



**Title:**

"Computers Still Cannot Plan an Economy"

**Author(s):**

Robert Gmeiner  
Visiting Assistant Professor of  
Economics & Bagwell Center  
Affiliated Faculty



reliability issue, if a computerized economic planning system can act decisively and rapidly enough, major changes can be made based on faulty information, and this might not even be known until the decisions are already implemented.

A centrally planned economy must have goals, and goal-setting processes are subject to political pressures. Not only can political decisions result in the setting of goals that harm people when achieved, but this is almost certainly going to happen because goals must exist in a complete hierarchy. This hierarchy must be defined before decisions need to be made. If goals are not complete, meaning that part of the economy is not subject to central planning or lacks a clearly defined goal, unintended consequences can result. Moreover, goals must exist in a hierarchy and some things must be achieved first.

Consider the potential goals of providing good health outcomes, preserving life, maximizing GDPximiGDbef030 mPximiPximnicizP030 (lt)-3 (h )-399 (outc1st)-4 ( )0 (be)-dit4 (su (rving-9 TQ

Setting goals completely and hierarchically is difficult and will m