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In 1770, the Habsburg Empress Maria Theresa and her court were amazed by a technological wonder—a humanoid machine capable of defeating human opponents in chess. This marvel, known as the "Mechanical Turk," toured various countries, playing games against notable figures like Napoleon and Benjamin Franklin. However, it was later revealed that the Mechanical Turk was a fake, with a concealed human operator providing the intelligence.

Fast forward to the present, and humanoid robots, like Ai-Da, are once again causing concerns and fears about the potential threat of intelligent machines taking over. However, the article argues that these lifelike automata are not the real threat but rather a diversion from it.

The history of automata dates back to ancient times, with the Greeks using mechanical figures in temples and processions. The Renaissance saw a resurgence of interest in technology, with inventors like Leonardo da Vinci creating humanoid automata. The Cartesian view of the cosmos as a mechanistic system further fueled the development of automata during the 18th and 19th centuries, leading to a golden age of intricate inventions.

The article highlights the paradox that while these playful and magical automata entertained kings and nobles, the real technological advancements were happening in more ordinary aspects of life, especially in the mechanization of everyday tasks further down the social scale. The term "Robot" itself originated from forced labor owed by peasants to aristocratic landlords in the Habsburg territories.

The author emphasizes that the concern should not be whether machines will become sentient, as they won't, but rather the impact of increasing mechanization on human life. Examples from history, such as the industrialization of farming after the abolition of forced labor, illustrate the transformative effects of technology on society.

The article also draws attention to the displacement of human skill and intelligence by machines, as seen in the case of customer-service robots like "Quinn" and self-checkout machines. The convergence of human and machine has led to the prioritization of machine needs over human patterns of work.

In the 21st century, platforms like "Mechanical Turk" represent a form of online outsourcing that exploits workers, highlighting the hidden human "ghosts" in the AI machine. The article concludes by emphasizing that while the focus may be on lifelike automata deceiving humans, the real impact comes from the large-scale deployment of machines that transform human work to meet machine priorities. As a result, aspects of human warmth, intelligence, and skill become premium extras for the fortunate few.

1.

Automata: Mechanically powered figures, often humanoid, created for entertainment or practical purposes.

Verisimilitude: The appearance of being true or real; in this case, the lifelike quality of automata.

Singularity: A theoretical moment in the future when technological progress will become so rapid and complex that humanity will not be able to fully understand or control it.

Cybernetics: The study of systems that control and communicate, both natural and artificial.

Augmented Reality: A technology that combines virtual objects with a real environment.

Quantum Computing The use of quantum bits for information processing, promising significant advantages in computing speed.

2.

In 1770, a fake chess-playing humanoid called the "Mechanical Turk" amazed audiences. Today's lifelike robots spark fears of AI dominance, but the real threat lies in the displacement of human work by machines.

Throughout history, automata fascinated, from ancient Greece to the Renaissance. The term "robot" originated from forced peasant labor in the Habsburg territories, and emancipation led to industrialization.

Modern automation, like customer-service robots and self-checkout machines, displaces human skills, reorienting work to machine priorities. The convergence of human and machine makes genuine humanness a luxury, as industries prioritize

automation over personal touch. The real impact is not in machines deceiving humans but in the widespread transformation of human work to suit machines.

3. **ex. 27 p. 78**

A.

1. My secretary will phone you to **arrange** a meeting.
2. The students are encouraged to participate in **verifiable research** in their field of study.
3. This easily **verifiable** fact proves that our theory is true.
4. **Actual** results may be different from the expected results.
5. Some **powerful** ideas have emerged at our university.
6. They agreed to **extend** the deadline until the end of the month.
7. He helped me to **set up** my computer.
8. Developing new robots and replacing human workers with intelligent robots are two **separate** issues.
9. Herbal tea helps **relieve** tension and calm the nerves.
10. I’m afraid, I am not **fitted for** so great a task.

B.

11. The oil **production** rate increased due to new technology.

1. In his new book, he analyzes the **complicated** approaches to managing.
2. The old building is now used as a hotel and has been reconstructed to **suit** that purpose.
3. Since he hadn’t **updated** the antivirus software on his computer for a long time, his system was infected.
4. They lost mostly because they had **underestimated** their opponents.
5. Most of our graduates are well prepared to work with **rescue** systems.

6. It is difficult to imagine how people watched TV without a **remote control** a few decades ago.
7. It has been shown that a bit of stress **enhances** performance during an exam.
8. If your immune system fails to **meet** the challenge of the first contact, you might be infected.
9. The news agencies say that submersibles can also aid search and **rescue** missions.