

Political bias towards automation? You better believe it! I mean part of what Trump is trying to do is to “Make America Great Again.” During his campaign and since his presidency, Donald Trump has made every effort to bring back jobs to Middle America, even though they might be dangerous for the environment or something that can be highly automated. A different approach would be encourage the development of robotic systems and other programs that help people who would end up losing their jobs. Obviously, this would upset a lot of people even if they were being compensated for it in other ways. Despite most of the jobs being the middle and lower class, who is to say jobs from the upper class will not be in jeopardy one day as well? I mean, most of the kids taking this class write code or deal with hardware configurations in computers. I mean, we could all easily be replaced by automation. Would that be a good thing? Is it worth the risk for engineers? Probably not. Not every robot will need an operator. UAS are the exception to this and those that operate unmanned vehicles in warzones usually develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. A better title for this article would be “No, Robots Aren’t Killing the American Dream... Yet.” I can be skeptical about robots coming in and not harming the balance of the economy for various classes of people, but in reality no one can predict the massive impact of automation until there is a larger sample set.

One thing this article addresses well is how productivity is at a nearly century low even after America has steered away from large-scale automation. Blaming politicians might make sense for this but all public policy issues ultimately reflect what the populous wants (even if it is in an indirect nature.) Most older Americans as well as the working class Americans do not want to see jobs be replaced by non-human entities, which is fair given to their lack of skillset. I might sound harsh, but I am being blunt about this to get the point across that for every idea we conceive as irrational there is someone has a rational explanation behind theirs.