

**COIS 3270H**

**Research Notes**

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COIS 3270H - Philosophy Of AI

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## Source 1

Harari, Yuval N. (2016). *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow*. Signal.

### Thesis of the Source

- Harari argues that humanity's focus is shifting from overcoming traditional challenges like famine, plague, and war to pursuing immortality, happiness, and divinity.
- This transition is powered by advancements in biotechnology and artificial intelligence, which redefine human goals and raise profound ethical and existential questions.

### Summary of Arguments

- **Shift in Human Priorities:** Humanity has largely controlled historical threats (famine, plague, and war) and is now focused on overcoming death, enhancing happiness, and transforming into "Homo Deus" (god-like beings).
- **Role of Technology:** Advancements in AI and biotechnology are enabling humans to enhance physical and cognitive abilities, creating ethical dilemmas about inequality and autonomy.
- **Ethical Challenges:** Harari warns about the potential for AI and data-driven technologies to centralize power, undermining human agency and exacerbating inequalities.
- **Redefinition of Divinity:** With humans aiming for god-like control over life and death, traditional religious and philosophical frameworks are challenged, and questions about morality and purpose arise.

### Application to Final Paper

- This source will be crucial in discussing the philosophical implications of AI's role in reshaping human priorities.
- Harari's analysis of humanity's pursuit of immortality and god-like status ties directly into the essay's examination of intelligence, creativity, and divinity.
- His warnings about the ethical risks of AI will support discussions on the societal consequences of unchecked technological growth.

### Bibliographic Information (APA)

Harari, Y. N. (2016). *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow*. Signal.

## Source 2

Amigud, Alexander. (2024). The Age of the Intelligent Machine: Singularity, Efficiency, and Existential Peril. *Philosophy & Technology*.

### Thesis of the Source

- Amigud argues that while AI has unprecedented capabilities, it is fundamentally shaped by human intent and societal contexts.
- He challenges the feasibility of achieving true singularity and highlights the dangers of treating AI as autonomous and neutral.

### Summary of Arguments

- **AI and Singularity:** Amigud critiques the idea of singularity, asserting that AI will remain a proxy for human interests rather than an independent agent.
- **Ethical Concerns:** AI technologies are prone to biases, misuses, and unintended societal consequences. He emphasizes the need for a revised ethical framework to address these issues.
- **Societal Impacts:** The rise of AI exacerbates alienation by reducing humans to "data patterns," while also challenging traditional notions of identity and autonomy.
- **Limits of AI:** While AI can imitate human intelligence, it lacks genuine understanding, which sets a high bar for claims about its potential as a replacement for human reasoning.

### Application to Final Paper

- Amigud's skepticism about the singularity and his focus on AI's societal implications will support the essay's exploration of ethical and existential risks.
- His emphasis on AI's limitations and its role as a human tool will provide a counterpoint to arguments about AI surpassing human intelligence and autonomy.

### Bibliographic Information (APA)

Amigud, A. (2024). The age of the intelligent machine: Singularity, efficiency, and existential peril. *Philosophy & Technology*, 37(2), 49. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13347-024-00740-0>