



Living In An AI Driven World

John Beaumont : 30 June 2026

What Would Our Great-Great Grandparents Think of AI?

A Perspective Across Two Technological Revolutions



Born in 1853, Charles witnessed the arrival of electricity, telephones, automobiles, and powered flight. Every generation believes its technological revolution is unique. Was his really so different from ours?

We Are Entering a New Technological Era



The Convergence of Technologies

AI is not arriving alone. It is arriving alongside advances in robotics, biotechnology, autonomous systems, quantum computing, renewable energy, and space exploration.

Computing Power Has Become Cheap and Abundant



The Engine Behind the Revolution

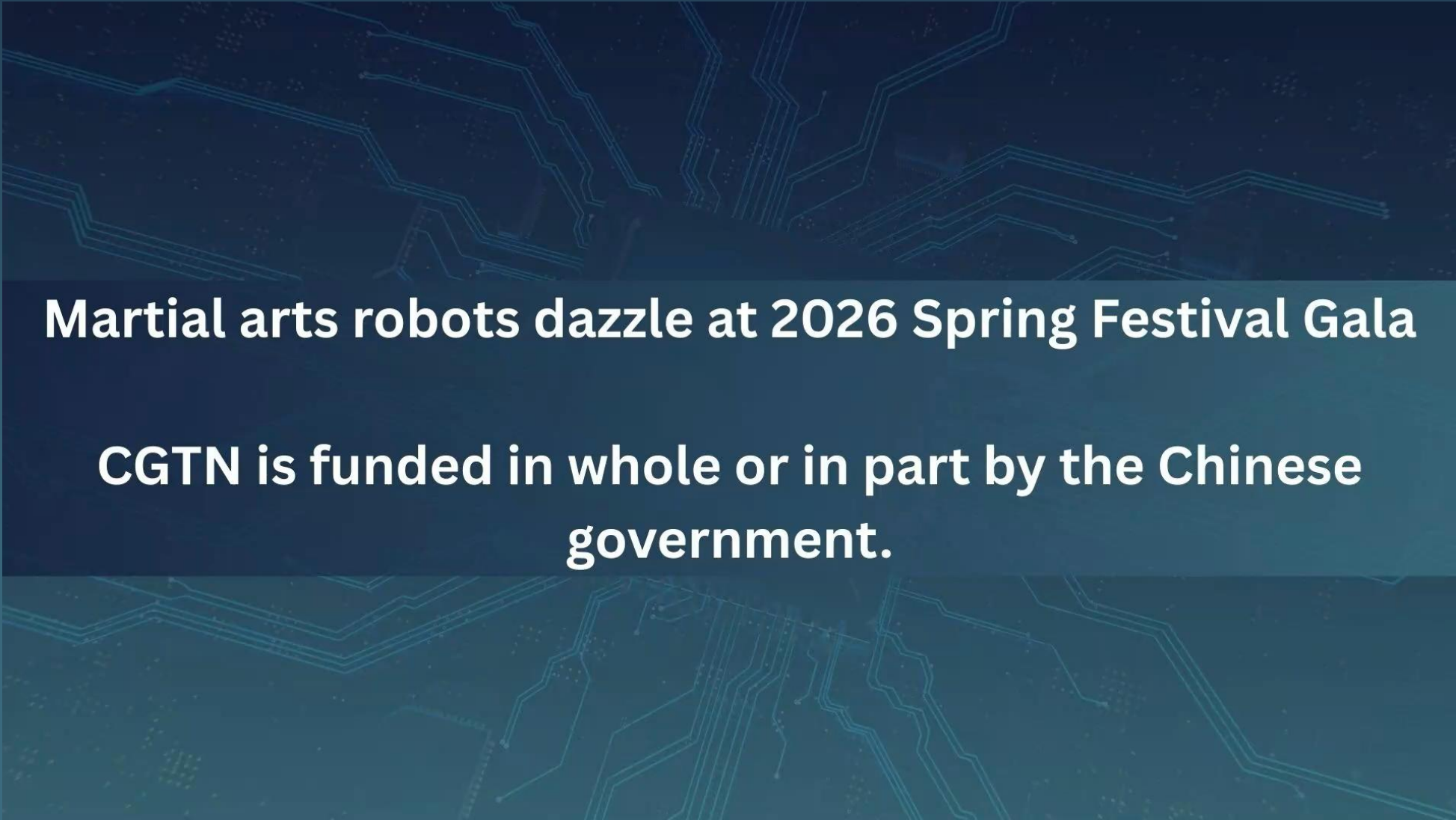
- Massive cloud computing
- Specialized AI chips
- Global connectivity
- Data everywhere
- Smartphones in billions of hands



AI in the Physical World: Robots & Autonomous Vehicles

AI in Robots & Autonomous Vehicles

AI is moving from software on a screen to machines that act in the real world.



