



The Fourth Discontinuity: The Co-Evolution of Humans and Machines (Paperback)

By Bruce Mazlish

Yale University Press, United States, 1995. Paperback. Condition: New. Reissue. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.From Mary Shelley's Frankenstein to current films like The Terminator about menacing androids, writers have expressed concern about computers and biogenetic creations taking over or altering human life. In this engrossing and lively book, Bruce Mazlish discusses the complex relationship between humans and machines, pondering the implications of humans becoming more mechanical (our bodies increasingly hooked up to artificial parts), and of computer robots being programmed to think. Mazlish argues that just as Copernicus, Darwin, and Freud overturned our illusions of separation from and domination over the cosmos, the animal world, and the unconscious, it is now necessary to relinquish a fourth fallacy or discontinuity—that humans are discontinuous and distinct from the machines they make. Drawing on history and legend, science and science fiction, Mazlish examines how events and individuals have shaped the ways that humans relate to machines. He describes early Greek and Chinese automata (forerunners of the robot); he discusses the seventeenth-century debate over what was called the animal machine ; he shows how the Industrial Revolution created a truly mechanical civilization; he looks at what thinkers...



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