



Written by [Dennis Behreandt](#) on May 23, 2023

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Humanity & the AI End Game

The following article is a transcript of an interview with Dennis Behreandt, publisher of *The New American* and author of [End Game](#), about the future of technology and humanity. The transcript has been edited for space and clarity.

The New American: *What does the current AI revolution mean for human individuality, freedom, etc.?*

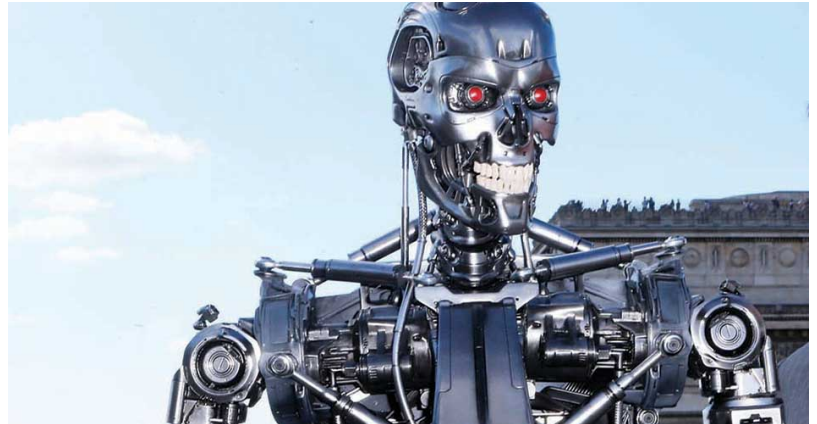
Dennis Behreandt: In my opinion, the revolutionary aspect of AI has only just begun to be noticed, because as advanced as it is now, one year further on, two years further on, 2025, 2026, the world is going to look potentially considerably different than it does today. We haven't seen anything yet. So what does that mean for human flourishing and human success? That means many things that people have taken for granted over the course of many years — their jobs, the way they've raised their families, how they interact with authorities, with local government, all of those things — are ripe for change.

The most obvious one is with jobs. If you take a look at most of the forecasts, I think it's pretty average for most forecasts to say, well, about 40 percent of jobs will be very quickly impacted by implementation of AI. This portends a dramatic dislocation of human capital, human earning power. And when you take a look at 40 percent of that earning power in today's economy, you're looking at a drastic and dramatic change in the way the entire economic system of the country is run.

And that has policy implications downstream, from the very top level at Washington all the way downstream to your local daily life; how you provide food for your family, how you pay for housing, all of the above. That's going to potentially change almost everything about life in the United States.

TNA: *What do the would-be totalitarians, despots, and autocratic governments have in mind for exploiting AI?*

DB: Well, the obvious first possibility with regard to how a technocrat who leans toward an authoritarian impulse might utilize or see this technology as being beneficial to their type of program — to what they think the world should look like — is its predictive crime-assessment potentiality. There is research going on, for instance, with regard to how AI might be merged with what's called fMRI [functional magnetic resonance imaging] of the human brain to detect tendencies that people are



[AP Images](#)

Rise of the machines? The growing power of AI has triggered fears of a high-tech apocalypse, in which intelligent machines enslave or even destroy humanity, like the army of killer robots spawned by the self-aware computer network Skynet in the Terminator movie franchise.



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thinking before they're even aware necessarily of those thoughts.

So there already is speculation over the potential for using this in a pre-crime sense. If we want to go back to the infamous film *Minority Report*, and its Department of Pre-crime, there are already thoughts going into how to utilize this in that way.

I think you're going to see the implementation of this in terms of security cameras and using predictive algorithms to try to assess the potentiality for human behaviors and misbehaviors that then can be interdicted. And so that's an obvious one.

If you go back to Covid, just a couple of years ago, we had local municipalities here in the United States thinking about how to implement some level of technology like this in drones to be able to assess crowds outside, perhaps using FLIR [forward-looking infrared] cameras to see if people might be running a temperature and need to be interdicted and taken off the streets. We had a couple of municipalities, I believe in California and on the East Coast, thinking about whether this was possible. And this raised a little bit of hue and cry.

As you might expect, that type of technology becomes ever cheaper and ever more potentially useful as we integrate AI with it, because now you will have the algorithms being able to make these assessments without human intervention. So these are the types of things that are the direct totalitarian potential outcomes from this technology.

You now have a thoroughgoing system of economic control potentially in the offing as a result of AI implementation alongside CBDCs [central bank digital currencies]. And that will affect Americans' economic freedom, their ability to live their lives as they wish, travel as they wish, raise their children as they wish, and make basic choices. All these will be potentially drastically curtailed should this type of regime come to pass.

TNA: *What is transhumanism, and what is its relationship with the new AI movement?*

DB: The idea of transhumanism is that technology would allow humans to transcend their biology to become more than what they are by biology alone. You would transform the purely biological human into something post-human, and that's a term they actually use explicitly. "Post humanity" is the stated end goal of the modern transhumanist.

AI has developed in parallel with this. AI can be used as an integral method to get humanity from biological, human reality to the transhumanist, post-human world. Merging with AI in order to achieve that transhumanist, post-human world is seen by the theorists of this particular type of transhumanism as a way to transcend death, to erase death from the equation entirely.