Martial arts robots dazzle at 2026 Spring Festival Gala

CGTN is funded in whole or in part by the Chinese government.

When you think about robots and autonomous machines, what kinds of things do you imagine they might be doing in the future?

AI in Robots & Autonomous Vehicles



TRANSPORTATION

- Autonomous ships
- Self-driving cars
- Autonomous trucks
- Increasing automation in airplanes
- Delivery drones
- Delivery robots

AI in Robots & Autonomous Vehicles

WORK, MILITARY & INDUSTRY



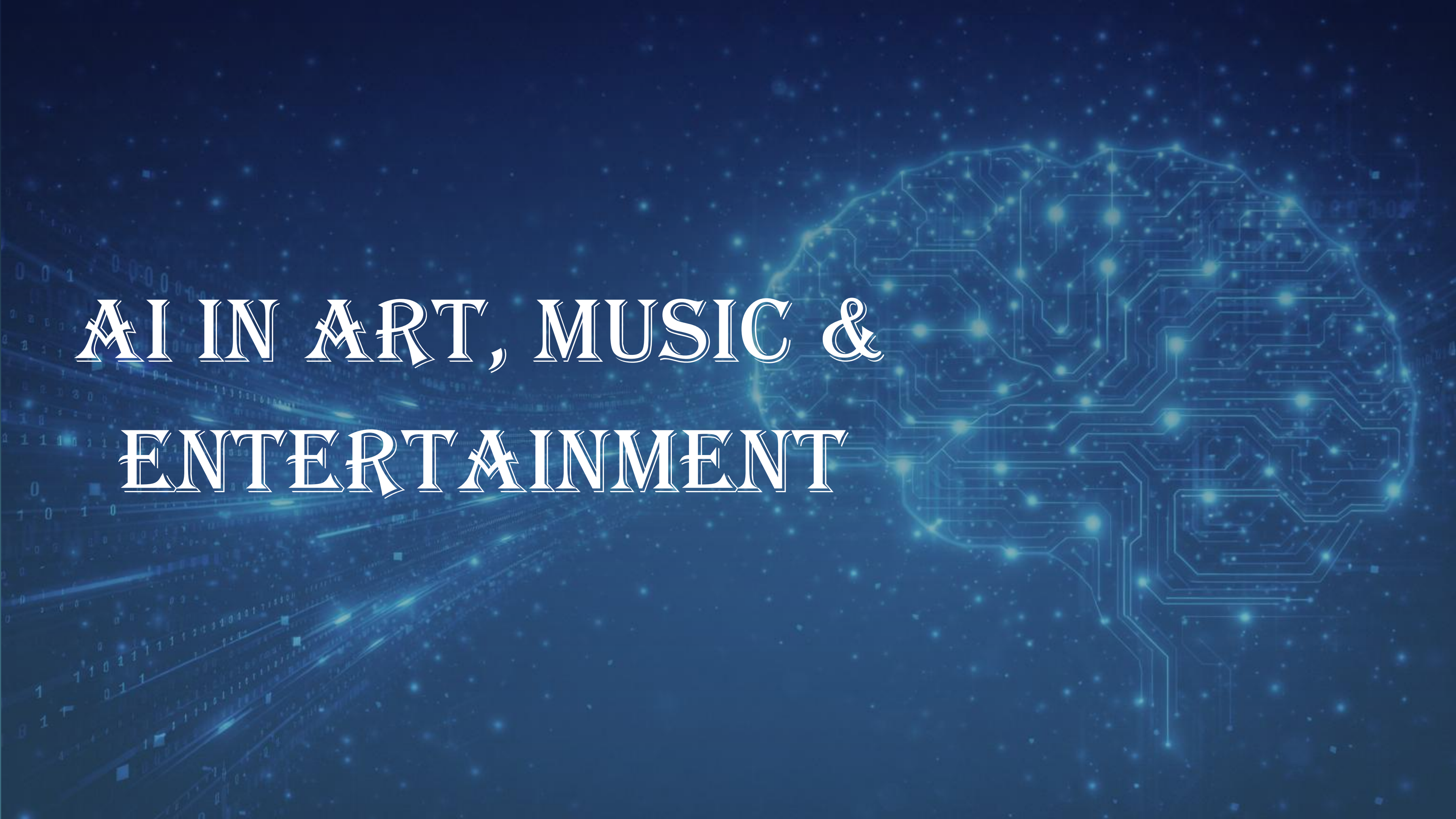
- Warehouse robots
- Manufacturing robots
- **Agricultural robots**
- Inspection drones (FEMA)
- Bomb disposal robots
- Autonomous military uses

