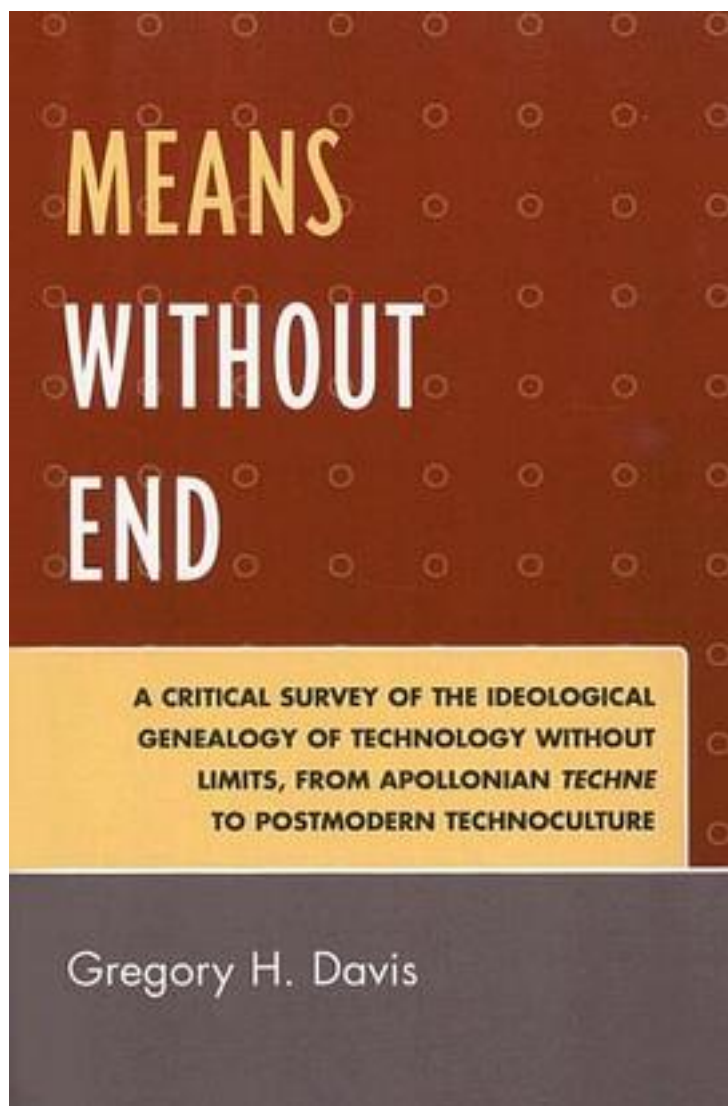


Means without End



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Means without End is based on a recognition that contemporary technology is without limits in both a practical and an ideological sense. In following the historical evolution of ideas about technology in Western culture and situating them in the philosophical, theological, and scientific ideological contexts in which they emerged, this work examines a development that has radically altered the conditions of contemporary existence. The analysis, critical at all points, begins with the Apollonian Greek techne of limits and situates the ideological roots of technology without limits in Christian theology of the Patristic and Medieval periods. Other highlights include ideological underpinnings of the Scientific Revolution and its implications for philosophy and technology; the formulation by Enlightenment philosophes of a secular, technology-promoting theory of progress, their critique of received ideas, and Rousseau's radical stance vis-a-vis progress and technology; Marx's technology-based theory of dialectical materialism, the development of the philosophy of will and the idea of autonomous art, and Nietzsche's eventual proclamation of nihilism in the 19th Century; and the emergence of technology without limits in the 20th Century, reflected in the German reactionary modernists' theory of autonomous technology, Ellul's and Marcuse's critique of the "technological society" after World War II, and Virilio's pessimistic assessment of postmodern technoculture.

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