"Philosophical Tools for Technological Culture" contends that technology - a defining mark of contemporary culture - should be a legitimate concern of philosophers. Larry A. Hickman contests the popular notions that philosophy is little more than a narrow academic discipline and that philosophical discourse is little more than re-description of the ancient past. Drawing inspiration from John Dewey, one of America's greatest public philosophers, Hickman validates the role of philosophers as cultural critics and reformers in the broadest sense. Hickman situates Dewey's critique of technological culture within the debates of twentieth-century Western philosophy by engaging the work of Richard Rorty, Albert Borgmann, Jacques Ellul, Walter Benjamin, Jurgen Habermas, and Martin Heidegger, among others. Pushing beyond the philosophical concerns of these philosophers, Hickman designs and assembles a set of philosophical tools to cope with technological culture in a new century. The pragmatic treatment Hickman gives to current themes such as technology and its relationship to the arts, technosciences and technocrats, the role of the media in education, the meaning of democracy and community life in an age dominated by technology, reveals that philosophy possesses powerful tools for cultural renewal. This original, timely, and accessible work will be of interest to readers seeking a deeper understanding of the meanings and consequences of technology in today's world.

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