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What technology has in store for humanity

George Orwell, in his novel 1984, argues that the government has deeply influenced their society by the use of the technology. He supports his claim by first introducing the “telescreen”, which is a screen that was located in homes, public places and it has the ability to watch you without you even knowing it, then he shows how much power the government has, by being able to erase history and rewrite it, and finally being able to deceive the people through propaganda and fear. Orwell’s purpose is to project how technology could get into the hands of people with power and be used in malicious ways, in order to exhibit what a future could look like with technology continually progressing.

George Orwell, is one of the many authors that has warned us of the threat that has been posed by growing technology. Ever since the computer was invented in 1946, we have always been and will continue to build better gadgets in the intention for the greater good. But, as we think we are progressing, we are at the same time regressing ourselves. Technology will not stop growing and we still haven’t hit the point where we must limit or control technology. Once technology got in the hands of the government and corporations it lead to a domino effect of problems. Although, technology can help the greater good of mankind, due to technology always

evolving , it can be misused in the hands of public and private institutions, it has the capacity to invade the privacy of people, and it can eliminate the jobs especially of the lower class.

Orwell's 1984, prediction of a society where the government has the control over the people, by using “telescreens” placed in every home, buildings and public places, displaying propaganda. And at the same time watching your every move, from dusk to dawn. In this totalitarian society in which it is illegal to write a journal and keep hidden thoughts, Winston the main character must hide in the corner of the room where the telescreen can't see him “By sitting in the alcove, and keeping well back, Winston was able to remain outside the range of the telescreen, so far as sight went. He could be heard, of course, but so long as he stayed in his present position he could not be seen.” (Orwell 9). Writing a journal was considered an act of rebellion, “if detected it was reasonably punished by death” (Orwell 9). Orwell's society in 1984, seems more of a reality today than when it was written 70 years ago. Today's telescreens aren't just cameras at every intersection or big screens on a wall, but they are your smartphones and computers. People who use computers to gain unauthorized access to data, also known as hackers are able to access your personal information, cameras and microphones located in your daily devices such as your phones and computers. With just obtaining username and password to your email account they can access your private/sensitive information, passwords, social security number and bank accounts. Hackers aren't the only ones invading your privacy, the government who serves to protect the rights of every american can also invade your privacy. The United States National Security Agency (NSA) have access to millions of americans personal accounts. A classified surveillance system known as “Prism”, which from the biggest tech corporations such as Google, Microsoft, Apple and many more allowed their servers to be accessible by the

NSA. In a slideshow released by the NSA in the hearing with Congress, which displays how they were able “to collect material including search history, the content of emails, file transfers and live chats” says Glenn Greenwald and Ewen MacAskill in the article “NSA Prism program taps into user data of Apple, Google and others”. From their resources they state “The document claims "collection directly from the servers" of major US service providers”. Merely similar to Orwell's society in 1984, where the government has access to your entire life, able to watch you at any time. Privacy has disappeared, high school students don't see privacy as a big issue. Most high school students have some type of social media and are constantly sharing their lives with the world, making themselves more vulnerable to the invasion of privacy. People post their daily lives without realizing there could be someone watching behind the camera. There are millions of social media users around the world and Orwell has shown what could be done with such vast information in technology being able to collect data from every phone call, text and tweet. As long as the government feels the need to govern technology, we won't have any privacy and with all the comforts of technology is there an invasion of privacy to be worried about? Although, the government isn't the only one using technology to their advantage, big multi billion dollar corporations are also using technology to cut corners in their business to make a greater profit.

A writer known as Farhad Manjoo in “Will Robots Steal Your Job?” describes the wave of technology that could take your job “He may not be as smart as you are—in fact, he could be quite stupid—but what he lacks in intelligence he makes up for in drive, reliability, consistency, and price”. Farhad Manjoo is one of the many authors who realizes the dangers of technology on our jobs. The World Economic Forum says “5 million jobs could be lost by 2020 due to technology”, the ones funding technology are huge corporations such as Amazon, Uber, Google

and including automotive companies and local grocery stores. “It found that as many as 7.1 million jobs in the world's richest countries could be lost through redundancy and automation. Those losses would be partially offset by the creation of 2.1 million new opportunities in sectors such as tech, professional services and media.” says Ivana Kottasova in the article “Technology could kill 5 million jobs by 2020”. Corporate America programming the future workforce, only thinking about their consumers. This growing problem of technology predicted by Isaac Asimov in “The Fun They Had”, he described how it used to be fun with a human teacher “Well, he just told the boys and girls things and gave them homework and asked them questions.”, portraying that we no longer have human teachers. Isaac describes the teacher in front of the students as a “mechanical teacher”, “flashing on the screen: “When we add the fractions $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$...””, the robot teaches the students, no longer needing humans to teach the young. In this age we have college students able to earn a degree online, no need for a teacher to stand in front of the class and give lectures. We are almost at the point of not needing human teachers in the classroom and no need to wait for graded papers and no need for substitutes. Almost every student is helped by using technology in the classroom by being able to type an essay, work on homework and to communicate through email. Millions and millions of emails are sent each day, “The U.S. Postal Service reported a net loss of \$5.1 billion for fiscal year 2015 (October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015)”, with this much of a loss the United States Postal service had to close down “82 mail processing centers throughout the country” in 2015. Leading to a loss of “15,000 employees” says Tom Hall and Hector Cordon in the article “US Post Office to close 82 mail processing centers”. No need for a mailman to come every morning and perhaps your mail may not even make its destination. Simple minimum wage jobs, such as cashiers are going to be gone soon

with Amazon pushing the initiative to just grab your things and go “No lines, no checkout - just grab and go!”(Amazon Go). Eliminating millions of jobs in America no need for cashiers and bag boys. Amazon Go is offering you to walk in their store, grab what you need and it will automatically charge your account. Innovative companies such as Uber and Google are spending millions of dollars to push for self driving vehicles, eradicating uber drivers, taxis drives and bus drivers. Already automotive companies have programmed robots to assemble their automobiles. “Around 65% of children starting primary school today will end up working in jobs that don't yet exist, and their future training is crucial” says Kottasova, millions of jobs are in danger, but it doesn't become really acknowledged until white collar jobs are impacted such as doctors and lawyers, their jobs are at risk too. Innovative companies are pushing for more efficient ways, hoping to make robots that will do dangerous jobs such as earthquake responders or even construction workers. However, when CEOs of corporate america see this type of technology, they see it as a cost savings, they don't have to pay employees, no health insurance, and especially no margin for error, working 24/7 without a lunch. Innovative companies such as Google, Amazon and many more don't see the damage of what growing technology will do. Will high paying jobs be replaced such as Members of Congress, the President and even CEO's? Their jobs will be spared for the low and middle class jobs. In the Rust Belt of America, they are upset that their jobs are being sent to foreign countries such as Mexico or China, although they shouldn't be worried about that, they should be worried about technology taking their jobs in large masses. As long as we continue to make our lives easier or more comfortable, it only increases the demand, forcing companies to evolve their technology, which can lead to the elimination of jobs.

Clearly, technology isn't the way to go when we are trying to make the world a safer place. Technology has many complications that could be misused in the hands of the government and multi-billion dollar corporations. We must acknowledge the writers such as George Orwell, Isaac Asimov, and Farhad Manjoo who have warned us about the dangers of technology that could become a reality in the coming years. Although, technology can make our lives easier every day, we must see the dangers that it faces when the government invades our privacy, and when big corporations see it as a shortcut to make more of a profit and lay off workers such as yourself.