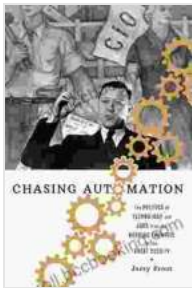


The Politics of Technology and Jobs: From the Roaring Twenties to the Great Depression

The relationship between technology and jobs has been a subject of ongoing debate and research for decades. Some argue that technology inevitably leads to job losses, while others believe that it creates new jobs and opportunities. The truth, as usual, lies somewhere in between.



Chasing Automation: The Politics of Technology and Jobs from the Roaring Twenties to the Great Society

by Tatiana Schlossberg

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 976 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 288 pages



The book "The Politics of Technology and Jobs: From the Roaring Twenties to the Great Depression" by Edward Balleisen examines this complex relationship in detail. Balleisen argues that the impact of technology on jobs is not simply a matter of technological determinism, but rather the result of political and economic forces that shape the way technology is developed and used.

Balleisen's book is a valuable contribution to the literature on technology and jobs. It provides a comprehensive historical overview of the subject,

and it offers a nuanced understanding of the complex factors that have shaped the relationship between technology and employment.

Historical Overview

The first part of Balleisen's book provides a historical overview of the relationship between technology and jobs in the United States. He begins by examining the impact of the Industrial Revolution on the labor market. The Industrial Revolution led to the mechanization of many tasks that had previously been done by hand, which resulted in widespread job losses. However, it also created new jobs in factories and other industries.

Balleisen then examines the impact of technological change on the labor market in the early 20th century. This period saw the rise of new technologies such as the automobile, the airplane, and the radio. These technologies created new jobs and industries, but they also led to job losses in other sectors.

The Great Depression had a devastating impact on the labor market. Unemployment reached record levels, and many workers were forced to take low-paying jobs. The Depression also led to a decline in investment in new technologies, which further slowed job growth.

Political and Economic Forces

In the second part of his book, Balleisen examines the political and economic forces that have shaped the relationship between technology and jobs. He argues that the impact of technology on jobs is not simply a matter of technological determinism, but rather the result of political and economic forces that shape the way technology is developed and used.

Balleisen identifies a number of political and economic factors that have influenced the impact of technology on jobs. These include:

- Government policies
- Labor market institutions
- The structure of the economy
- The distribution of income

Balleisen argues that government policies can play a significant role in shaping the impact of technology on jobs. For example, government policies that promote investment in new technologies can lead to job creation. Similarly, government policies that provide support for workers who are displaced by technology can help to mitigate the negative effects of technological change.

Labor market institutions can also play a role in shaping the impact of technology on jobs. For example, strong unions can help to protect workers from the negative effects of technological change by negotiating for higher wages and better working conditions.

The structure of the economy can also influence the impact of technology on jobs. For example, an economy that is heavily dependent on manufacturing is more likely to experience job losses due to technological change than an economy that is based on services.

Finally, the distribution of income can also play a role in shaping the impact of technology on jobs. For example, a society with a high level of income

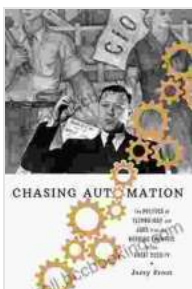
inequality is more likely to experience job losses due to technological change than a society with a more equal distribution of income.

Policy Recommendations

In the final part of his book, Balleisen offers a number of policy recommendations to address the challenges posed by technological change. These recommendations include:

- Investing in education and training
- Supporting workers who are displaced by technology
- Encouraging the creation of new jobs
- Promoting a more equitable distribution of income

Balleisen argues that these policy recommendations can help to mitigate the negative



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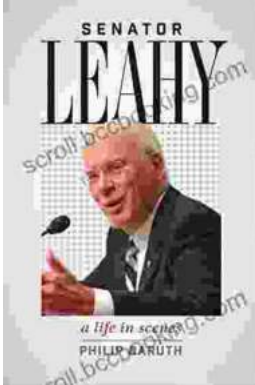
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