

## **Essay 8**

As our society progresses, so does our technology. New technology has infiltrated almost every aspect of our lives, including our jobs and labor market. In his novel “21 Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” Yuval Noah Harari explains that though this is not a new issue, recent technologies are more innovative and intelligent than ever before, and many fear this will lead to widespread unemployment. Society’s transition away from human labor towards artificial intelligence demonstrates how labor is viewed as a commodity. This supports Karl Marx’s theory that the market determines the value of labor, which we have grown to value less than efficient production.

Throughout history, new technologies have led to the creation of new jobs. Today, however, we face new obstacles. Harari explains how new technologies are replacing people in the workforce on both a physical and cognitive level. New technologies are able to assess human emotions and desires from a scientific and algorithmic perspective, a task we used to think was only possible through human interaction. This could lead to widespread unemployment, as companies are investing in updatable machines. This demonstrates Marx’s theory of commodity fetishism because we value efficiency and productivity over human jobs. As human labor becomes a cheaper commodity, jobs are easily influenced by the changing market. Society has grown to undervalue the labor required in production, so we are willing to give up jobs in exchange for cheaper and quicker production. Because we simply view the market as an exchange of money for goods, we embrace new technological advances at the expense of workers.

As we continue to progress technologically, the working class is hindered while the upper-class experiences cheaper products. As we transition towards artificial intelligence, we risk losing jobs. This is only made possible because the market has grown to value efficient production over human interaction. By recognizing the impact our purchases have on the market, we can create a future with both advancements and opportunities.