

On Land Rover Maintenance

Introduction: Self Sufficiency and Reliance in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Automation

Setting out to share thoughts of self-reliance in the age of artificial intelligence is probably a fool's errand. Not that self-reliance will fade away, but instead technology is advancing so rapidly (exponentially at times) that any definition of artificial intelligence I use within this writing may be questionable or simply wrong in the years ahead. To offset that eventuality, I'll surrender now and assume the reader will extrapolate my obsolete comparisons and considerations to whatever is at hand.

In contrast to ever-changing technology, the needs of simple living are relatively constant: food, water, shelter. These basics may be all that can be obtained should social existence descend into dystopia, but I anticipate we will refrain from reaching such lows and so we must also include art, leisure, and pleasant distraction in our list of wants. Food, water, and shelter are the basis of good health, as we cannot survive without the three basics, and it seems that obtaining the basic needs, along with our list of wants, is ever so much easier if we are in good health. It appears that our basic needs, list of wants, and good health are joined at the hip.

The above assumptions are greatly understated as living is much more complex than what is described in a single sentence. But creating a simple definition of our basic needs and wants becomes appropriate as technology is altering what was once the basis of our society as it applies to employment, housing, transportation, relationships, and perhaps most importantly, *our self-respect*. Many of us may find ourselves suddenly unemployed or without a gainful means of support that leaves us questioning if our skills and knowledge have any value. If so, having our goals and desires distilled down to the simplest form may become part of our life's compass.

As an example, we may go from being a competent and capable tradesperson possessing visible pride in his or her vocation to something else or nothing at all.

This potential exists for all humankind: farmers to physicians and most certainly those who work on a keyboard. The change is created by automation and artificial intelligence taking over much of what we now consider the primary vocations and professions because it will, on its own accord, generate the needed technical and physical prowess to do so. The impact will be felt throughout society, as it will change the needs of education, how we provide for ourselves, and the subsequent dependency on each other. Many will see within this the possibility of a worry-free life rich in leisure time and the ability to pursue happiness and pleasure.

Admittedly life described by this last paragraph may seem dreadful to some, but it takes a stab at getting the obvious out of the way: the historical concepts of employment, self-determination, and society are changing dramatically, creating a new age for large portions of humanity. This change will broaden the chasm between what is now western civilization and the third world to a point of unreality and disbelief whereby inhabitants of one will not recognize that of the other. Today, people of vision are working to bring the third world along with the rest of civilization through advancements in technology, but the road is long with much to accomplish.

I've attempted to set the stage for the remaining narrative by providing a simple and flexible view of things to come. I do believe the changes in society will be positive and result in people living longer, happier, and healthier than ever before. But there is always fear of change, and the transitions happening every day will be met with resistance and anger, racial hatred, xenophobia, and the willingness to believe in conspiracies and hidden centers of social control that are creating what is perceived as a forceful change in life. But it is also possible to acknowledge this change as positive and welcome, with options that the individual may choose instead that lead down a different path: one of self-reliance and self-sufficiency.