

Foreword	7
Introduction	9
PART I: Setting the stage	11
The internet	11
The World Wide Web: from websites to decentralisation	12
The Fourth Revolution	17
The impact of artificial intelligence	19
Large language models – the impact of generative AI	27
The platformisation of our economy or the gig economy?	30
AI and labour: algorithmic management of work – or worker surveillance?	35
Public services or the administrative state?	36
Monitoring and surveillance	39
Blockchain and decentralisation	40
The metaverse	42
And finally ... 5G and connectivity	43
PART II: The European Union between the competition, sovereignty and the Brussels effect	47
Introduction	47
Data is power	50
Reining in big tech	52
The link between data, personal data and competition	57
Sovereignty: a complex concept with an EU flavour	60
Institutionalisation of EU regulatory power	65
The EU as a global regulator? The Brussels effect	73
5G and microchips: sovereignty in action	75

PART III: A path forward: opportunities and challenges for Europe	79
Digital and technological sovereignty:	
breaking dependence and aiming for constructive leadership	79
There is no doubt, however, that breaking the cycle of tech dependency	
is a tall order – and it may even turn out to be unachievable	81
But what is tech sovereignty?	82
Generating demand	83
A culture of investment, growth and risk	85
But is it true?	87
So what needs to happen?	88
Creating sustainable progress	90
Rethinking the relationship between society and technology	93
Digital literacy and tech inequality	94
Glossary	97
List of abbreviations	101
Tech policy leaders in Europe	102
To explore further	105
Reviews	107
About the Author	111