AI in Robots & Autonomous Vehicles

SOCIAL & SERVICE ROBOTS



- Elder care robots
- Hospital service robots
- Restaurant and hotel service robots
- Home assistant robots
- Retail and customer service robots
- Companion / therapy robots



AI IN ART, MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

AI - The Impact on Creativity

AI is transforming writing, art, music, film, and entertainment.



- 🎬 Feature-length AI movies and programs
- 🎭 Digital actors and de-aging
- 🎵 AI-generated music and voices
- 🎨 AI-created art and images
- 📖 AI-assisted writing and game design
- 🎥 AI-generated short and feature films
- 🚀 Creative tools are improving rapidly

When AI Becomes the Artist

Who creates? Who owns? Who decides?



- 🤔 Is AI-generated art really art?
- 👁️ What if we can't tell the difference?
- 🎭 Could we have AI-generated stars?
- 🎵 Could AI create new Beatles music?
- 🎨 What happens to human artists?
- ⚖️ Who owns AI-created content?
- 💬 What remains uniquely human?

AI in Medicine & Healthcare



AI in Medicine & Healthcare

Could your smartwatch, phone, and home AI become your primary care advisor when something feels wrong?

Can AI Improve Healthcare?

Cost

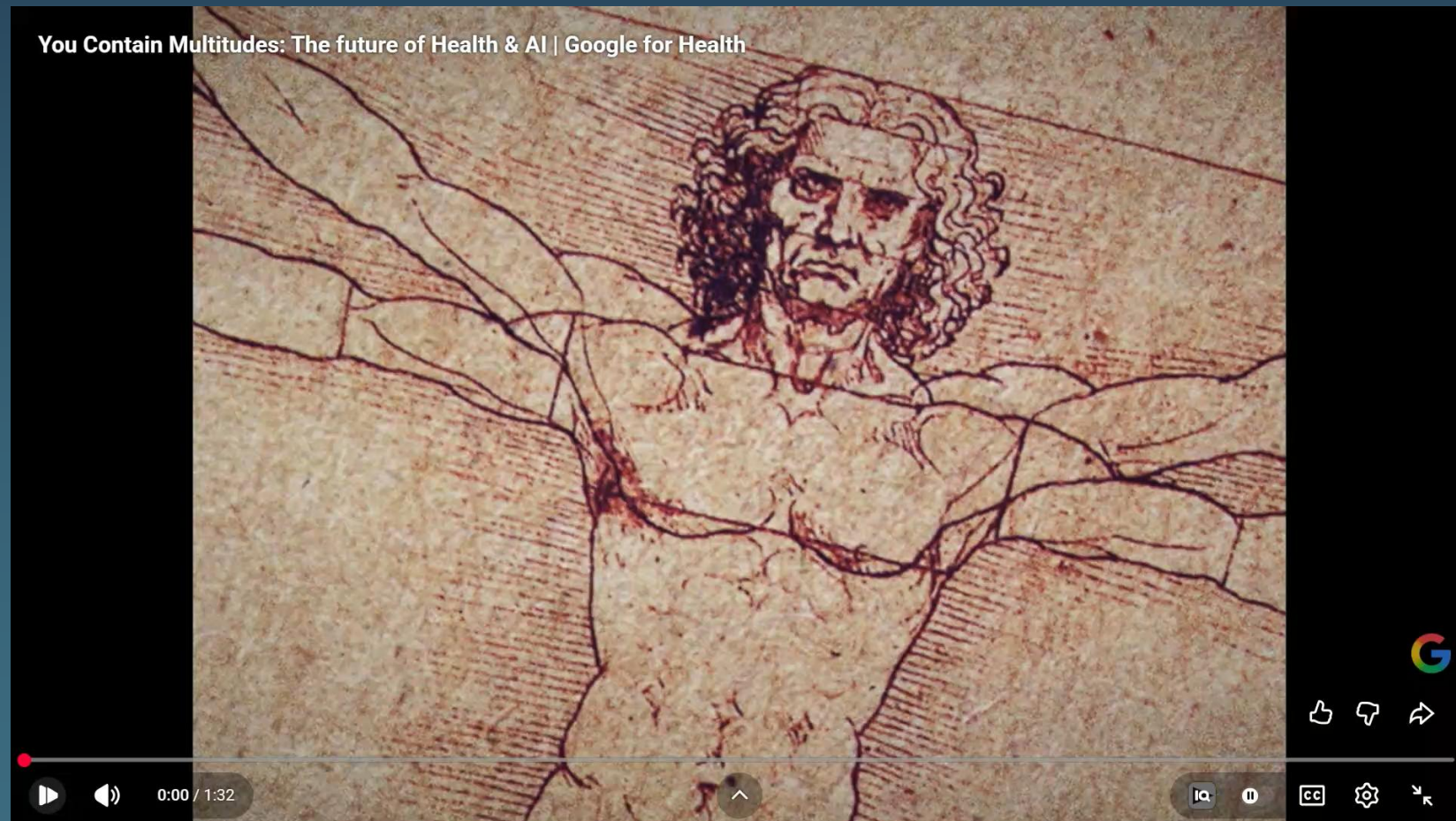
- Automating diagnostics and administration
- Faster drug discovery

