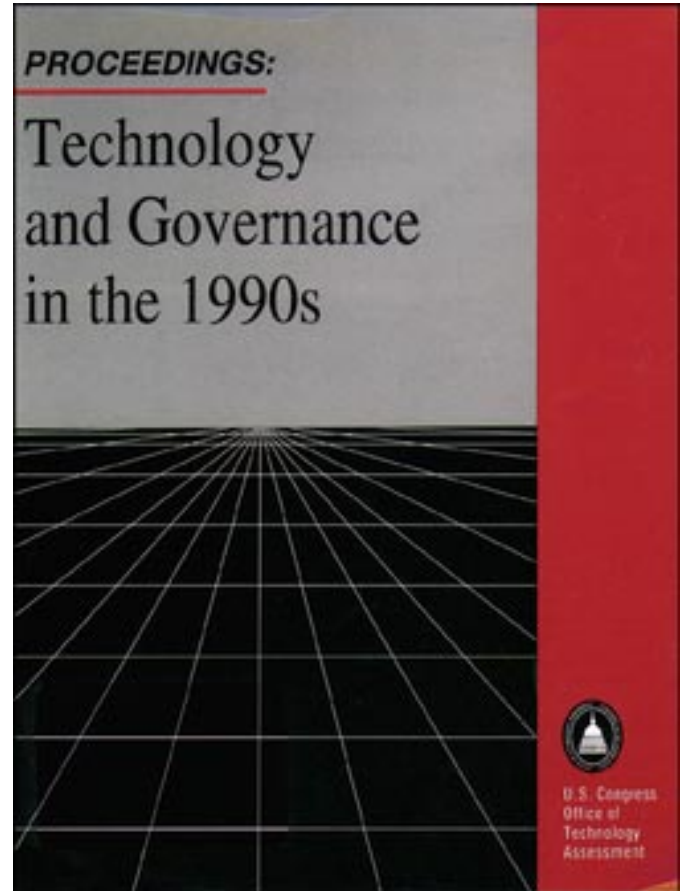


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**T**wenty years ago, Congress created the Office of Technology Assessment to demystify the roles of science and technology in governance—to make specialized information more accessible. For two decades, during which time the influence of technology has grown enormously, OTA has examined key socio-technical issues of our time, providing detailed information to congressional committees and other policymakers.

On January 27, 1993, in celebration of OTA's twentieth anniversary, the agency's Congressional Technology Assessment Board hosted a one-day Forum on "Technology and Governance in the 1990s" for members of Congress and key congressional staff. The Forum was designed to address several goals:

- To raise congressional and public awareness of the most critical issues *faced* by our nation and the world.
- To equip policymakers with an improved understanding of how best to deal with these issues.
- To show how technology is woven into socio-economic, domestic, and international policies, and to demonstrate the need to adapt our policies, methods of governance, and institutional mechanisms to this reality.

Five topics were chosen, selected on the basis of national and/or global urgency, likely continued importance to the legislative agenda, and the centrality of technology in creating or solving the problem: international security, sustaining the global environment; U.S. economic competitiveness; health care and public education. Distinguished speakers were invited to address the topics—outlining the problems, the reasons for their urgency, and alternatives for resolution.

This book contains the five papers presented that day. The proceedings are being published to allow for wider dissemination of the authors' presentations of these timely issues.

OTA wishes to acknowledge the generous financial support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and Corning Incorporated, without which the Forum could not have taken place. In addition, OTA thanks the members of the Congressional Technology Assessment Board (TAB) and the Technology Assessment Advisory Council (TAAC) for their ongoing cooperation and support.



ROGER HERDMAN  
Acting Director

**Note:** *The views presented in these proceedings are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Corning Incorporated, OTA, the Technology Assessment Board, the Technology Assessment Advisory Council, or individual members thereof.*