

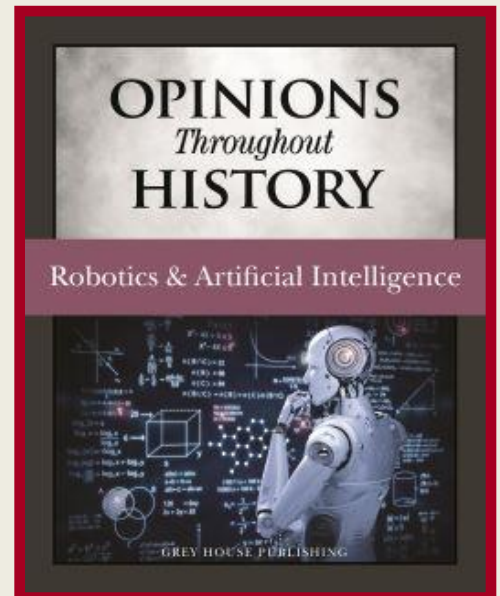
REVIEWS

Opinions Throughout History: Robotics & Artificial Intelligence

“Independent scholar and journalist Micah T. Issitt has authored several other volumes in the *Opinions Throughout History* series from Grey House Publishing. Here he takes on a topic that, the reader quickly realizes, is inextricable from technology in general. Tools capable of amazing feats have been part of human storytelling almost from the beginning; the author illustrates this in the opening chapter, with excerpts from Homer’s *Odyssey* and *Iliad*. By Chapter Three of the twenty-eight chronological (but overlapping) chapters, after a brief mention of machines in the Industrial Revolution, the emphasis turns to the twentieth century. Each chapter opens with a summary, followed by a short list of relevant terms. Two of the more interesting articles include discussions of Karel Čapek’s 1920 play, “Rossum’s Universal Robot,” and a 2016 article by Gideon Lewis-Kraus from *Wired*, “Check-in with the Velociraptor, at the World’s First Robot Hotel”). Each chapter concludes with a few questions and a list of works cited, all but a few of which include URLs.

Chapters cover machines in industry, medicine (ranging from artificial joints to robotic surgery), and warfare. Robots as toys and in popular culture are also discussed...There is much coverage of worker displacement and invasions of privacy. As with most of the other volumes in the series, *Robotics & Artificial Intelligence* falls somewhere between a textbook and a reference book. It will be useful to high school and undergraduate students, especially in the humanities and social sciences, exploring the history of technology.”

-Against the Grain



Pub. Date: October 2020
ISBN: 978-1-64265-481-3
Price: \$195

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Publishing**