

Frey, Carl Benedikt. *The Technology Trap: Capital, Labor, and Power In the Age of Automation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019.

Carl Benedikt Frey is the Director of Future of Work at Oxford University. In “The Technology Trap,” Frey compares the economic and political history of technological progress during the industrial revolution to the current age of automation and artificial intelligence. He starts with a brief history of technological advancement from agrarian society to the industrial revolution and its limited effect on economic progress. He then focuses on the labor-replacing aspects of the industrial revolution’s major technological advancements first in Britain, then America, and the varying effects this imposed on the middle class. After comparing this dynamic to the current age of automation, Frey provides a look at potential future outcomes and possible solutions. Frey often draws from both historical references and the work of current economists, such as Daren Acemoglu.