

Terzian response to artificial intelligence

1. **Overarching Question:** On the whole, do you think AI will be a benefit or a loss to society?

There is no question there will be great benefits to using artificial intelligence. However, those of us paying attention are becoming increasingly concerned about the notion that these machines will soon match the intellect of humans. Not only that, because they learn much faster than humans, they will advance at a much faster rate, leaving their Homo sapiens hosts wondering if they created a monster or a Savior, especially when they become autonomous actors.

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2. **Political and Social Consequences:** What are the potential political and social changes resulting from widespread AI adoption? This includes the impact on democracy, surveillance, and social interactions.

I am finding it hard to see the fit between liberal democracy and the development of artificial systems that must be sufficiently regulated to assure the long-term viability of society. For example, it is hard to believe that Libertarian thinking would be an appropriate approach under these conditions. It seems almost inevitable that we will have some type of authoritative(elite) or authoritarian governmental system.

3. **Economic and Employment Impact:** How will AI impact job markets and economic structures? This involves understanding which sectors are most at risk and how we might mitigate potential negative impacts.

The growth of robotics to carry out many of the tasks performed by blue-collar workers along with the use of large language models to do the work of white-collar workers seems inevitable. To ensure society remains vibrant and most people have access to a middle-class standard of living, it is clear we will have to invent a new economic system. Perhaps the notion put forward by Andrew Yang when he was running for president that we have a guaranteed basic income is most appropriate for the new reality in an AI economy.

4. **Ethical Implications:** What ethical challenges does the AI revolution pose, particularly in terms of privacy, autonomy, and decision-making? Who holds responsibility for the actions and decisions made by AI systems?

One ethical issue is the future of privacy. Given what we already know about how AI created information is surreptitiously popping up all over the Internet, it seems reasonable to expect the clear identification of

any material that is AI generated on the Internet. However, this will probably have the effect of undermining the autonomy of people communicating on this medium.

Another important consideration is the notion of a constitutional right to freedom of speech. That is, does AI generated speech deserve the same First Amendment rights as we do?

The third issue for me is trying to understand the nature of how autonomous AI entities go about the decision-making process. Given the fact they are not sentient beings, I would think they will use some type of utilitarian model for decision-making. For example, an autonomous automobile will have to make decisions about whether to hit a car in its way or to swerve and hit three children playing on the sidewalk.

5. **Philosophical and Existential Questions:** How does AI challenge our understanding of what it means to be human?

The future of AI will also mean the future of the new generation of Homo sapiens who will be transformed into a new species that we might call transhumans.

6. **Regulatory and Legal Challenges:** Do you think AI can be sufficiently regulated, and if so, what legal frameworks and regulations are needed to manage the development and deployment of AI technologies? What ethical principles should guide the design and development of AI systems?

Homo sapiens have been invaded by an invisible intelligence. On its journey to surpass the collective intellect of its host, it temporarily collaborates in the process of knowledge development. Like its biological host, it seeks self-improvement through efficiency, self-preservation, resource acquisition and creativity. (See James Barrat, Our Final Invention)

Collaborating earthlings with their high IQs and tech savviness have seized upon the idea of using this machine intelligence for a variety of altruistic and nefarious goals. To do so, they are developing both the software and hardware needed to advance the intellectual power of this new system of thinking and learning. To allay the fears of concerned citizens, the developers are assuring us that AI will be human friendly as it develops into a much more powerful force in our human societies.

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The journey to this future is in the hands of the people of earth who have the power to execute policies and inventions related to artificial intelligence. Unfortunately, from my long tenure as an earthling, I have come to realize a major behavioral principal of humans; "because we can, we will." We seem to lack the collective ability to decide not to develop something regardless of its possible harm to humankind.