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The Open Future and Its Enemies
How we can Protect Free Society
from AI Dictatorship

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Artificial intelligence is regarded as the driving force of progress. Yet it has long since become a challenge to democracy. The authors view AI as a fundamental issue of power and democracy and analyse the conflict between algorithmic control and democratic self-determination. Their central thesis: The future is open – people shape it with their imagination, through public discourse and on the basis of plurality. Anyone who increasingly leaves decisions to automated systems and seeks to control the future through AI misunderstands the limits of this technology and risks freedom. How can we succeed in preserving the open future and, with it, open society?

Uncontrolled AI will erode our freedom, self-determination and democracy. That is why a robust democracy must not leave the future in the hands of the alliance between Big Tech and the far right. AI must be politically reined in and democratically shaped so that humanity retains its sovereignty. The book highlights the technical limitations of supposedly superior intelligence, debunks ideological promises of salvation and describes the concentration of power within the digital-economic complex. It also sets out concrete proposals for political action to secure a better future: smart regulation, consistent enforcement of European law, decentralisation and digital sovereignty.

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born in 1961, journalist. He studied philosophy under Herbert Schnädelbach and served as managing director and editor-in-chief of FOCUS TV for 20 years. He is the founding director of the non-profit think-and-do tank Council for European Public Space, which advocates for a pan-European platform for news and information. He lives in Munich and Berlin.

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