

khosla ventures

# AI: Dystopia or Utopia?

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**only a few hundred people probably fully  
understand the trajectory we're on ...**

## **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS: The Decade Ahead**

Leopold Aschenbrenner, June 2024

You can see the future first in San Francisco.

Over the past year, the talk of the town has shifted from \$10 billion compute clusters to \$100 billion clusters to trillion-dollar clusters. Every six months another zero is added to the boardroom plans. Behind the scenes, there's a fierce scramble to secure every power contract still available for the rest of the decade, every voltage transformer that can possibly be procured. American big business is gearing up to pour trillions of dollars into a long-unseen mobilization of American industrial might. By the end of the decade, American electricity production will have grown tens of percent; from the shale fields of Pennsylvania to the solar farms of Nevada, hundreds of millions of GPUs will hum.

**we can do one of two things**

**... either rearrange deck chairs on the titanic**

# or, we can plan for and build an AI utopia

**AXIOS**

Apr 22, 2025 - Technology

Exclusive: Anthropic warns fully  
AI employees are a year away

# platform shifts are some of the greatest opportunities of our lifetime

## MICROPROCESSORS



## INTERNET



## MOBILE



## AI



# but shifts come with fear mongering



# AI is akin to the steam engine – a “multiplier”

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engines multiplied human muscle – AI multiplies the human mind

# Dystopia



**among the basket of risks humans face  
(asteroids, pandemics, nuclear...)  
is sentient AI the greatest risk to humans?**

**among AI autonomy's risks**  
**– existential risk, AI supremacy & china –**  
**china is the biggest risk**

# let's confront the dystopian narrative

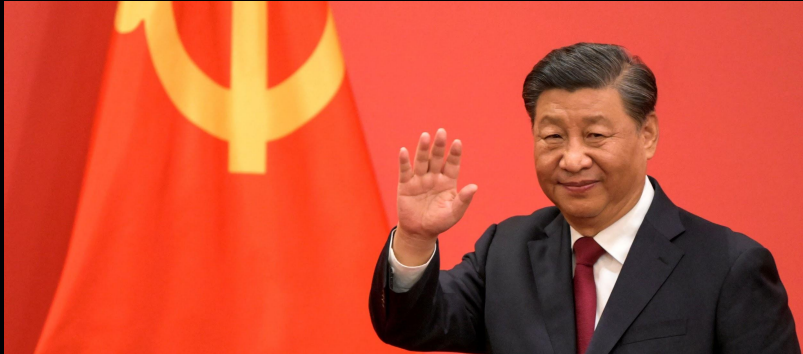


the real nightmare is losing to bad regimes, not rogue code

CCP's utopia with tiananmen 2.0 tools

# corporations vs countries → pick your fight

who's scarier, zuck or xi?



CEOs' incentives are economic; dictators are not transparent

**most dystopian scenarios are societal choices:**

**social choice: job loss & economic inequality are  
legitimate fears that can be addressed via policy**

...especially in a world of >5% GDP growth & great abundance,  
redistribution will be a choice in a deflationary economy

**without work, will life have meaning & purpose?**

**are >50% of jobs, jobs or servitude?**

**40hrs per week for forty years as assembly line worker or farm worker?**

**social choice:**  
**social manipulation can be mitigated by policy**

laws can give us safety without big brother  
deepfakes? counter them with personal AIs



# **AI bias & ethical limits are social choices**

bias is human; AI can “remove” it better

ethics failure is human, not silicon

# cultural homogenization due to AI echo-chamber?

fears of losing creativity and critical thinking overlooks ways in which AI can enhance these cathedrals of the human mind

and enhance creativity for the vast majority of us without  
creative skills

## **societal choice: opt-out**

provide an “opt-out option”: live an amish-style if you chose it

...but don't let a few chose to forego AI benefits for everyone

**we can expand our creativity beyond our current  
confines and capabilities with AI**

AI systems may be even better (or different) at creative tasks,  
may soon display emotion and empathy, and in so doing can  
complement our own

**loss of “humanness”?**

**societal choice: let's overfund fund safety**

but let's not stop progress

**not a societal choice: treaties**

... because AI use is not verifiable & we can't trust xi & putin

**let's focus on the world we can build!**

doomtalk is a first-world luxury of ivy-league academics

...when people need doctors



# Utopia

**800m people live a rich lifestyle**  
in housing, healthcare, transportation, entertainment,  
energy, education, consumption,...

... 8b people want it!

and can now have it!!

