1. Record Nr. UNINA9910797274803321 Autore Agar Nicholas **Titolo** The sceptical optimist: why technology isn't the answer to everything / / Nicholas Agar Pubbl/distr/stampa New York, New York: .: Oxford University Press. . 2015 ©2015 0-19-102662-X **ISBN** Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (222 p.) Disciplina 303.483 Soggetti Technology - Psychological aspects Technology - Social aspects Technology - Philosophy Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Includes index. ""COVER""; ""THE SCEPTICAL OPTIMIST: WHY TECHNOLOGY ISN'T THE Nota di contenuto ANSWER TO EVERYTHING"": ""COPYRIGHT"": ""DEDICATION"": ""ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS""; ""CONTENTS""; ""LIST OF FIGURES""; ""INTRODUCTION""; ""An outline of the book""; ""1: RADICAL OPTIMISM AND THE TECHNOLOGY BIAS""; ""Does technological progress increase subjective well-being?""; ""Radically optimistic forecasts""; ""How should we prioritize technological progress?""; ""Concluding comments""; ""2: IS THERE A LAW OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS?"": ""Moorea€?s Law. Krydera€?s Law, and exponential technological improvement" ""Two questions about exponential technological progress"""" Exponential technological improvement as a conditional law"": ""What went wrong with cancer?""; ""Kurzweila€?s evolutionary explanation of exponential technological progress"": ""The difference between reflexive and passive improvement""; ""Exponential technological improvement is infectious""; ""Concluding comments""; ""3: DOES TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS MAKE US HAPPIER?""; ""The traditional paradox of progress""; ""How we hedonically adapt to new well-being technologies""; ""Complete or incomplete hedonic adaptation?"" ""Concluding comments""""4: THE NEW PARADOX OF PROGRESS"";

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""The importance of subjectively positive technological progress""

Sommario/riassunto

The rapid developments in technologies -- especially computing and the advent of many 'smart' devices, as well as rapid and perpetual communication via the Internet -- has led to a frequently voiced view which Nicholas Agar describes as 'radical optimism'. Radical optimists claim that accelerating technical progress will soon end poverty, disease, and ignorance, and improve our happiness and well-being. Agar disputes the claim that technological progress willautomatically produce great improvements in subjective well-being. He argues that radical optimism 'assigns to technological progress an