

AI is not simply a new technology. It is a new concentration of economic, political, and cultural power.
The democratic question is not only what AI can do - but who will govern it, for whom, and toward what ends.

THE LUDDITE LESSON

They did not oppose machines as such.

The Luddites resisted the use of machinery to destroy skilled work, weaken communities, and transfer control from workers to owners.

Their enduring question:

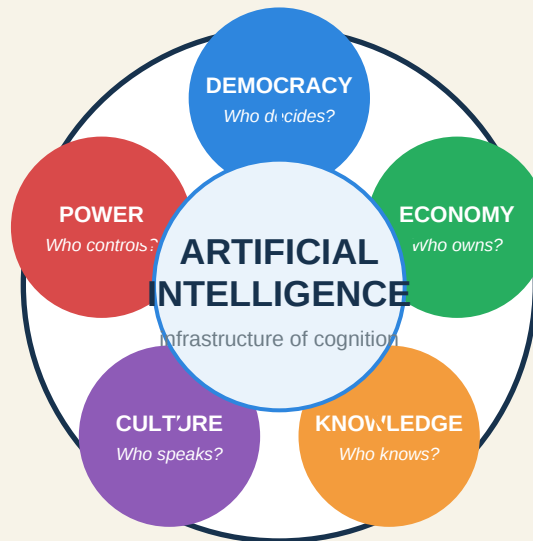
Who controls technological change - and who pays its costs?

TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS



WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT AI?

Earlier technologies transformed energy, production, and communication. AI increasingly reaches into language, judgment, creativity, and cognition itself.



FROM TECHNICAL POSSIBILITY TO PUBLIC CHOICE

CAN AI DO IT?

A technical question.

SHOULD IT?

An ethical and political question.

WHO DECIDES?

A question of democratic authority.

WHO BENEFITS?

A question of ownership and justice.

A DEMOCRATIC AI AGENDA

- PUBLIC RULES**
Transparent, enforceable standards.
- SOCIAL OWNERSHIP**
Broaden control over infrastructure and gains.
- WORKER POWER**
Give workers a voice in design and deployment.
- CIVIC CAPACITY**
Protect education, journalism, and public knowledge.

THE CENTRAL DEMOCRATIC CHOICE

Artificial intelligence will not simply change what we do.
It will change how we think, how we communicate, and ultimately how democracy itself functions.

Will democracy shape that transformation - or will concentrated power shape democracy through it?