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# General Purpose, Specific Consequences: AI and the Recomposition of Class Power

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## Abstract

The dominant narrative surrounding technological change posits that innovation-especially in the form of artificial intelligence (AI), as a paradigmatic general-purpose technology- undermines labour power. This view rightly assumes that capital deploys AI to intensify control and discipline over workers, but in line with technodeterminist perspectives assumes that capital is effective in eroding possibilities for resistance. This alone calls for the search of theoretical frameworks that adequately capture the complexities of class power reconfigurations under technological transformations. This paper draws on the insights of Erik Olin Wright, Beverly Silver, and the Jena Group to interrogate these assumptions and to explore how AI is reshaping the balance of class forces. It offers an overarching interpretation of the structural conditions of class power balance that foregrounds both the constraints and the emergent spaces for labour agency within evolving technological regimes.

**Keywords:** power balance, social resistance

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