Technology Is Not a Myth of Our Time

Debunking the Illusion, Exposing Reality

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Preface

The Illusion of Technological Mythology

Throughout history, human beings have been captivated by myths. These stories, passed down through generations, serve as cultural foundations, moral compasses, and explanations for the unknown. From the Promethean fire of the Greeks to the technological marvels envisioned in modern science fiction, myths have always reflected our deepest hopes and fears. Yet, in contemporary society, a new type of myth has emerged — one that centers not on gods or supernatural forces but on technology itself.

In the 21st century, technology is often framed as an almost divine force — either as an all-powerful savior destined to solve humanity's greatest challenges or as an uncontrollable juggernaut, inevitably leading us toward dystopian collapse. Whether it is artificial intelligence, biotechnology, or automation, the discourse surrounding technology often carries the tone of predestination — as if progress follows an inevitable arc beyond human intervention. We are repeatedly told that machines will "replace us", that artificial intelligence will "surpass human intelligence", that climate change will be "solved" by some miraculous geoengineering technique. These narratives reduce technology to something beyond scrutiny, an unstoppable destiny we must simply accept.

But is technology truly a myth of our time? Or is this framing a distortion of reality? Is technological progress a force beyond human agency, or is it, in fact, a system of human-created tools, shaped and constrained by our choices, ethics, and policies?

This book challenges the notion that technology should be viewed through a mythological lens. Instead of accepting grandiose narratives, we will analyze technology as an empirical phenomenon, deeply intertwined with

scientific inquiry, economic systems, political decisions, and social values. By dismantling the illusions that surround technological discourse, we will uncover the true nature of innovation — one that is far less mystical and far more dependent on critical thinking, collective responsibility, and pragmatic governance.

Why This Book?

We live in an era of unprecedented technological acceleration. Every day, new advancements in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and genetic engineering push the boundaries of what we thought possible. While these breakthroughs generate excitement, they also provoke anxiety. The rapid pace of change fuels narratives that technology is either humanity's salvation or its doom. But both extremes are misleading.

History shows us that no technology exists in a vacuum.

The printing press did not automatically create an enlightened world; it also enabled propaganda and censorship; the industrial revolution improved production efficiency but also exploited workers and contributed to environmental degradation; the internet democratized access to knowledge but simultaneously amplified disinformation and deepened political divisions. Every major technological shift carries both promises and perils, and how we navigate them depends on human choices, not mythical inevitability.

In an age where disinformation spreads as quickly as innovation, it is crucial to develop a nuanced understanding of technology — one grounded in evidence rather than fantasy.

This book is written as a critical intervention against deterministic thinking, urging you as a reader to question simplistic narratives and engage with technology as a field governed by human agency, scientific rigor, and ethical considerations.

The Core Arguments of This Book

To dismantle the mythologization of technology, we will explore several key themes:

1. **Technology is Not an Autonomous Force**
   Despite frequent claims that technology develops along an inevitable trajectory, history shows that technological progress is neither linear nor preordained: it is shaped by policy decisions, economic incentives, corporate interests, and societal values. For example, the development of artificial intelligence is not simply a matter of scientific inevitability; it is influenced by who funds research, what problems are prioritized, and how regulatory bodies respond to emerging risks.

2. **The Scientific Method is the Antithesis of Myth**
   One of the fundamental distinctions between mythology and technology is the role of verifiability. Myths exist within cultural narratives that do not require empirical validation; they endure through collective belief. Technology, on the other hand, must prove its efficacy through testing, iteration, and scientific scrutiny. A device must function, a system must perform, and an invention must withstand real-world conditions. The notion that technology operates in a mythic realm collapses under the weight of scientific methodology, which continuously refines, challenges, and corrects our understanding.

3. **Innovation is Not Always Disruptive or radically Revolutionary**
   The modern obsession with "disruption" creates the illusion that every new invention must completely replace the old. While certain technologies — such as the automobile replacing horse-drawn carriages — have indeed disrupted entire industries, most technological advancements are incremental rather than revolutionary. The smartphone, for example, was not a single radical leap but the result of decades of gradual improvements in computing, telecommunications, and interface design. However, its widespread adoption has undeniably transformed many aspects of

daily life: traditional wristwatches are rarely used, phone booths have disappeared, and smartphones have replaced trips to the bank, the supermarket, and many other in-person activities. By understanding innovation as a continuous, iterative process, we can resist the sensationalist myth that every new invention marks the beginning of a new epoch.

