

Transhumanism - Engineering the human condition: history, philosophy and current status

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Abstrak

This book is designed to offer a comprehensive high-level introduction to transhumanism, an international political and cultural movement that aims to produce a paradigm shift in our ethical and political understanding of human evolution. Transhumanist thinkers want the human species to take the course of evolution into its own hands, using advanced technologies currently under development-such as robotics, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, cognitive neurosciences, and nanotechnology-to overcome our present physical and mental limitations, improve our intelligence beyond the current maximum achievable level, acquire skills that are currently the preserve of other species, abolish involuntary aging and death, and ultimately achieve a post-human level of existence. The book covers transhumanism from a historical, philosophical, and scientific viewpoint, tracing its cultural roots, discussing the main philosophical, epistemological, and ethical issues, and reviewing the state of the art in scientific research on the topics of most interest to transhumanists. The writing style is clear and accessible for the general reader, but the book will also appeal to graduate and undergraduate students.