**ROBOTS TAKING OVER**

Joy had always looked on the thought of robots taking over the world as science fiction before he met Ray Kurzweil who suggested in his talk that we could become immortal if we fuse with robots and his had some good arguments to substantiate his belief. His had utopian view of our future with technological advances. However, Joy felt unease while reading a partial preprint of the book The Age of Spiritual Machines. Furthermore, the thing that made him even more uncomfortable was when he read a passage written by Theodore Kaczynski.

Kaczynski had dystopian view on the future with advance technologies where robots will be able to do all things better than humans, where human effort will be useless. He claims that if that really happens, there will be two possible scenarios. The first where machines are so advanced that they can think and make their own decisions without human oversight, or all of the advance technology is controlled by the elite who controls the world.

If the machines can make their own decisions, they wouldn’t need people anymore. The problem is that we would need those machines, we couldn’t live without them and at the same time we would be completely useless and machines could get rid of us easily. We wouldn’t be able to shut them down because we would be dependent on them and wouldn’t be able to survive because they could do all sort of complex tasks that we could never.

On the other hand, if robots couldn’t decide and think by themselves, people would need to control them. If that happens, the machines will probably be in the hands of tiny elite, which means that those people wouldn’t need other people anymore because all of the work is done by the machines and humans are completely useless. Three distinct scenarios would be possible if that happens. Either the elite would exterminate the whole human race, or they would use techniques to reduce the birth rate until the extinction of the human race, or they would try to make other people happy and care for their needs. The only thing that is common in all three scenarios is the fact that human race would be completely useless.

Joy claims that Kaczynski’s arguments are completely right even though he is the Unabomber and killed three people and wounded many others.

The thing that make Joy really uncomfortable is the fact that we study all our lives how to create new technological advances to improve our lives and make them easier, but maybe we are just making something more powerful and more intelligent than us that will eventually replace us and we would be completely useless.

Source - https://www.wired.com/2000/04/joy-2/#1