

Why Andrew Yang matters

Andrew Yang, who used to run a test-prep company, has never held elective office. Until last year, he was politically unknown. Now, he is tied with Beto O'Rourke and leading Cory Booker, Amy Klobuchar, and Julián Castro in the race for the Democratic presidential **nomination**. *** To understand why, it's worth looking at how he responded earlier this month when Shane Gillis referred to him using a **racial slur**.

nomination 提名; 任命

racial slur 种族歧视

Gillis, Yang tweeted, "does not strike me as **malignant** or evil. He strikes me as a still-forming comedian from central Pennsylvania." What does central Pennsylvania have to do with it? For Andrew Yang and his supporters, everything. It's a code for economic distress — which Yang believes fuels racism and most of the other problems that **menace** America.

malignant 恶性的; 恶意的

menace 威胁; 恐吓

In his 2019 campaign book, *The War on Normal People*, Yang warns that as automation destroys American jobs, "conflict born of race and identity" will grow "with automation-driven economics as the underlying force." *** Yang's answer is a "Freedom **Dividend**" that would give every American adult \$1,000 a month to **cushion** the blow and help launch new careers.

dividend 红利

cushion 缓冲; 垫子

If Yang's focus on automation can be **myopic**, it's also **potent**. The more Trump **cranks** up America's identity wars, the more some Americans **yearn** for a more **technocratic**, bloodless, "**nonideological**" politics.

myopic 近视的; 短视的

potent 有效的; 有力的

yearn 渴望; 向往

technocratic 技术统治论

nonideological 非意识形态的

It's no surprise that Yang's focus on automation has **renewed** the American search for a scientific form of governance. When Yang's supporters "Photoshop him into robot-fighting scenes from science fiction," they're dreaming of a president who can use the human brain to **outwit** the robots whose superior intelligence threatens us all. The robots aren't going away. Which is one reason that Andrew Yang — or at least Yangism — will also likely be with us for many years to come.

renew 更新; 复兴

outwit 以智取胜