




# Harnessing AI for Global Good

BROOKINGS

# “History isn’t the study of the past; it’s the study of change

Yuval Harari, *Nexus*

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- Dealing with the Arrival of an Alien Intelligence That is Integrating Itself into Humanity
  - Coupled With Absence of Necessary Intellectual Framework

# Technology Outpaces the Ability of Governments

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- Technology: “Move Fast and Break Things”
  - “Fast”—Externalizing costs and risks before anyone catches on
  - “Break”—Not physical but standards that provided stability
- Democratic Governance: Slow, Painstaking Consensus Building”
  - Already behind the AI power curve because failed to establish expectations for online platforms now moving to dominate AI
- Only One Modern Analogous Situation: Nuclear
  - Government policy preceded business applications

# Governance Question of Our Time...

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- A diagram illustrating the governance question of our time. At the top, a central question is enclosed in a red oval. Two red arrows originate from this oval: one points down and to the left towards the first perspective, and the other points down and to the right towards the second perspective.
- “How can governance preserve the dynamism that produces breakthroughs...while channeling development toward beneficial uses...?”
    - It’s Not the Primary Technology that is Transformative but It’s Secondary Effects
      - Models: Primary Technology
      - Applications: Determinative Effects
    - “Regulation Hurts Innovation”
      - Not the ‘Fourth Industrial Revolution’
      - Look beyond industrial era solutions
      - Oversight promotes innovation by promoting competition

# Disappearance of Competition

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- Internet: Distributed Network, Standards Made Open for Applications
- Web 2.0: Centralized and Closed Activity
  - Externalize risks and costs
- AI Models: Same People Following Same Strategy
  - Control the essential assets (data, compute, distribution)
  - Externalize costs and risks off balance sheet and onto public
- AI Applications: Will Model Builders Control?
  - Application innovation and diffusion means competition-driven innovation

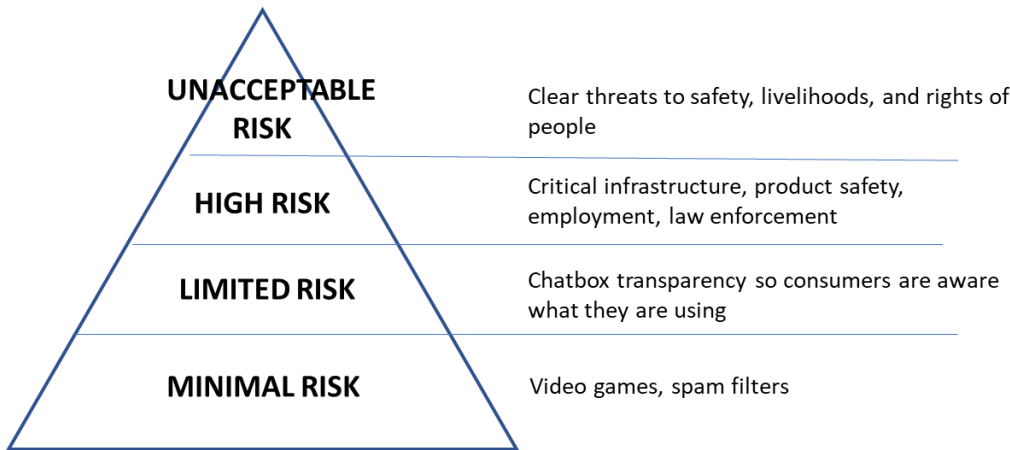
# “The governance challenge lies in leveraging industry expertise while maintaining regulatory independence”

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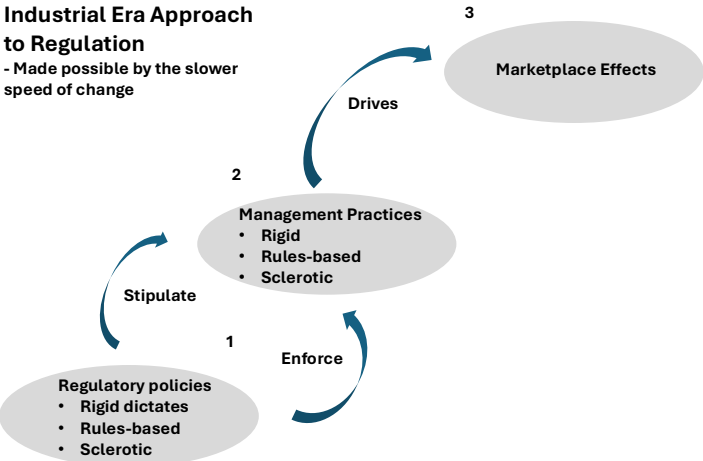
- The Model Already Exists: Digital World Runs on Standards
  - Technical standards anticipate and mitigate problems
  - But then process stops and does not continue to anticipate and mitigate problems created by usage
- New Regulatory Paradigm
  - Technical standards model applied to behavioral standards
  - Government overseen multistakeholder process (and approval)

