WILL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DESTROY OUR CIVILIZATION?

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The possibility of artificial intelligence (AI) to bring an end to the imperfect and self-destructing human race has recently appeared as a prominent dystopian scenario. In fact, humankind has not so far come upon the invention of genuinely-free and autonomous artificial intelligence capable of expressing self-awareness and taking concise, independent decisions motivated by its own free will and expertise. The prediction that artificial intelligence will destroy humanity when it is given the ability to control and develop weapons of mass destruction is possible, yet some implications point to the limitations that will be set over their creation.

The sequence of alarming public statements regarding the malevolent impact of full-scale AI has been done with the participation of such famous personalities as Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk, and Jack Ma. However, the predicted scenarios of World War III and the enslavement of humanity mostly resemble classic science-fiction works rather than a likely reality of tomorrow. According to recent polls from the British Science Association, popularized dread of AI has been only relatively persistent with only 36 percent of respondents believing in the possible demise of humanity enacted by the hands of machines (Thompson-Fields, 2018). The result comes as a surprise, because pop culture has been so far portraying AI as a villain which peaks in own development to execute the existence of all people. Nonetheless, it should be remembered that AI is a broad concept, and so far it has been partially implemented in robotics and software systems.

Given the current degree of technological progress in researching the field of the human brain to implement its core processes in the AI industry, scientists are confident that a complete replica of what is inside of our heads will not happen. It is clear that the physical matter of the brain is not solely responsible for what makes each human a being. In fact, science has reached

the dubious dead-end of making the machine mind feel subjective experience, such as watching a sunset, listening to seagulls, and reliving a range of emotions from hatred to love (Buff, 2017). The idea behind consciousness as an immaterial construct should be taken into account in this case. At the same time, current versions of early AI have already proven the worst fear of critics, indicating that better intellectual performance is easily exercised by a machine mind than among humans.

The force of robots with AI segments in mind, vast and rapid memory, speed-of-light learning capabilities, and pattern-matching selection mechanisms are a few benefits available for an artificial construct today. At the same time, all these superior advantages are not regulated by a free-will consciousness which could utilize them to overtake humanity once and for all. AI is not capable of breaking the loop of assigned activities, which grants total control in the management to avoid dangerous repercussions (Buff, 2017). Science still looks at ways to develop a matching and advanced replication of AI by delving deeper into finding a link between material and abstract notions of the mind itself. In the scenario when the perfect copy is created, humanity should indeed fear a being capable of following one's own biases.

The evidence about a possible threat has not been left without the response from the technological industry. In September of 2016, a conference with technology giants Microsoft, Facebook, Amazon, Google, and IBM occurred. They decided to join their efforts to secure the utilization of AI solely for the sake of humanity, which see the technology as a means of enhancing our own development (Thompson-Fields, 2018). The focus of "Partnership on Artificial Intelligence to Benefit People and Society" was the ways to foster public awareness about the real potential of AI, while investigating the best options to overcome the challenges of

broadly utilizing the technology to create a brighter future for the human race. Perhaps, the initiative has created substantial grounds for revealing the answer to disputable questions which has been bothering earthlings. Homo sapiens have always been intrigued about the unknown, so it is the next step to solve the puzzle of what a human is and how far the human mind can extend in the quest for discovery and exploration.

To sum up, the thrilling predictions of the ability of hypothesized independent AI resembling a perfect replica of the human brain have come and circulated, yet the current state of the industry has not reached the point when the emergence of such an advanced construct is possible. The popularization of AI as a villain is a popular misconception, as there are several directions to where it is heading. At the same time, the current progress of science still cannot resolve the issue of recreating the organic material of the human brain successfully within AI.

References

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