

Why AI Undermines Democracy and What to Do About It

MARK COECKELBERGH

polity

Copyright © Mark Coeckelbergh 2024

The right of Mark Coeckelbergh to be identified as Author of this Work has been asserted in accordance with the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published in 2024 by Polity Press

Polity Press
65 Bridge Street
Cambridge CB2 1UR, UK

Polity Press
111 River Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030, USA

All rights reserved. Except for the quotation of short passages for the purpose of criticism and review, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

ISBN-13: 978-1-5095-6092-9
ISBN-13: 978-1-5095-6093-6(pb)

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2023941290

Typeset in 11 on 14pt Warnock Pro
by Cheshire Typesetting Ltd, Cuddington, Cheshire
Printed and bound in Great Britain by TJ Books Ltd, Padstow, Cornwall

The publisher has used its best endeavours to ensure that the URLs for external websites referred to in this book are correct and active at the time of going to press. However, the publisher has no responsibility for the websites and can make no guarantee that a site will remain live or that the content is or will remain appropriate.

Every effort has been made to trace all copyright holders, but if any have been overlooked the publisher will be pleased to include any necessary credits in any subsequent reprint or edition.

For further information on Polity, visit our website:
politybooks.com

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	vi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	viii
1. Introduction	1
2. A Not So Democratic History	9
3. What AI, What Democracy?	23
4. How AI Undermines the Basic Principles of Democracy	38
5. How AI Erodes Knowledge and Trust	55
6. Strengthening Democracy and Democratizing AI	70
7. AI for Democracy and a New Renaissance	87
8. The Common Good and Communication	99
Executive Summary for Policy Makers	120
<i>Notes</i>	123
<i>References</i>	131
<i>Index</i>	144