TNA: *But someone like Ray Kurzweil or some other proponent of this movement would argue that putting microchips in your body or losing an arm and getting a fully bionic replacement are already a form of transhumanism.*

DB: These are potentially steps along the way. However, again, the end goal is not necessarily to assist someone who has either a congenital missing limb, or who through an accident or injury or serious illness has one of these situations that is using technology to enhance human biological life. The committed transhumanist theorist wants to *replace* human biological life. They see this as a step in the direction toward erasing humans completely. Humans are limited. They're limited in their lifespan, in their physical capabilities, and in their mental capabilities. Transhumanists insist that we need to merge



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with technology to move beyond all of these limits. And when they say we're going to move to post-humanity, that sounds like a great achievement. But a post-humanity implies the extinction of humanity.

Visionary: Ray Kurzweil, prolific computer scientist, inventor, and author, is also one of the leading advocates of transhumanism. (Photo by Michael Lutch)



TNA: *Everyone has seen science fiction films such as 2001: A Space Odyssey, in which the central personality is a computer (HAL) or robot that takes over and starts harming or killing people because it perceives that there's a problem. Do you see that as a possible outcome with AI?*

DB: I definitely see that as a possibility. I don't know that it's the preeminent possibility, but I don't think it's one that can be ruled out entirely. As I said, I think a general-purpose AI that is autonomously intelligent and capable of acting may make decisions that are not grounded in any kind of human ethical calculus, in which case humans could very quickly and very easily find themselves on the losing end of that decision-making process again, which is taking place in what current AI researchers say is a black box.

TNA: *Do you think that such technology will ever produce a virtual DaVinci or a virtual Einstein or a virtual Shakespeare? Can it supplant human creativity altogether?*

DB: Within five years, maybe sooner.

TNA: *What is AI good for? What sort of market demand is there for what AI can offer?*

DB: That's actually quite easy to answer. It's speed. AI is fast. It's faster than any human mind can be. And so you can use it in ways in which speed produces a tremendous benefit in terms of developing intellectual capacity.

TNA: *For example?*

DB: Let's just say that you are a chemist charged with developing a fundamentally transformative, hydrophobic material — in other words, a material that can repel water much more efficiently than anything previously known. And this could be particularly interesting for glass manufacturers who supply glass to high-rise buildings where it is prohibitively dangerous and expensive to get someone up there to wash that glass. If you have a much more hydrophobic coating on that glass, presumably the glass would be much less likely to get dirty as quickly, and you could dispense with frequent cleanings.



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You need to be able to come up with many different ways in which that hydrophobicity could be engineered into that glass, whether it's a property of the glass itself or a coating that's applied to the glass. This is a very time-consuming and intensive process in a current laboratory that requires a great degree of technical acumen in many, many areas, specifically with regard to surface activity between different states of matter — solids and liquids, the air, and aerosols. You would also be looking at the structure of the particular glass — its crystalline structure, how its molecules line up, even how its atoms line up. All of this requires an immense amount of experimentation in a laboratory. However, if you can apply an algorithm to it and you give it all of the parameters, AI can very quickly look through those parameters and give you possible answers for good results. This would allow you immediately in the laboratory to eliminate as many blind alleyways as possible while you're doing your research. And so this could speed up research in material science by a huge factor.

I'm not saying this theoretically. If you go and take a look at the scientific journals right now, if you look at scientific advancement in laboratories right now, you are going to find that AI is being used for material science in exactly this way. And as AI gets better and better at this, the progress of scientific investigation is going to speed up dramatically. It's already speeding up dramatically. And this is just one science, one area of science, where AI can have an immense, dramatic, and almost immediate impact. In chemistry, IBM had an AI for chemical formulation four years ago that was already free to use, and scientists were using it for formulation. And as they were using it, they were training the AI. So it was a positive feedback loop. The scientists were getting better results from using it. You can imagine what it will be like four years from now. This will be very, very common and very, very beneficial.



Applications: Because AI can sift through data so much faster than any human mind, it is already proving useful in helping scientists in the lab optimize experimental results. (gorodenkoff/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

TNA: *AI seems to be the “next big thing” in technology, and will be at least as disruptive as the internet when it arrived in the '90s. What can people do to prepare for this?*

DB: Our current government and ruling class really aren't conducive to a social setup of freedom, liberty, and free enterprise. They're trying to shut those down. So how do you survive that? Well, in order to rebuild a socially responsive government, you need to have independent-minded people. You



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need to have people who are able to independently exist and take care of themselves and their families, from the point of view of being able to grow your own food, build your own shelters, repair your own clothing, footwear, whatever is needed for yourself and for your family. There is a growing population of Americans who are very interested in gaining those skills and being able to become independent.

And you may be better at growing tomatoes than your neighbor down the road, who may be much better at raising dairy cattle. So you may then be able to engage in a system of exchange. Ultimately, we have to get back to our local communities of independent-minded people who are able to take care of themselves. And that starts with building the family structure, building the local community structure around that family, and then ultimately as communities of independent-minded Americans who are capable of independently living and taking care of themselves and their families, who are no longer beholden to that central authority.

This is exactly like our founding generation. They were independent and grew up learning how to do all of these things that were necessary in a non-technological world. And being independent is the only way you can free yourself from the arrival of AI, which really is the capstone achievement for a society that wants to make all people dependents of the state.



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