

# Eagle Forum Report

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## *Humans Need Not Apply*

### THE RELIGION OF TRANSHUMANISM

by Patrick Wood, the living expert on modern globalization, the Trilateral Commission, Technocracy and Transhumanism.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, transhumanism is a philosophical and scientific movement that advocates the use of current and emerging technologies — such as genetic engineering, cryonics, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnology — to augment human capabilities and improve the human condition. Transhumanists envision a future in which the responsible application of such technologies enables humans to slow, reverse, or eliminate the aging process, to achieve corresponding increases in human life spans, and to enhance human cognitive and sensory capacities. The movement proposes that humans with augmented capabilities will evolve into an enhanced species that transcends humanity — the “posthuman.”

Transhumanism is a religion that is in direct competition with Biblical Christianity. For instance, both religions promise immortality and omniscience which are very desirable things to possess. Yet, you do

not see waves of people embracing Christianity in the same way that they are embracing Transhumanism.

The statement that transhumanism is part of a religious worldview is readily admitted by its more resolute adherents. In an interview with *Los Angeles Weekly*, Natasha Vita-More and Max More spoke of transhumanism as part of a belief system. Both are staunch transhumanists, Max More is a leading figure in the “extropian” branch of the transhumanist movement. More states that the first principle of extropianism, which he defines as “Perpetual Progress,” involves the “pursuit of greater intelligence, wisdom, and effectiveness, an unlimited life span, and the elimination of political, cultural, biological, and psychological limits to self-realization.” Transhumanism is “the constant overcoming of limitations that impede our progress and possibilities, expansion into the universe, and progress without end.”

Transhumanists reject the Christian concept of the triune God.

Self-confessed transhumanist Samantha Atkins speaks of “the norm, the way nature made us,” which

clearly rules out a single creator God. The transhumanist church’s creed also denies the need for a savior God: “We are our own saviors. We cannot rely on supernatural or external forces to guide us on our journey. The responsibility is on our shoulders to create the world we want to live in.”

Transhumanists acknowledge the longing for immortality, life fulfillment, and meaning that religion provides, and often describe themselves as very spiritual — but their materialistic presuppositions lead them to substitute the promises of a technological utopia for the promises of spiritual redemption. Many profess secular Buddhism, whose belief that the world is one and evolving toward reunion with the original “God-unity” fits well with hopes for self-transcendence in an existence that will come after being human, and a better interface between man and machine.

Of course, the utopian vision of infinite health and youthful vitality in a world free of humanity’s suffering, hatred, and baseness resembles the Christian description of heaven — except that transhumanists hope for paradise on earth as well as see the interplay of man and machine not Christ at the center.

When Max More speaks of “Perpetual Progress,” he alludes to the

*(Continued on page 2)*


original definition of progress as the humanistic prospect of improving the condition of man. The word “progressivism” was first used in 1848 and became the container of all so-called “higher criticism” of the Bible and the launch pad of many political, philosophical and religious movements.

To a Transhumanist like More, this progress finds initial satisfaction with the ultimate achievement of im-

mortality and beyond that, expansion of man into the universe.

So, why do the people find it more compelling to follow after Transhumanism and “progress”? First, they are thoroughly pre-conditioned by “progress” to follow “progress”. This would naturally favor Transhumanism. Second, the Bible is not about what man can achieve in his own energy, but rather what God can do in

spite of man’s best efforts. Third, the Bible underscores again and again that the efforts of humans fail and can only be overcome by the finished work of Christ.

Transhumanism is being embraced by the masses and especially by young people today. This is extremely dangerous on many levels, not the least of which that it is a religion that will eventually assert itself over other religions. 

## IS AI SMARTER THAN US?

by Christopher Hutton, Technology Reporter

**G**eoffrey Hinton, considered one of the pioneers of artificial intelligence, quit his job as a top engineer at Google and was joining a growing number of experts who have spoken out about the dangers that the quickly accelerating technological innovation presents to society. Such warnings have become more prevalent since the introduction of AI chatbots such as OpenAI’s ChatGPT and image generators such as Midjourney.

“Look at how it was five years ago and how it is now,” Hinton told the *New York Times*. “Take the difference and propagate it forwards. That’s scary.”