Access

- Telemedicine and AI assistants
- Remote monitoring and triage

Time with Doctors

- AI handling paperwork and notes
- Decision support tools for doctors



AI in Medicine & Healthcare

DIAGNOSTICS



- Cancer detection in scans
- Stroke detection in brain scans
- Pathology slide analysis
- Diabetic eye disease screening
- Disease risk prediction
- Prioritizing urgent medical cases

AI in Medicine & Healthcare

TREATMENT



- Robot-assisted surgery
- Treatment decision support
- Cures for chronic diseases
- AI telemedicine assistants
- Remote patient monitoring
- Radiation therapy planning

AI in Medicine & Healthcare

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE



- Genetic-based treatments
- Rapid drug development
- Mutation-targeted cancer therapies
- Individual treatment plans
- Predicting drug side effects
- Personalized prevention strategies



AI in Education

AI in Education

AI AS A PERSONAL TUTOR



- AI tutors explain concepts in multiple ways
- Students learn at their own pace
- Instant answers to questions
- Unlimited practice problems
- Personalized study plans
- Available 24/7

AI in Education

AI HELPING TEACHERS



- Create lesson plans and teaching materials
- Generate quizzes and worksheets
- Assist with grading assignments
- Provide feedback on student writing
- Translate lessons into multiple languages
- Identify struggling students early

