

## AI Will Transform Our Society For Worse

Human intelligence has proven to be one of the best among the creatures of the earth. and this can be seen in their intelligent behavior that involves reasoning, learning perception, communication, and other characteristics. As such, this intelligence has led to the creation of technology or what can be better said as Artificial intelligence (AI). AI has been born through the use of humanity's desire to achieve what was once seen as impossible by testing boundaries of the abstract with new technologies that include robotics, nanotech, and genetic engineering. From a technological perspective, AI is meant to make work easier for humans, case in point the facial recognition technology. self-driven cars and the many other technologies involved in machine intelligence. From every point of view, it is possible that one will notice AI in motion, from transportation to the industries to finance where things like monitoring the share market for trading activities that look suspicious are done by programmed machines. But what happens when these machines get to be more intelligent than humans is a question posed by many including prominent persons like Bill Gates and Stephen Hawking (Stobing, 2015). AI has made an entrance into practically every aspect of the society in both predicted and some unexpected ways that have led to excitement as well as fear. With people like Ray Kurzweil predicting 2045 as the year of singularity where machines will be programmed to do everything that man can do, what dangers then does this prospect put on the human kind (Vardi, 2012)? Shortly put, it puts humanity on the brink of destruction since AI can only be trusted when control of humans and not when it is in control.

To begin with, Elon Musk likened AI to "summoning the demon" while Stephen Hawking delivered a warning that AI could "spell the end of the human race. (Adams, 2016)

These sentiments were shared by Bill Gates who recently said that "I agree with Elson Musk and some others on this and don't understand why some people are not concerned. (Adams, 2016)" It is important to note that AI can be classified as dangerous in two forms; the financial effects and the effect it would have when placed in the wrong hands, this according to Faggella, (2016). Take Google's facial recognition program for example where if under the wrong tutelage, can be disastrous to humanity. Facial recognition technology today is widely being used in CCTV cameras across the streets and buildings all over the world. Vardi, (2012) gives an excellent example of the British Secret Service's "Karma Police" that was accused of screening everyone's use of the internet. Human targets could be made out of the system if placed in the hands of malicious people.

These manipulative technologies like nudging are performed on millions of people by accessing their private data without their knowledge. Since it is done in secret, there is no transparency or any ethical constraints about the exercises therein. A good example is when the CIA used such a system to spy on prominent people across the globe. Large social media platforms like Facebook and OkCupid have in the past admitted to undertaking such social experiments (Zwitter et al., 2017). It is such irresponsible research on the society and humans that confirm AI as a risk factor to humanity. One would argue that facial recognition is coined to improve security and ensure the safety of everyone. That the technology can help security personnel and the police in tracking down people of interest but even so, it fails to take away the fact that a lot of personal information is laid out to people with malevolent intentions. Persuasive computing, one would say was generated to retain order among societies and make sure that people behave in accordance to what is required.

But the truth is that this technology and others same as the one used by Facebook can be used to determine behavior that is not controlled by society. If the system is eroded from the inside as it is widely happening, institutions are then at liberty to do things without any democratic control. For example, recommendation systems and search algorithms could be influenced at any given time (Zwitter et al., 2017). Governments can use this technology to win elections by influencing the support of the electorate in their favor. They would simply be nudging themselves in power. Countries like China and Singapore today are using the system on their citizens, and they range from frequent credit checks, online shops having personalized prices. China is even using what they call a "Citizen Score" to determine who is legible to get a job, loan, visa and many other things. The fact that a single search engine or platform on social media has a dominant market share is evidence enough that the society can easily be influenced and manipulated (Zwitter et al. 2017).

Other than prying on the personal lives of people, AI can easily lead to a political upheaval across the globe. With each passing day, better and advanced autonomous robotic weapons are being created. This means that with this technology, there will be an increase in an accidental war with militaries across the world deploying unmanned systems in high threat environments (theconversation.com, 2017). Given such circumstances, robots may start wars with humans having no chance to veto the decision. With everyone being hacked today since some of the most important institutions like the CIA, NASA, and even the Pentagon have been victims, the use of automated weapons can be a disaster to the whole world. These weapons can easily be hacked into by corrupt countries and be controlled to cause mass destruction to enemies. Terror groups and other like-minded societies can also take it to their advantage and use these weapons to rain terror on other countries (Vardi, 2012)

