

Book: The Age of AI and Our Human Future

Authors: Daniel Huttenlocher, Eric Schmidt, and Henry Kissinger

I have a decent bit to say about this book, but to keep it organized I will go by topic/chapter that I want to discuss.

### 1. Authors

The authors are undeniably legends, Kissinger a 100-year-old diplomat, Schmidt, the ex google CEO, and Huttenlocher, an MIT AI genius. However, the odd pairing contributes to the book's lackluster nature. Kissinger is nowhere near an expert on the field, and sure the book talks a lot about foreign affairs and general world policy regarding AI (how do we approach it, how do we develop it, how do we control it., etc.) his insight is not particularly useful or shining. For someone with such diverse real-world experience, he says that the nations of the world must make decisions about how AI is compatible with humanity and its morality/values. How incredibly un insightful. Like yeah! We will do that now (meanwhile no specific strategies, examples, or even clarity is provided)! Schmidt, I really don't even know why he's included in this book. Maybe its because it provides tons of real-world examples of AI and how it's grown, and he was somewhat of a proponent of that business however he really isn't a subject matter expert. The only one who is, is Huttenlocher, and to be honest, whatever he was responsible for isn't abundantly obvious but it shows from time to time. When describing how the development of AI will progress, and the global network platforms that propel AI forward (Chapter 4), the conceptual explanation is laid out well and I'm assuming that's props to him.

### 2. Content

I hated the content of the book, it felt like such a drag. Let me explain:

#### a. Chapter 1: Where we are.

I already knew what is going on around me in the world of AI, but the explanation was solid and it's really difficult to be able to explain AI simply and just well enough so that any reader can keep up with the rest of the book. So to be honest, decent work here.

#### b. Chapter 2: How we got here: Technology and Human Thought

I actually loved this chapter. I knew hardly anything about the history of Artificial Intelligence, and I was able to learn by example. Following the thought process into the engineering of deep blue and AlphaGo I learned not only how the technology developed, but how approaching problems with AI forced the creators of the AI to start from a completely different starting point. We went from optimizing current strategies to being able to evaluate positions and develop novel strategies that can win them. Cool insight.

#### c. Chapter 3: From Turing to Today - And Beyond

Meh. Not much to say here, just included it to show I read it. Explained important people, computing systems, and general technology improvements. It wasn't necessary in my opinion, because the only super new and useful insights were that we start to see the

problems they want to address come up. Before when we learned about how we got here there wasn't much about the implications of that development. We start to see some of that here. This is where I start to dislike the approach, more coming.

d. Chapter 4: Global Network Platforms

Excellent technical explanation once again. However, the approach is TOOOOOO-wide. The authors delve into the potential of AI in all areas of human enterprise. They describe the impact of AI on health care, economics, geopolitics, law, urban development, governance, journalism, the military, and even the life sciences. This is interesting, but when you are going to scratch the surface about what is going on in each category, and then make general assertions that are really vague, you take away from the content more than you add.

e. Chapter 5: Security and World Order

More of the same here, this is where I pulled that quote from earlier. It is really wide, and says things about how TikTok and its algorithm (and the legal disputes it has caused) is just the first example of many geopolitical debates that AI will start (Once again, how uninsightful.). I do appreciate the inclusion of the dark side of AI, discussing the ways that AI could enable dictators to monitor their citizens and manipulate information to incite people to commit violence.

f. Chapter 6: AI and Human Identity & Chapter 7: AI and the Future

This is where I go from disliking the book to being straight-up bored. Let me start with the one good thing about this part, it talks about how AI is a tool, how humans are still within the ability to control it, and are also able to separate it from our human existence, not make it a core part of it. And it calls out companies today for making it seem like AI is a necessity of our future, which provided me some novel insight. Like many, I used to worry about killer robots but the real danger lurks in the simple AI used daily, from the feed-ranking algorithms of social media apps to the automated dispatch systems that power Uber and Lyft. The bad was literally everything else. Like, there was zero field advancing insight or mind-boggling perspectives. All they said here was, that AI needs to be regulated, but provided no strategies of how. Additionally, they talked about implementing human values and morals into AI, but I was left with the question of what does that entail? What is a universal set of values that would work? And what happens when this technology becomes so viable that there are bad actors that do not follow suit? Simply saying that AI needs to be brought up in the perspective of being a tool for humans is nothing novel or remotely useful.

### 3. Overall

I didn't like it! I thought it was uninspiring, drowned out, and all it did was create problems with vague semblances at attempts to solve them. Not worth a read!

Reading the book did not really mean anything to me. It had a few thought-provoking questions and applications of AI that I didn't consider, but beyond that, my perspective wasn't advanced or shocked. This book did propel my interest, however! I want to become so affluent within the

field that I can write an actual technical perspective on these problems, and what solving the “World’s Approach to AI” would actually entail.