

Manuel DeLanda: *War in the Age of Intelligent Machines*

Chapter 2

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protevi@lsu.edu / [http://www.protevi.com/john/Postmodernity/PDF/War_\(Chap2\).pdf](http://www.protevi.com/john/Postmodernity/PDF/War_(Chap2).pdf)

I. Introduction

- A. Military discipline always tries to eliminate judgment; predatory machines are latest stage
- B. Forecast of Ch. 2: trace relations btw info technology & dream of military w/o soldiers

II. Allan Turing

- A. Turing's universal machine: reduction of machine states to descriptions on a mathematical table
 - 1. modern word processor is an abstract machine that simulates a typewriter
 - 2. Turing machine can simulate itself &, therefore, run itself [form of limited autonomy]
- B. Miniaturization (transistor & chip)
 - 1. Key to making Turing machine flexible & practical.
 - 2. Made special-purpose computers obsolete & created true Turing machines
- C. Military research subvention & control of research directions
 - 1. Transistor & chop technology were nurtured by military:
 - a. the technology was too expensive to be sustained by market alone
 - b. when this technology entered the market, military lost control of it
 - 2. Military is monopolizing VHSIC to develop predatory machines

III. Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to War Machines

- A. 1970s: large, discrete domains background knowledge programs enable computers to execute "thinking" applications
- B. The Information-processing/Self-organizing Relationship
 - 1. Machinic phylum singularities are independent abstract machines that trigger self-organization
 - 2. Priogine's Thesis :
 - a. Priogine: singularities can exist as "far-from-equilibrium" points that trigger self-organization
 - b. Structures near singularities are information-processing machines like DNA that organize organic life.
 - i. DNA resembles abstract symbol-manipulating machines analogous to computer software.
 - ii. Jerry Campbell: DNA uses its symbolic text code to switch protein-construction codes
 - iii. Howard Patee: genes and gene products constrain self-organizing material processes
- C. Machines that reach thresholds of organized complexity can reproduce themselves.
 - 1. Weapons of such complexity may become independent of humans & reproduce themselves.
 - 2. VonNeumann's "universal constructor" transformed Turing machine into abstract, artificial life.

IV. History of Computer Hardware

- A. Inventor usually develop machines empirically w/o any detailed comprehension of how they work.
 - 1. Concrete machines can be made abstract with the use of mathematics.
 - a. Mathematics of chaos theory abstract real machines in two ways:
 - i. investigations of singularity-governed behavior
 - ii. investigations of abstract expressions of "essential elements of mechanism" (139)
 - b. Logical calculi are "physical inscriptions" & "conveyor belts"
 - i. transport truth from one form to another
 - ii. transform the clockwork into the motor. (140)
 - 2. Serres: abstract machine of heat engine separated from any physical actualization
 - a. reservoirs
 - b. forms of exploitable difference
- B. How Clockworks or Motors Become Abstract Machines
 - 1. Physical machines become abstract when men conceive of them as mechanism-independent
 - a. Carnot reduced steam engine to abstract diagram
 - b. Maximum efficiency lay in keeping components of different temperatures apart
 - 2. Carnot proves Serres notion of the shift from a mechanical to abstract paradigm.
- C. Deductive vs. Inductive Logic
 - 1. Aristotelian deductive syllogisms (general to specific) did little to advance knowledge.
 - 2. Scientific deduction (specific to general) continues to advance knowledge.
 - 3. Deductive logic can be mechanized; inductive logic cannot, but is capable of learning empirically.
 - a. Japanese Fifth Generation computer research (inductive reasoning machines)
 - b. Inductive reasoning has not been mechanized because:

- i. inability to translate axioms into theorems
- ii. inability to integrate instructions into motive-force assemblages
- iii. Boole
 - aa. deconstructed syllogisms into component operators
 - bb. reassembling these to recapitulate the original syllogisms and other relationships. (145)
 - cca. Insertion of And and Or into flexible calculus is computer hardware.
 - dd. Shannon wedded Boolean deductive logic & electrical engineering to make circuits into Boolean motor.

