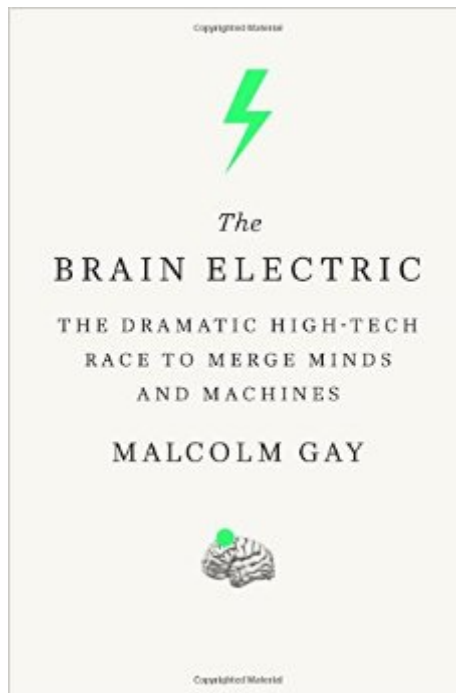


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The Brain Electric: The Dramatic High-Tech Race To Merge Minds And Machines



Synopsis

Leading neuroscience researchers are racing to unlock the secrets of the mind. On the cusp of decoding brain signals that govern motor skills, they are developing miraculous technologies that will enable paraplegics and wounded soldiers to move prosthetic limbs and will give all of us the power to manipulate computers and other objects through thought alone. These fiercely competitive scientists are vying for government and venture capital funding, prestige, and wealth. Part life-altering cure, part science fiction, part Defense Department dream, these cutting edge brain-computer interfaces promise to improve lives-but they also hold the potential to augment soldiers' combat capabilities. In *The Brain Electric*, Malcolm Gay follows the dramatic emergence of these technologies, taking us behind the scenes in operating rooms, startups, and research labs, where the future is unfolding. With access to many of the field's top scientists, Gay illuminates this extraordinary race-where science, medicine, profit, and war converge-for the first time. But this isn't just a story about technology. At the heart of the scientists' research is a group of brave patient-volunteers, whose lives are given new meaning through these experiments. *The Brain Electric* asks us to rethink our relationship to technology, our bodies, even consciousness itself, challenging our assumptions about what it means to be human.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this book immensely. Malcolm Gay did a great job of communicating the nature of brain research and the state of technology regarding human thought as it is being used to control

movement of prosthetic devices. But he also went further, exploring the human nature of the scientists, their competitiveness, what they think of each other's work, and their occasional efforts to outmaneuver or trash each other, etc. This, too, is a fascinating element of the story. Another notable element of the author's style is the concise descriptions of the characters, which give the reader a unique mental image for each one. Excellent work!

Not a perfect book but one with a wonderful story and sense of two things: 1. How research takes us where we could not even imagine we could or would go. 2. How the bravest people are frequently those with nothing to give except themselves in love.

The Brain Electric is a useful overview for general readers of the state of the art for brain-machine interfaces in the first decade of the 21st century. Malcolm Gay has done his research; there is a well-written notes section that discusses important papers to read for those who would like to delve further into this field. I enjoyed learning about the human side of this area of neuroscience research especially a bit about the patients that have been the pioneers of this research.

This is a great book from the beginning to the end (that, in a way, is a new beginning). The prose is agile, the technical terms and processes are explained in a clear way and the human stories behind the high-tech race to merge minds and machines are quite touching.

Mr. Gay did a fabulous job of making very complex scientific jargon understandable by the lay person. I found the race for BCI superiority fascinating. As impressive as the breakthrough work being done were the feuds between the scientists! It is fun to see the human side of science, and I had no idea the field was so competitive. Excellent Job, and a good read.

I am an old trauma nurse. This man is so behind the times. If you want to know about science that was developing years back, read this book. If you want more current science, read elsewhere. Almost anywhere elsewhere.

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