# expertise will be near free

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**we will be capable of having near free AI doctors for every person & AI tutors for every child, 24x7**

before 2030, 80% of 80% of all non-labor could be done by an AI ... doctors/therapists, chip designers, structural engineers, accountants, software engineers, security engineers,

before AI workers, humans will supervise fleets of AI intern workers

**without work will life have meaning & purpose?**

**AI can free humanity**

kids can be free to pursue their passion, not jobs

work we want to do, not what we need to do

eliminate choices between starving artists/athletes or incomes

# **human labor will be near free**

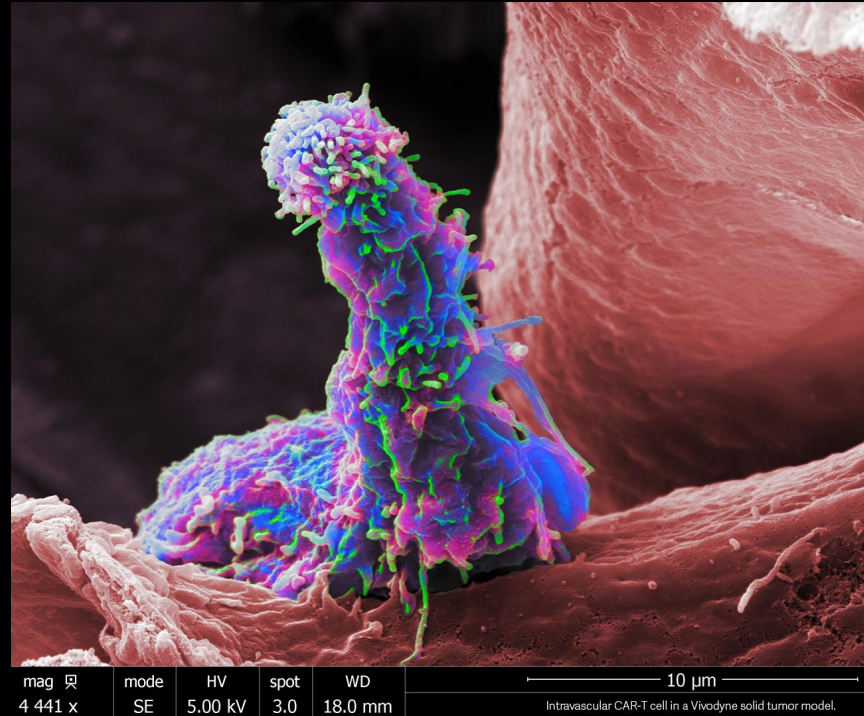
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**we will have a billion bipedal (& other) robots freeing humans from the servitude of undesirable jobs**

around 2030, 80% of 80% (by volume) of all human labor jobs, could be done by an AI ... retail clerks, farm workers, assembly line workers,...

# only a matter of time before most science is by AI scientists

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# **scientists will be supercharged**

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**AI scientists, working alone or with humans, will become super scientists, able to 10x or 100x their capability, creativity, and volume of research**

# AI will play a large role in entertainment & design

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music and entertainment will be plentiful & personalized for you & your mood! Diversity of content & creativity will increase

the celebrity-fan relationship won't change



**enhanced human capabilities & creativity  
will lead to new experiences**

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**creativity gets a jetpack**

**artists, scientists, tinkerers all level up**

**blockbusters from bedrooms; gatekeepers weep**

# AI agents will protect & advise every consumer

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... against the AI marketeers

... provide free legal services

... do tasks on the web, pay bills & more

**AI robots will manage your house work for  
lower monthly cost than a car**

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... do chores, cleaning, cooking, babysitting,  
companionship

# AI could help create more just & equitable societies

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AI judges and policy bots could beat bias

Data-driven governance > gut-driven politics

Justice as a cheap cloud service

Free lawyers for every citizen

**will all labor – farm work to oncologists &  
engineers – be valued equally by society where  
the expertise sits in an AI?**

**will AI be the great equalizer?**

# AI could help shift societal focus from economic growth to human well-being and fulfillment

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AI shift focus from GDP to G-joy-P

focus on passion, not a paycheck

three-day weeks, four-day weekends?

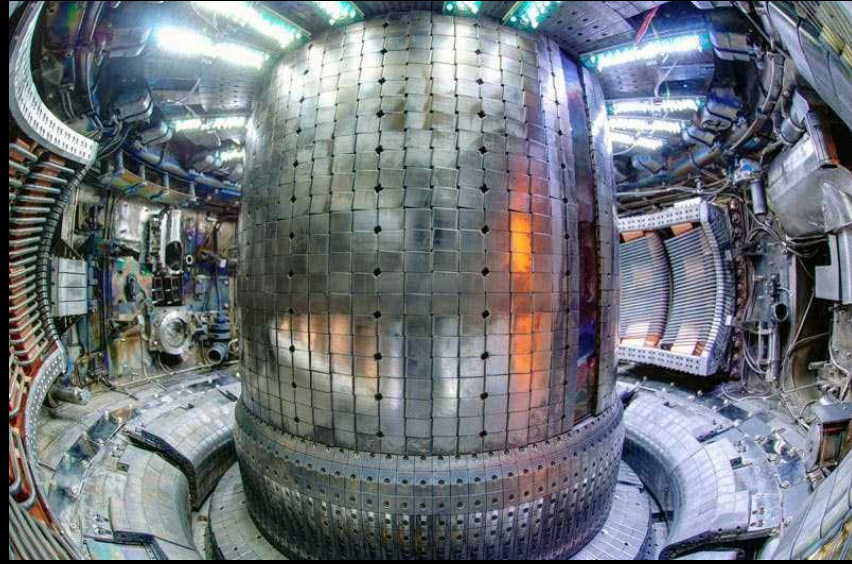
remove survival grind, unleash humanity

# **AI could play a crucial role in addressing climate change**

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**optimize energy usage, reduce emissions, and developing new technologies for renewable energy**