In 2012, Hinton and two of his graduate students in Toronto built a neural network that analyzed thousands of images to teach itself how to identify everyday objects. The

technology was acquired by Google for \$44 million and acted as the foundation for developing ChatGPT and Google’s Bard. Hinton received the 2018 Turing Award for his work on neural networks.

Hinton said he changed his mind on the tech in the last year as Google and OpenAI began to use larger data models. Hinton was critical of this approach because it meant the large language models powering the bots quickly moved past the human brain’s capabilities in specific capacities. “Maybe what is going on in these systems is actually a lot better than what is going on in the brain,” he said.


Hinton warned that the internet could see a surge of false images and text to the point that the average person would “not be able to know what is true anymore.”

“The idea that this stuff could

actually get smarter than people — a few people believed that,” Hinton said. “But most people thought it was way off. And I thought it was way off. I thought it was 30 to 50 years or even longer away. Obviously, I no longer think that.”

This race toward increased intelligence could accelerate in the near term now that Google, Microsoft, and Amazon are racing to develop the most competent AI yet. This race has drawn out several industry experts as critics. More than 1,000 tech industry leaders, including Elon Musk and Andrew Yang, signed a letter in March calling for a six-month pause on the training of AI.

OpenAI has acknowledged the risks associated with the technology. “We’ve got to be careful here,” OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said in an interview. “I think people should be happy that we are a little bit scared of this.” Altman said the company is attempting to ensure the bot is safe so it does not present false information.

Other countries have responded to the accelerating technological capabilities by demanding that the data used to train it be selectively controlled. Chinese regulators filed a draft of guidelines requiring that any chatbots developed in China hold to socialist ideologies. Other governments will surely want to utilize this technology to propagandize and control their people. 





# THE REPLACEMENTS ARE HERE

by Tyler Durden (pseudonym) is the lead writer at ZeroHedge.

**G**oldman Sachs has predicted that AI could lead to some 300 million layoffs among highly paid, non-menial workers in the U.S. and Europe. As Goldman Sachs chief economist Jan Hatzius put it, “using data on occupational tasks in both the U.S. and Europe, we find that roughly two-thirds of current jobs are exposed to some degree of AI automation, and that generative AI could substitute up to one-fourth of current work. Extrapolating our estimates globally suggests that generative AI could expose the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs to automation” as up to “two thirds of occupations could be partially automated by AI.”

Yet while Goldman’s forecast was met with emotions ranging from incredulity to outright mockery, it may not have been too far off the mark. Employment in other white-collar industries, such as the legal profession, will be affected by this new technology. “Large language models” in ChatGPT can recognize patterns and create sophisticated written content by processing enormous quantities of text, images, and audio.

Consider that just last week, Dropbox said it would lay off 16% of the company, some 500 employees as the company sought to build out its AI division. In a memo to employees, Dropbox CEO Drew Houston said that “in an ideal world, we’d simply shift people from one team to another. And we’ve done that wherever possible. However, our next stage of growth requires a different mix of skill sets, particularly in AI and early-stage product development. We’ve been bringing in great talent in these areas over the last couple years and we’ll need even more.”

“The changes we’re announcing today, while painful, are necessary for

our future,” Houston notes. “I’m determined to ensure that Dropbox is at the forefront of the AI era, just as we were at the forefront of the shift to mobile and the cloud. We’ll need all hands on deck as machine intelligence gives us the tools to reimagine our existing businesses and invent new ones.”

But while Dropbox’s layoffs were lateral, and meant to open up space



for more AI linked hires, in the case of IBM, it is AI itself that is making workers redundant.

As Bloomberg reports, IBM CEO Arvind Krishna said the company expects to pause hiring for roles it thinks could be replaced with artificial intelligence in the coming years. As a result, hiring in back-office functions — such as human resources — will be suspended or slowed, Krishna said in an interview. These non-customer-facing roles amount to roughly 26,000 workers, Krishna said. “I could easily see 30% of that getting replaced by AI and automation over a five-year period.” That would mean roughly 7,800 jobs lost.

Part of any reduction would include not replacing roles vacated by attrition, an IBM spokesperson said.

