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Grey House Publishing Announces the Twelfth Title in the
Opinions Throughout History Series:
Robotics & Artificial Intelligence

Robotics & Artificial Intelligence is the twelfth volume in the new series, *Opinions Throughout History*. Each volume in the series is designed to follow the evolution of public opinion on a current and controversial topic that has changed throughout history. Each volume discusses both primary and secondary documents such as newspaper and magazine articles, speeches, court decisions and other legislation. Accompanied by expert commentary and analysis, these documents showcase the changing attitudes on these important issues of public interest over time.

This volume starts with a detailed Introduction that defines the concepts of robotics and artificial intelligence and places their origins with the first tools made by man and the mythologies of ancient civilizations. A comprehensive Timeline is next, highlighting significant robotic and AI events from the first Greek myths about automatons in 8000 BCE to a 2020 announcement by Amazon about adding new AI capabilities to Amazon Echo.

The main body of the text are 28 chapters that present a fascinating account of humanity's complicated relationship with these increasingly present technologies. Envisioned by early civilizations as creations that could overcome human limitations and defend societies, modern robotics and AI have in fact achieved these goals in some measure. Advances in robotic surgery and prosthetics have augmented the human body. Robots are now used to do dangerous jobs like surveying volcanoes, diffusing bombs, cleaning up nuclear waste, and exploring space. As researchers push the limits of robotics and AI, they gather insight into the human mind and body. The attempt to create true artificial intelligence has resulted in discoveries about the human brain and how we process language. And automated military technologies like drones make it less necessary to put soldiers in life-threatening situations.

On the flip side, robotics in industrial settings has resulted in the loss of millions of jobs worldwide and, as artificial intelligence progresses, it will make inroads into other sectors besides manufacturing industries. Drone warfare has become increasingly controversial, not least because of civilian casualties. When ELIZA—the first “chatterbot” or “chatbot”—was developed in 1966 to simulate a

psychotherapist, many patients believed ELIZA to be a real therapist and shared intimate personal details. This tendency to ascribe human characteristics to robots and artificial intelligences, now known as the ELIZA effect, informs both positive and negative reactions to these emerging technologies. As of 2020, despite significant gains, artificial intelligence programs can only create the illusion of sentience, mimicking human conversation and facial expressions. But “technological singularity”—a possible future in which these technologies have advanced beyond human control, changing civilization in unforeseeable ways—evokes both excitement and dread.

The chapters are as follows:

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| 1. Endowed with Motion | 15. Playing Robot |
| 2. Automating Work | 16. War Games |
| 3. Fear your Creation | 17. Space Oddities |
| 4. Automated Ethics | 18. The Ultimate Strategy Machine |
| 5. The Computer Revolution | 19. Homebots |
| 6. Approaching Intelligence | 20. Replacing Humanity |
| 7. Factory Work | 21. The AI Assistant |
| 8. The Illusion of Language | 22. Robotic Citizenship |
| 9. The Perfect Body | 23. Biorobotics |
| 10. Seasons of AI | 24. Robotic Living |
| 11. Hands Free | 25. The Future of Work |
| 12. Robotic Justice | 26. Quantum Computing |
| 13. Where No One Can Go | 27. The Singularity |
| 14. Mechanical Medicine | 28. Conclusion |

The text of the chapter relates the source documents to their historical context, and details contemporary public opinion. Most source documents are reprinted in their entirety and are clearly distinguished by a shaded title bar. Photos and other images enhance the text, and sidebars provide an often lighter perspective on the time period being discussed. Pull quotes and other visual elements increase accessibility. Each chapter ends with a brief Conclusion, thoughtful Discussion Questions, and a list of Works Used.

This exciting new series offers a wide range of insights into long-standing issues that Americans are most concerned about, and those that have encouraged vigorous debate among politicians and citizens at large. Using carefully-chosen original documents that cover a wide time span, *Opinions Throughout History* weaves a thoughtful and easy-to-understand analysis of how public opinion is formed and evolves, starting the discussion at an historical, seminal moment, and ending with where we stand today.

This comprehensive, timely volume is a must for large public libraries, university libraries and social science departments, along with high school libraries.

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Buyers of *Opinions Throughout History: Robotics & Artificial Intelligence* receive FREE ONLINE ACCESS on the popular Grey House/Salem Press Platform, <https://online.salempress.com>. With unlimited users and remote access included, your students and researchers can now search this amazing collection of data, anytime & anywhere, all just a click away.

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