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Object name: Computer Power and Human Reason from Judgement to Calculation

Vintage: 1984

Synopsis: Joseph Weizenbaum, 2nd Edition, Published by Penguin Books.

**Description:**

Joseph Weizenbaum (1923-2008) was a German-American computer scientist and a professor at MIT. The Weizenbaum Award is named after him. He is considered one of the fathers of modern artificial intelligence (AI). In 1966 he created the natural language processing program ELIZA that could engage humans in a conversation, based on pattern matching, a precursor of chatbots. He also created the list processing programming language SLIP.

Weizenbaum was later critical of AI and computing technologies, as evidenced in this influential book, first published in 1976. This item is a second edition, published in 1984, with a revised preface.

Many thanks to Jimmy Malone for donating this item.

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#### References:

1. Wikipedia, *Joseph Weizenbaum*, see:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Weizenbaum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Weizenbaum)  
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# COMPUTER POWER AND HUMAN REASON

FROM JUDGMENT  
TO CALCULATION

JOSEPH WEIZENBAUM



'This is the best book I have  
read on the impact of computers  
on society, and on technology  
and on man's image of himself'  
*Psychology Today*

Figure 1: *Computer Power and Human Reason* front cover

**'A towering milestone in the history of attempts to understand the significance of computers' – *Datamation***

*Computer Power and Human Reason* has fired enormous controversy and acclaim in America. Here Joseph Weizenbaum, one of the world's top computer scientists, provides us with an insider's critique of computers: what they can already do, what they cannot do and, most controversially, what they *should not* be used to do. Should we, for example, be working towards the use of computers as substitutes for doctors or psychotherapists?

Brilliantly and passionately argued, Professor Weizenbaum's book is unique in combining scientific and humanistic approaches to the many vital questions surrounding computers. It should be read by programmers, scientists and academics as well as by everyone interested in or concerned about the impact of today's technology on society, ourselves and our future world.

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Figure 2: *Computer Power and Human Reason* rear cover

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## COMPUTER POWER AND HUMAN REASON

Joseph Weizenbaum is Professor of Computer Science and a member of the Laboratory of Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the U.S.A. At the beginning of his career with computers, circa 1950, he worked on the Bush Differential Analyzer, an analogue computer, and helped to design and build a digital computer at Wayne University in Detroit, Michigan. In 1955, after a journeyman career as a programmer-analyst, he became a member of the General Electric team which designed and built the first computer system dedicated to banking operations. Among his technical contributions are the list processing system SLIP and the natural language understanding program ELIZA. Professor Weizenbaum has held academic appointments at Harvard University, the Technical University of Berlin and the University of Hamburg in Germany. In 1973 he was a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences, at Stanford, California. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the New York Academy of Science and of the European Academy of Science. He is also a member of the National Advisory Council of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the American branch of an international peace group, and of the Advisory Committee for Disarmament Programs of the American Friends Service Committee.

*Figure 3: Computer Power and Human Reason synopsis page*

JOSEPH WEIZENBAUM

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COMPUTER  
POWER  
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REASON

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FROM JUDGMENT TO CALCULATION



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*Figure 4: Computer Power and Human Reason title page 1*

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*Figure 5: Computer Power and Human Reason title page 2*

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