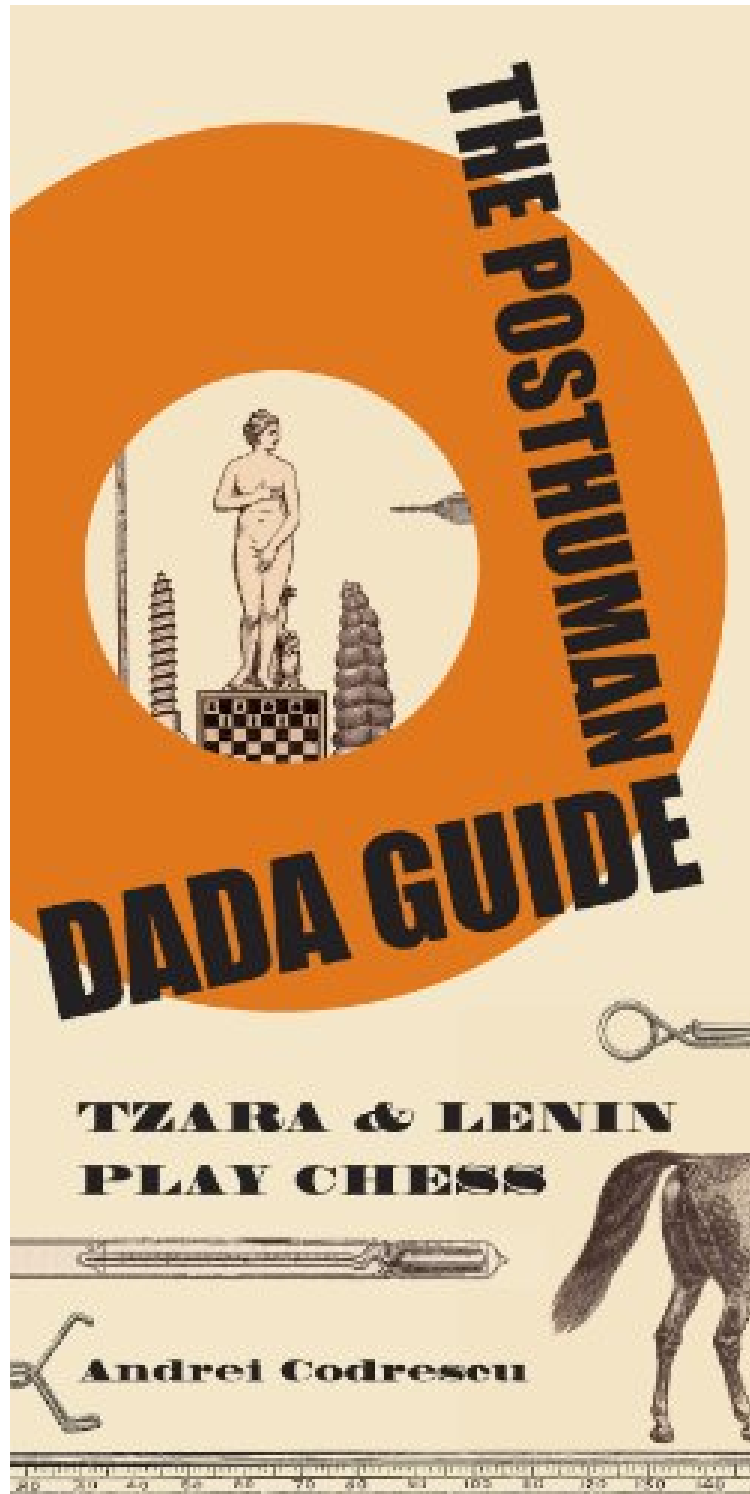


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Andrei Codrescu

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Andrei Codrescu : The Posthuman Dada Guide: tzara and lenin play chess (The Public Square) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Posthuman Dada Guide: tzara and lenin play chess (The Public Square)*:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Welcome Remedy for the Digitized Soul By dave10I expected this slim volume, suitable (almost) for carrying in your hip pocket, to be more a work of sardonic humor or a collection of essays about the absurdity of modern life. Instead, Andrei Codrescu has put together a book that traces the Dada Non-Art Movement from its beginnings during WWI to the present. It's also a work of sardonic humor (which is very funny when Codrescu wants it to be), but rather than a series of brief essays, the book follows its themes across almost an entire century. He lets us know that Dada, which eschewed the future and art, had the unintended impact of begetting all manner of art movements, from Surrealism to Abstract Expressionism to the literary style wrongly known as "post-modernism" -- Vonnegut, Barth, Heller, Barthelme, etc. In the end, Codrescu assures us, art can remain a redemptive force in a world in which the Posthuman has overtaken all other movements and philosophies. As we watch our world steadily become digitized, the general stance of Dada might be exactly what we need. I love this book. 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Dada Made Comprehensible - And Relevant By Michael Codrescu brilliantly and humorously shows how productive the "anti-art" of Dada was - and is. He makes the best case I've read for the movement's historical importance and continued relevance, and he does it with sustained ebullience. Dada's stress on nonsense never made so much sense. By making Dada clear and useful, Codrescu risks betraying Dada's own principled stance of opposing all principles, but he remains true to Dada's negations while affirming them. This is a neat trick; this is a great little book. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Guide to Dada? Are you nuts? By G. H. Goodwin Dada. You either like it or you don't .

"This is a guide for instructing posthumans in living a Dada life. It is not advisable, nor was it ever, to lead a Dada life."--*The Posthuman Dada Guide* ? *The Posthuman Dada Guide* is an impractical handbook for practical living in our posthuman world--all by way of examining the imagined 1916 chess game between Tristan Tzara, the daddy of Dada, and V. I. Lenin, the daddy of communism. This epic game at Zurich's Cafeacute; de la Terrasse--a battle between radical visions of art and ideological revolution--lasted for a century and may still be going on, although communism appears dead and Dada stronger than ever. As the poet faces the future mass murderer over the chessboard, neither realizes that they are playing for the world. Taking the match as metaphor for two poles of twentieth- and twenty-first-century thought, politics, and life, Andrei Codrescu has created his own brilliantly Dadaesque guide to Dada--and to what it can teach us about surviving our ultraconnected present and future. Here dadaists Duchamp, Ball, and von Freytag-Loringhoven and communists Trotsky, Radek, and Zinoviev appear live in company with later incarnations, including William Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, Gilles Deleuze, and Newt Gingrich. *The Posthuman Dada Guide* is arranged alphabetically for quick reference and (some) nostalgia for order, with entries such as "eros (women)," "internet(s)," and "war." Throughout, it is written in the belief "that posthumans lining the road to the future (which looks as if it exists, after all, even though Dada is against it) need the solace offered by the primal raw energy of Dada and its inhuman sources."