AI in Education

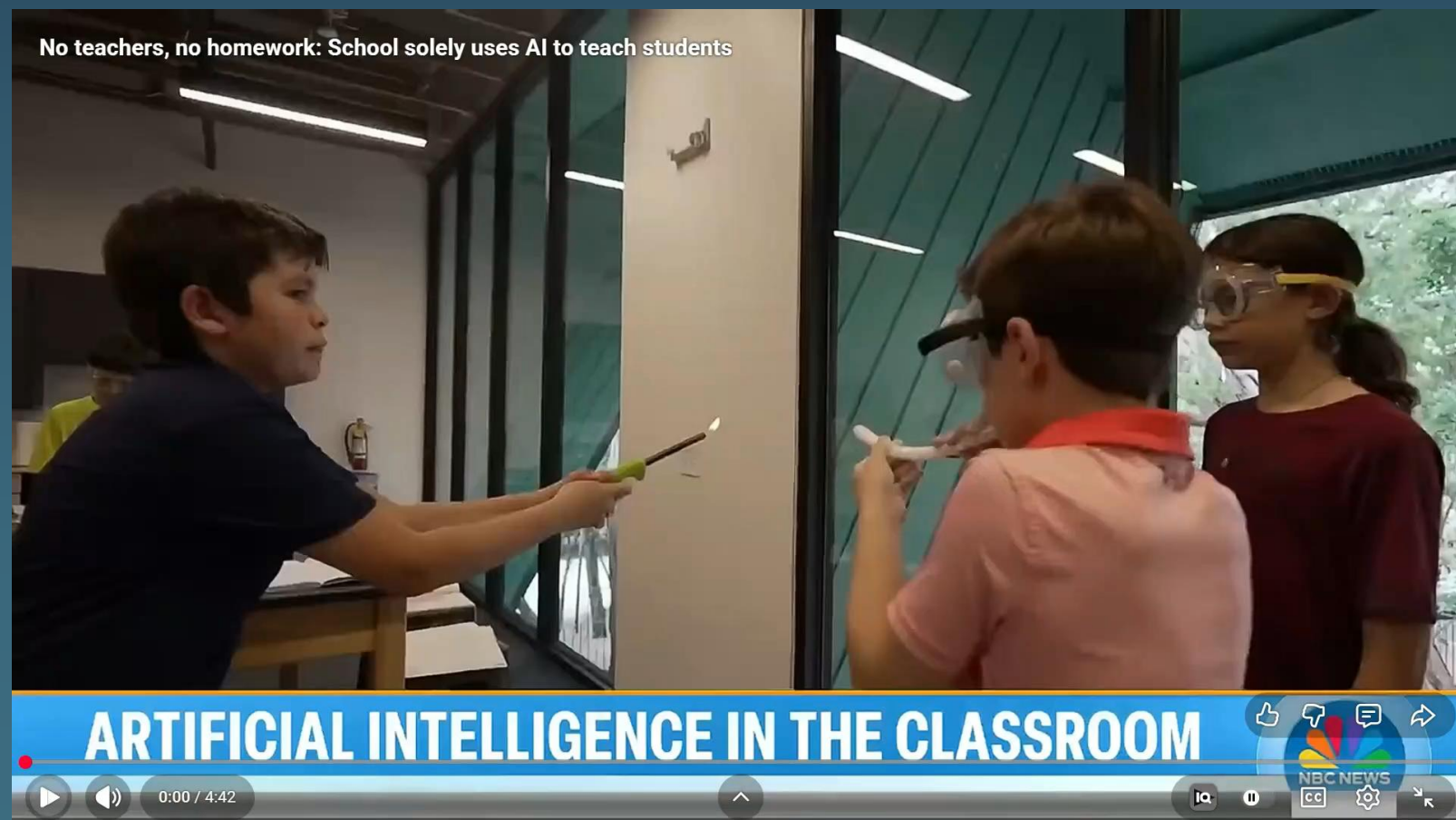
CHANGING HOW STUDENTS LEARN

- Individualized homework problems
- Focused study guides
- AI practice tests before exams
- Interactive learning simulations
- Language conversation partners
- Accessibility tools for disabilities



AI in Education

If every student has an AI tutor, what becomes the role of teachers and schools? Will teachers become coaches instead of lecturers?



If AI can explain anything, write anything, and answer any question... what skills will future teachers actually need?

AI in the Workplace



AI in the Workplace

We are entering the biggest change to work since the Industrial Revolution.



What will work look like for our children and grandchildren?

AI in the Workplace

THE RISE OF THE AI KNOWLEDGE WORKER

- AI as the legal assistant
- AI as the software developer
- AI as the consultant
- AI as the journalist
- AI as the educator
- AI as the business analyst
- AI as the HR representative
- AI as the customer service agent



