



Darwin among the Machines: The Evolution of Global Intelligence

By George B. Dyson

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As timely now as it was when it was first published in 1997, *Darwin Among the Machines* tells the story of humankind's long journey into the digital age. Historian of technology George Dyson traces the course of the information revolution, illuminating the lives and work of visionaries—from Thomas Hobbes to John von Neumann—who foresaw the development of artificial intelligence, artificial life, and artificial mind. Weaving a convincing, occasionally frightening narrative of the evolution of the global network, Dyson explores the limits of Darwinian evolution to suggest what lies ahead. Computer programs and worldwide networks are combining to produce an evolutionary theater in which the distinctions between nature and technology are increasingly obscured, he argues. We are living in the midst of an experiment—one that echoes the prehistory of human intelligence and the origins of life. Now in a new paperback edition, this classic work on the emergence of collective mechanical intelligence will resonate for generations to come.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Here's a mesmerizing account of the evolution of machines and thoughts about machines, woven into a story about the evolution of intelligence. *Darwin Among the Machines* is not so much about how today's intelligence came to be, but about how it may further develop as humanity and computer grow closer together. George Dyson tells the story largely through stories--both historical and legendary--from the lives of scientists and philosophers who paved the way for today's cybernetics revolution, starting with the 17th-century insights of Thomas Hobbes. This book challenges the assumption that nature and machine are opposing forces. Dyson believes them to be allies.

From Library Journal

Dyson, son of scientist Freeman and brother of computer guru Esther, sees the World Wide Web as a major evolutionary development in the creation of "a globally networked, electronic, sentient being." Using historical fact as well as fiction, he explains how we have arrived at this juncture. He reveals an impressive literary and scientific background as he moves from Thomas Hobbes, Samuel Butler, and Leibniz to Turing, von Neumann, and others. However, it is not always obvious what point he is making, and he finds mythology as useful in explaining this evolution as historical fact. Dyson provides substantial detail about the development of intelligent machines as he traces the history of modern computing from the ballistics computations of the 1940s and 1950s to the SAGE project and other military applications, which had spinoffs and by-products culminating in today's network-based system. Certainly, computer technology is having a revolutionary effect on how we do many things and, in fact, what we do. But whether we are seeing Darwinian evolution among the machines remains unproved to this reviewer. Recommended for larger collections. Hilary D. Burton, Lawrence Livermore National Lab., Livermore, Cal.
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Review

Nature

"An extraordinarily exciting, intriguing and very idiosyncratic book.... An almost perfect example of the effective literary treatment of scientific subjects."

Los Angeles Times

"An original, creative work of intellectual history."

Newsweek

"A cogent, succinct history of thinkers and thinking that paved the way, occasionally unwittingly, to today's technology."

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The particular book Darwin among the Machines: The Evolution of Global Intelligence has a lot info on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was authored by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research before write this book. This particular book very easy to read you may get the point easily after reading this book.

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The reason why? Because this Darwin among the Machines: The Evolution of Global Intelligence is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret this inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book include such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I had been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Jeffrey Martinez:

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