4. **Failures Are as Important as Successes**
   In the mythic imagination, technological progress is often portrayed as an unbroken series of triumphs, with brilliant inventors and entrepreneurs leading the charge toward an inevitable future. Reality, however, is much messier. For every technological success, there are countless failures — unworkable designs, unsustainable business models, and overlooked safety concerns. From the Challenger space shuttle disaster to the Boeing 737 MAX crisis, history reminds us that blind faith in technology without scrutiny can have catastrophic consequences. Understanding failure as part of the process — not as an anomaly — helps ground our view of technology in reality rather than myth.

5. **Technology is a Social and Political Construct**
   Far from being a neutral force, technology is deeply embedded in social, economic, and political structures. Who benefits from a particular innovation? Who is excluded? What are the unintended consequences? A technology's impact depends not only on its design but also on the laws, business models, and power dynamics that shape its deployment. Recognizing this reality enables us to move beyond simplistic narratives of "good" or "bad" technology and instead engage with the broader system in which it operates.

A Call for Collective Responsibility

At the heart of this book is a call to action: we must reclaim agency over technology. If we passively accept myths of technological inevitability — whether utopian or dystopian — we surrender our role in shaping the future.

Instead, we should foster critical technological literacy, demand ethical accountability from corporations and governments, and participate actively in discussions about regulation, sustainability, and equity.

This book does not advocate for a rejection of technology but rather for a more mature, evidence-based approach to understanding and integrating it into our lives. By dismantling mythic illusions, we can engage with technology in ways that are rational, responsible, and ultimately beneficial to society.

How to Read This Book

Technology is Not a Myth of Our Time is structured to take you on a journey — from understanding the historical roots of mythic thinking to critically examining modern technological developments. The chapters are designed to be read sequentially but can also be explored independently, depending on your interest in specific topics. The analysis will range from historical insights to contemporary case studies, drawing on examples from artificial intelligence, space exploration, social media, and scientific research.

Throughout this exploration, one principle remains constant: technology is not fate; it is not a divine gift nor an inevitable force beyond human control. It is, instead, a set of tools, infrastructures, and systems — each of which can be guided, modified, or restrained according to our collective priorities.

Final and Opening Thoughts

As we embark on this examination, I invite you to question commonly held assumptions about technology, challenge deterministic narratives, and engage critically with the forces shaping our digital and physical world. Technology has always been what we make of it — and our role in shaping its future is more important than ever.

Enjoy your reading!

I am a trainer specialising in relational skills, as well as interpersonal and business communication. I design and deliver dynamic, engaging training courses, often in collaboration with leading schools and training centres, aimed at business owners, directors, managers, secretarial staff, sales and support teams, independent professionals, business and industry associations, professional firms, students, and individuals undergoing career orientation, job placement, or employment reintegration programmes.

Since 2011, I have also worked as a consultant for companies, firms, and professional associations, specialising in communication, relations, marketing, and both on-line and off-line sales. My role involves analysing data, markets, target audiences, and business situations, as well as developing and implementing traditional and digital marketing and communication strategies, tactics, tools, and solutions to achieve business, institutional, and corporate objectives.

Between 1996 and 2011 I led international Corporate, Business and Marketing Communications, Press Relations, and Public Affairs at two multinational companies.

I began my professional and educational career in **1984** working for twelve years as a journalist and press officer. During this time, I contributed to Italian national and international newspapers, television channels, and press offices. I have been a member of the Italian National **Order of Journalists since 1989**.

When I was 7, I wrote and designed my first newsletter, including the titles, headlines, and images I had drawn.

I was born in Rome, Italy, and have lived and worked in various regions and cities across Italy, as well as abroad for several professional projects, including a four-year stint in Russia.

I remain steadfast in my belief in the power of communication and interpersonal relationships, and I am unwavering in my commitment to these principles, even in the face of my own mistakes.

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