V. Minaturization

- A. Computers: migration of logical, heuristic structures
 - 1. from brain to Turing machine
 - 2. via Aristotelian syllogisms and Boolean strings.
- B. Command & control: military pushed to miniaturize machinic body (computer hardware) of Boolean strings.
- C. 1948: F. C. Williams builds the first computer.
 - 1. Computer's history is the making its And / Or cells smaller & faster.
 - 2. WW II, Vannevar Bush (OSRD): electronic calculators to control weapons systems.
- D. Cold War: US military as "entrepreneur": funded basic research & connected military needs and science. (150)
 - 1. Miniaturization first developed in communication systems to prevent WW I-style carnage.
 - a. 1940s: miniaturization develops in radio communication technology.
 - b. 1953: Army Signal Corps funded half of transistor technology.
 - 2. Civilian labs developed assembly methods for small electronics, the chip:
 - a. Crystals given regions of + or – (P-and N-type conduction).
 - b. Metallic interconnections among crystals stamped on them.
- E. The Command and Control Imperative
 - 1. Military: shorten command chain war production: Numerical Control System (centralized production from above).
 - 2. Military's command structure defined the contours of the machinic phylum.

VI. Software

- A. History:
 - 1. 1805: Jocard stores weaving instructions on punch cards.
 - 2. Mid-20th C: Turing machines verge on self-direction.
 - 3. Late-20th C: AI computer sensors pick up on environment changes to trigger own internal processes.
- B. Humans interact w/ AI and typically ascribe intentionality to machines:
 - 1. to predict future behavior of the machine
 - 2. as we anthropomorphize AI machines that can interact in real time
 - a. Above "clash of wills" on battlefield as AI machines view humans as Prey. (157)
 - b. AI is subject to human control through human validation of the data they collect.
 - 3. AI of "autonomous" weapon systems represent the migration of control from humans to machines.
 - a. Boolean machines can produce new truths through calculation.
 - b. Conditional branching: Turing machine's ability to translate And / Or statements into "if, then" statements. (158)
 - c. Blitzkrieg: radio information flow supercedes the flow of energy in importance.
 - i. Communicating parts of the machine need not be physically connected any longer.
 - ii. Next, Turing machines calculate multiple outcomes (parallelism) to interpret their environments.
- C. Humans lose control: AI anticipates actions necessary to respond environment.
 - 1. Charles Babbage: punch cards taken from realm of "abstract worker" to that of "abstract manager." (159)
 - 2. Babbage: branching realizes programs that self-change.
 - 3. Creation of inference engines is the essence of robotics:
 - a. These engines "pump" (infer) truth from specific evidence. (164)
 - b. PROLOG (Fifth Generation computer) move truth from theorem to axiom.
 - 4. Parallel software: the nature of the problem triggers machine's responses.

VII. Experience

- A. Foucault (D&P): for efficiency, control has transferred from human body to machine.
 - 1. Machines de-skill the human body.
 - 2. Mid-twentieth century command chain shortens:
 - a. Industrial production in USA sees complete centralized control.
 - b. [Cahplain's man as appendage of machine becomes] man a prey of machine.
- B. Battle Fields without Soldiers
 - 1. Sputnik and Fifth Generation: US military focuses on cyberneticizing war.

- a. DARPA and “Strategic Computing Programs”:
 - i. machines manage the battle field
 - ii. machines become predatory
- b. Strategic Computing’s method is the integration of three parts:
 - i. knowledge base
 - ii. inference engine
 - iii. user interface to facilitate human interaction with machine [to preclude pedation?]
- 2. [Political problem: who attempts to control the war machine, and to what purposes will it be “controlled”?]
- C. Fork in the road at the level of interface between man and war machine:
 - 1. Take man out of the control loop.
 - 2. Leave man actively in the control loop.
- D. In military’s hands, AI has taken humans out of the picture and granted machines autonomy.