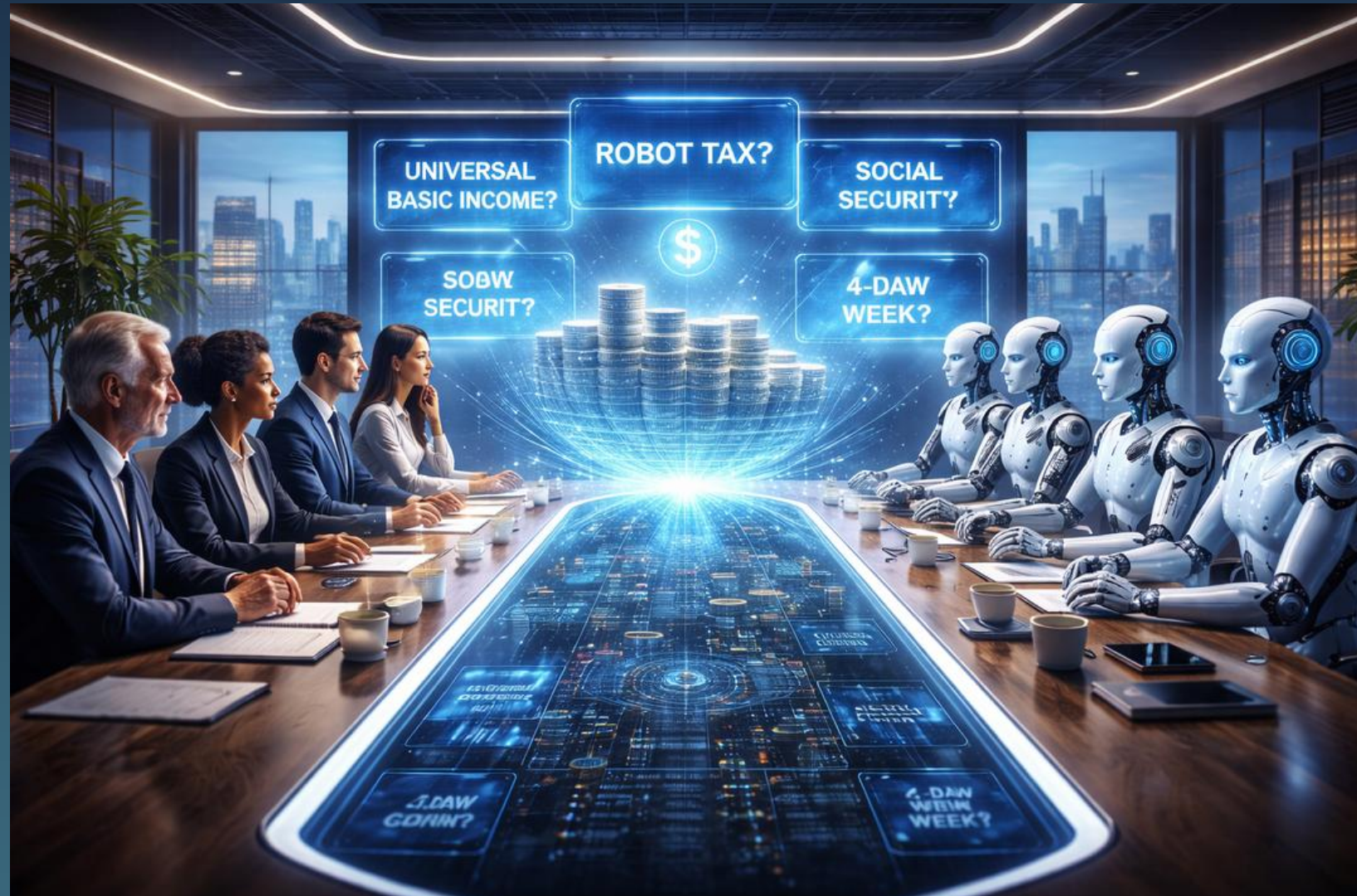
AI in the Workplace

PRODUCTIVITY EXPLOSION - MORE & FASTER

- Massive productivity gains
- Smaller teams
- Bigger output
- Fewer workers needed
- AI skills essential
- New roles will emerge



