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Scholarly Analysis of Yuval Noah Harari's "Reboot for the AI Revolution"

In "Reboot for the AI Revolution" by Yuval Noah Harari, Harari emphasizes the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) in society as both harming and beneficial to the security of jobs. Harari informs that with the increase of AI technology, AI will soon take over human jobs, but new jobs will be created due to the necessary research and maintenance needed to continuously develop new technology. Harari's article is significant within the computer science and economics field as it highlights that the continual progress in AI development will lead to serious consequences such as job market fluctuation that must be addressed. Harari argues that as AI takes over many jobs, new structural systems will need to be planned to keep up with the demands and effects of AI. Harari's argument for "new economic, social and educational systems" (324) is thorough with established credibility, logical evidence and comparisons to the past and future, while his wavering call-to-action attempt towards the end of his article does not effectively tie together his clear thesis and strong evidence.

Harari begins the article by addressing the counterargument to his thesis. He states that the government could "slow down the pace of automation to lessen the resulting shocks" (Harari 324). This effectively strengthens Harari's credibility and appeal to ethos by acknowledging the opposing view and demonstrating fairness. Harari continues to strengthen his credibility and build his argument throughout the article by using strong, credible sources to back up his claims.

These sources include “Global Status Report on Road Safety” by the World Health Organization, “World Forum on Internet of Things” by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and “Where Machines Could Replace Humans—and Where They Can’t (Yet)” by

McKinsey&Company. Citing these sources further elevates Harari’s credibility as it shows he has done his homework and has provided relevant statistics and facts to support his argument.

Furthermore, Harari uses strong appeals to logos by incorporating statistical and logical progressions of ideas. Harari outlines that human soldiers have a “high economic and political price tag” (326). Recently, there has been a shift in the military where a small number of experts and autonomous technologies is heavily relied on. Due to this, US armed forces needs 30 people to operate every [drone] flying over Syria and analysing the harvest of information occupies at least 80 more” (Harari 326). These statistics support Harari’s claim that with the implementation of artificial intelligence, new jobs will be constantly flooding the job market. Also, by using credible sources as mentioned before, Harari illustrates the idea that the implementation of some AI technology in everyday tasks, such as driving, can occur suddenly, changing the dynamic of the job market instantly. Harari references the “Global Status Report on Road Safety” by the World Health Organization to explain that “1.25 million people are killed annually in car accidents and 90% are caused by human error” (Harari 325). By using this statistic, he implies that once this technology is mastered and available, the switch to self-driving cars will be instant and inevitable, because automated vehicles are less likely to crash into each other as they all will be connected on the same network (Harari 326). The details and numbers build an appeal to logos and strengthen the author’s original argument.




Additionally, Harari makes appeals to pathos a few instances in his article. In his first instance of pathos, Harari falls short of effectively appealing to emotions. Harari switches to a second person point of view by using the word “you” to address the reader directly and captivate the reader. He asks the reader to imagine living in China 1,000 years ago (Harari 325). Harari wanted the reader to realize that the future is very difficult to predict and uncertainties are prevalent. Harari fails to appeal to pathos because his elaboration on the Chinese anecdote was prolonged. His anecdote was more of a history lesson, informing the reader how life was in 1017 China. Harari would have succeeded if he had elaborated on how today’s society is connected to





1017 China rather than only focusing on 1017 China. Further in his article, Harari appeals to pathos and successfully and effectively appeals to the readers emotions. Harari describes how the erratic job market and individual careers can affect human psychology. This description is filled with emotionally-charged words and phrases that create a sense of worry for the reader. Harari uses words and phrases such as “hurdle”, “stressful”, “epidemic of stress”, “anxiety”, “volatility”, “emotional stamina”, and “constant flux” (325) to emphasize how the increase of artificial intelligence will indirectly impact human psychology. Using these emotion-evoking words, the reader will understand the seriousness of the effects of the continual progression in AI which helps support Harari’s initial thesis.



The end of the article introduces a call-to-action by Harari which to implement a new socio-economic model, but the argument for it lacks clarity and effectiveness. This new socio-economic model is called the universal basic income (UBI). Harari explains UBI as a way for “the government [to] tax the rich and big corporations to provide every person with a stipend covering his or her basic needs” (Harari 326). Harari further mentions how this model will

cushion the poor against job loss, economic frailty and “protect the rich from populist rage” (326). Harari goes on a tangent and talks about “liberal democracies, communist dictatorships and fascist regimes” to talk about past and current models (Harari 327). The argument introduced towards the end of the article does not tie in how artificial intelligence would impact this new model or vice versa. Likewise, there is no talk on how jobs will be created although most of the article is about how Harari advocates for the creation of new jobs due to the rise in AI. This introduction to UBI shifts the reader’s focus away from artificial intelligence and the need for new jobs. Additionally, Harari fails to mention artificial intelligence, the job market, and economic, social and education systems in his conclusion. He does not effectively reemphasize his original thesis, **weakening his argument.** 

Though Harari s able to effectively persuade his readers of the need for new systems through his credibility, logical evidence and comparisons to the past, he **fell** short in the conclusion of his article to reemphasize his thesis, where he most needs to drive his argument home. Readers can see the need to create new jobs due to artificial intelligence advancements. However, Harari’s shift to focus on a socio-economic model **makes the reader confused on how**  **their jobs will benefit from it.** Harari could have explained his socio-economic model by including how the job market and artificial intelligence advancements would be affected.

Works Cited

Harari, Yuval Noah. "Reboot for the AI Revolution." *Nature*, 17 Oct, 2017, pp. 324-327.

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