

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Artificial Intelligence Is A Familiar-Looking Monster, Say Henry Farrell and Cosma Shalizi](#)

Article Link: <https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2023/06/21/artificial-intelligence-is-a-familiar-looking-monster-say-henry-farrell-and-cosma-shalizi>

Author(s)	Henry Farrell and Cosma Shalizi
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Tweet: [@henryfarrell](#) and Cosma Shalizi argue that free markets and institutional hierarchies were revolutions in human information-processing, and AI can be seen along the same lines.

Summary: Artificial intelligence is a familiar-looking monster, say Henry Farrell and Cosma Shalizi [that] began at least two centuries ago with the industrial revolution, when human society was transformed by vast inhuman forces. Markets and bureaucracies seem familiar, but they are actually enormous, impersonal distributed systems of information-processing [with minds of their own]. Economist Friedrich Hayek argued, any complex economy has to somehow make use of a terrifyingly large body of disorganised and informal “tacit knowledge” ... [that] no individual brain or government can possibly comprehend. These vast machineries are simply incapable of caring if they crush the powerless or devour the virtuous. The modern world has been built by and within monsters, which crush individuals without remorse or hesitation. We eke out freedom by setting one against another, deploying bureaucracy to limit market excesses, democracy to hold bureaucrats accountable, and markets and bureaucracies to limit democracy’s monstrous tendencies.

Primary Topic: Institutional Capabilities

Topics: Database, Institutional Capabilities, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Productivity, Weekly

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