# European Union Tries New Approaches

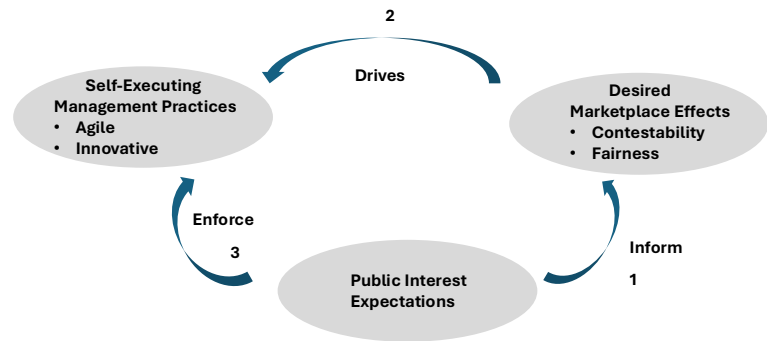
Risk-Based AI Regulatory Framework



Industrial Era Approach to Regulation  
- Made possible by the slower speed of change



Digital Era Approach to Regulation  
- Essential because of speed of change



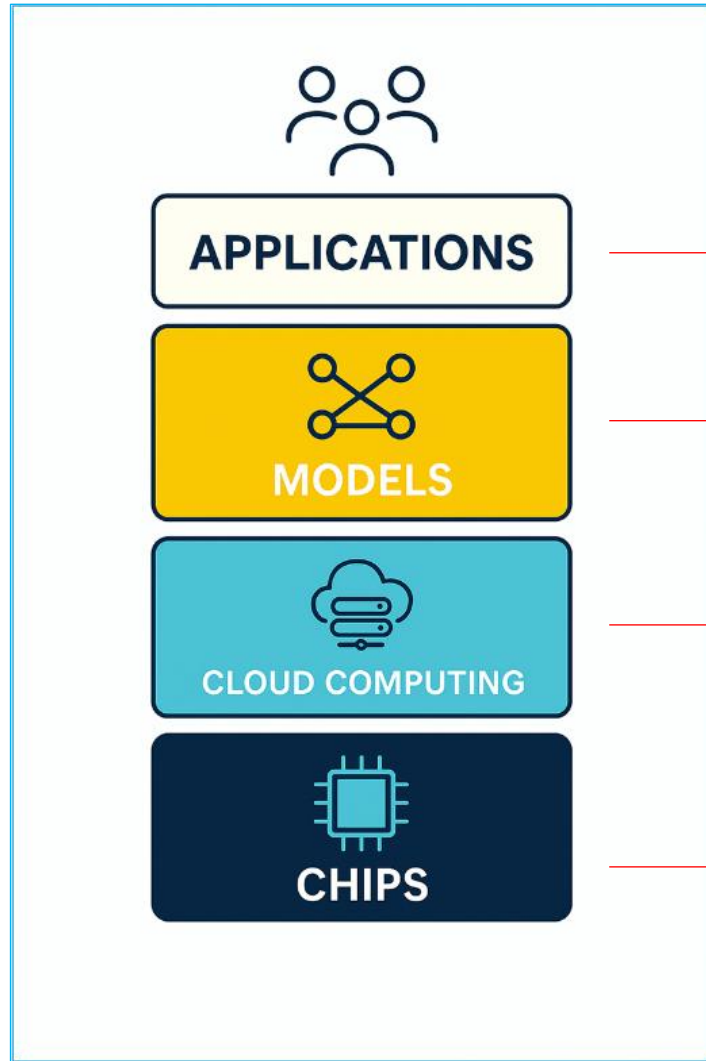
# Absence of American Policy Leadership

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- Decades of Succumbing to “Permissionless Innovation”
- Trump Digital Mercantilism
  - “Stand up” to countries that “attack” with regulation
- Shiny Ball of AGI and Data Factories
  - Built on assumption of scaling
- Massive Expenditures for Compute
  - In Pursuit of AGI or Pursuit of Control?



# Control Models and Applications by Controlling AI Stack



# Harnessing AI for Global Good

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- Begins With Looking Beyond “AI”
  - Treating models separate from what they enable
- Competition, Competition, Competition
- New Alien Intelligence Demands...

**Policies as Innovative as AI Itself**

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