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Rational Accidents

Reckoning with Catastrophic Technologies

By: John Downer

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II CONFRONTING ULTRAHIGH RELIABILITY

Wherein it is argued:

- That the indeterminacies of assessing jetliner reliability are evident even in the ambiguities of the requirements themselves (**chapter 4**)
- That close scrutiny of reliability lab tests reveals a host of uncertainties and contested judgments, which should logically preclude assertions of ultrahigh reliability (**chapter 5**)
- That close scrutiny of reliability models similarly reveals a host of uncertainties and contested judgments, which, again, should logically preclude assertions of ultrahigh reliability (**chapter 6**)
- That the unavoidable ambiguities and indeterminacies in the processes that engineers use to understand jetliners' failure behavior mean that some catastrophic failures will always elude even the most rigorous analyses (**chapter 7**)

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