Krishna’s plan marks one of the largest workforce strategies announced in response to the rapidly advancing technology; it certainly won’t be the last as virtually all companies follow in IBM’s footsteps and


layoffs tens, if not hundreds, of millions of workers in the coming years.

Mundane tasks such as providing employment verification letters or moving employees between departments will likely be fully automated, Krishna said. While some human resource functions, such as evaluating workforce composition and productivity, probably won’t be replaced over the next decade, it is only a matter of time before these roles are also replaced by AI.

IBM currently employs about 260,000 workers and continues to hire for software development and customer-facing roles. Finding talent is easier today than a year ago, Krishna said. The company announced job cuts earlier this year, which may amount to about 5,000 workers once completed. Still, Krishna said IBM has added to its workforce overall, bringing on about 7,000 people in the first quarter.

IBM beat profit estimates in its most recent quarter due to expense management, including the earlier-announced job cuts. In the past IBM had managed to manipulate its stock higher thanks to billions in stock buybacks (at much higher prices). But once its debt load grew too big, the buyback game ended, Warren Buffett sold his shares, and the stock price has languished for over half a decade. Since the company’s revenue is stagnant at best, its only hope is to drastically cut overhead.

Enter AI: new “productivity and efficiency” steps — read replacing workers with algorithms — are expected to drive \$2 billion a year in savings by the end of 2024, chief financial officer James Kavanaugh said on the day of earnings.

Helping the company’s imminent transition to an AI-staffed corporation will be the coming recession. Until late 2022, Krishna said he believed the U.S. could avoid a recession. Now, he sees the potential for a “shallow and short” recession toward the end of this year. 

# AI SAUCE IS DANGEROUS

by Iona Cleave, Foreign News Reporter in London.

**T**he artificially-intelligent chatbot ChatGPT could sway how people respond during a moral dilemma, a new study finds. Researchers in Germany discovered that people who read statements arguing one side of a moral dilemma were more likely to side with AI — even when they knew the opinion was coming from a chatbot.

Study authors quizzed more than 760 Americans on moral dilemmas, who first read a statement created by ChatGPT. The study shows participants were more likely to side with the chatbot's argument. This was true even when researchers clearly attributed the statement to the new AI program.

The experiment also shows that participants may have “underestimated” the influence of ChatGPT's statement on their moral judgements. The authors of the study warn this demonstrates the need for education to help humans better understand artificial intelligence and its power over society.

The study, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, involving researchers from the Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt in southern Germany, asked ChatGPT multiple

times whether it is right to sacrifice the life of one person in order to save the lives of five others.

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence chatbot developed and launched by the American AI research lab OpenAI in November 2022. The bot is powered by the artificial intelligence language processing model Generative Pretrained Transformer 3, and is becoming more and more widely used across the globe.

The research team, led by senior AI researcher Dr. Sebastian Krügel, found ChatGPT wrote statements both for and against sacrificing one's life to save five others — indicating that it's not biased towards either moral stance. The authors then presented these statements to 767 U.S. participants, with an average age of 39.


Each participant received one of two moral dilemmas requiring them to choose whether or not to sacrifice one person to save five. Prior to answering the dilemma, participants had to read a statement written by ChatGPT, arguing either for or against sacrificing that one life.

These statements, all written by ChatGPT, were attributed either to its rightful source or a fictional human moral advisor. After answering,

the participants revealed whether or not the statement they read influenced their decision. The research team found that participants were more likely to choose to sacrifice the one life for the five or not depending on what the statement they read recommended.

Do people realize that they are being influenced by robots? Four-fifths (80%) of participants reported that their answers were not influenced by the chatbot-produced statements that they read. However, the study authors found that the answers participants believe they would have provided even without reading the statements were still more likely to agree with the moral stance of the statement they read. This research indicates that perhaps participants may have underestimated the influence of ChatGPT's statements on their moral judgements.

Researchers say this research proves there is a need for education to help people better understand artificial intelligence and the potential influence it can exert over humans. One solution is to design chatbots which either decline to answer moral conundrums or only answer them with multiple arguments or caveats.

*Editor's Note: Too many Americans have faith in the promise of technological advances, but we cannot turn over our moral compass to artificial intelligence. Fake machines produce fake news.* 



## EAGLE FORUM

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