**AI scientists could enable us to have much more innovative approaches to this defining problem we as humans have created**



**powering this AI-utopia will require complementary technologies such as fusion for limitless, cheap power generation**



# there will be clean, dispatchable electric power

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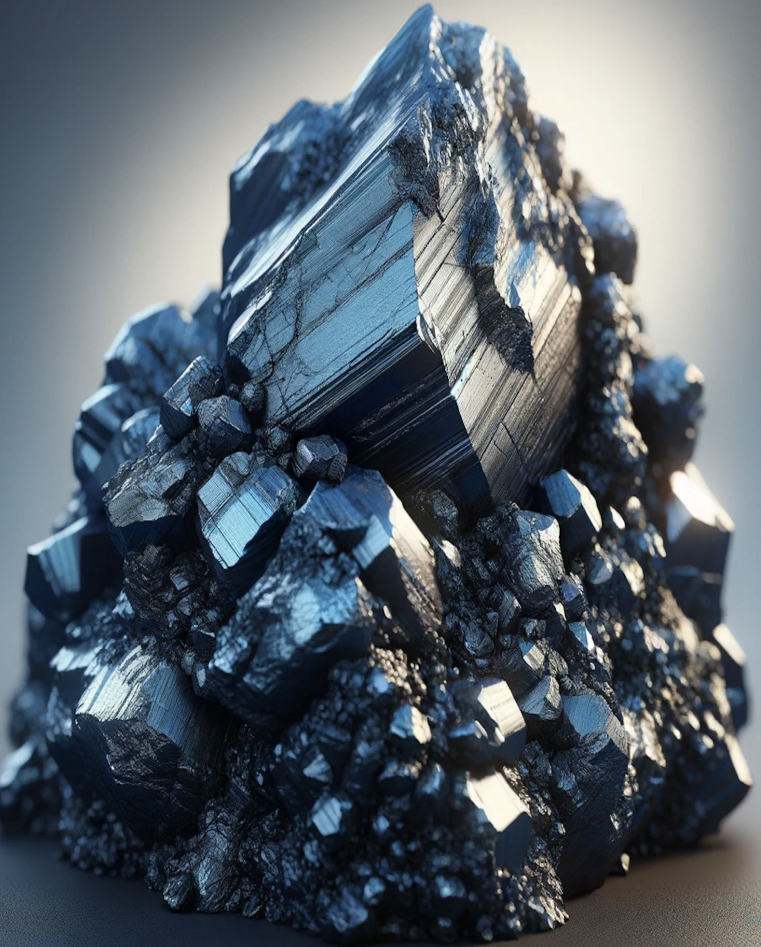
by 2050, fusion boilers will retrofit and replace coal and natural gas boilers reducing the need to build whole new fusion plants. superhot geothermal  $>400^{\circ}\text{C}$  is also a real alternative

# **we will have new food & fertilizers**

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**we will have much better alternate  
protein production to replace  
traditional animal protein, & “green”  
fertilizer. and taste will far exceed that  
of traditional cows!**





# resources will be plentiful

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we will discover more natural  
resources than we consume &  
prove resource doomers wrong  
on lithium, cobalt, copper...



# drugs & cures will be easier

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we will discover more drugs and  
especially personalized drugs

# **carbon will have solutions ... if we have time**

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**carbon emissions could be a smaller issue because  
entrepreneurs will develop & scale better technologies  
for cement, steel, agriculture, transportation, power  
production, DAC, etc**

# potential obstacles to our utopia can be overcome

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obstacles: unions, politicians, doom-clicks

SAG and populists can slow but not stop this

democratized AI trumps monopoly panic

no-code means anyone can spawn a startup

innovation goes grassroots; good luck bottling that

tools cheapen, gate locks break—AI for the many

**in conclusion...**

now imagine a world where passions emerge naturally, as people are given the opportunity early in life to pursue what truly excites them

it is precisely this opportunity to redefine the human experience that subverts the pessimists' argument that the 'humanness' in our lives will disappear



**AI will free humanity & redefine the human  
experience & 'humanness'**

**we can build the future we want  
we can build the possible!**

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**the ending is up to us**

**AI makes post-scarcity possible; policy makes it fair**

**tech is the multiplier; handle with care**

**regulate when ready — meanwhile, dream big**

# for everyone!

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# Questions?

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