AI in the Workplace

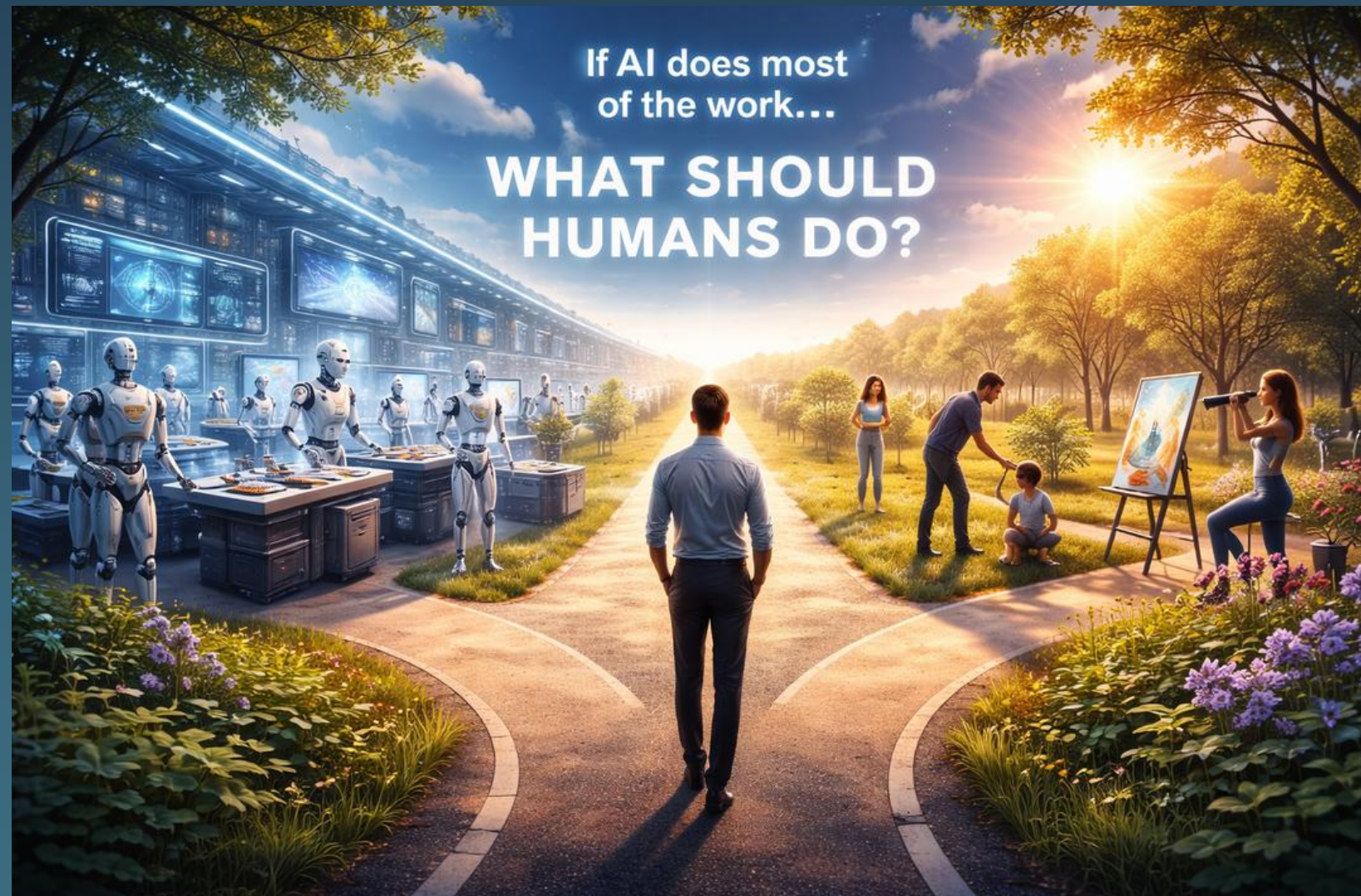


ECONOMIC & SOCIAL QUESTIONS

- Who earns the income?
- Should AI pay taxes?
- Robots pay Social Security?
- Universal basic income?
- National income floor?
- Work fewer hours?

AI in the Workplace

AI may fundamentally change the relationship between work and income.



If AI systems produce more and more of the work, the big question becomes: Who receives the income from that work?"



AI in the Military

AI in the Military

AI IN THE MILITARY: THE BIG SHIFT



- Autonomous drones and swarms
- AI-assisted battlefield intelligence
- Cyber warfare powered by AI
- Faster decision-making systems
- Simulation and training

AI in the Military

THE BIG QUESTIONS

- Can autonomous weapons be controlled?
- Will AI make wars more likely or less likely?
- Who sets the rules for military AI?
- Who is responsible when AI makes a mistake?
- Could AI make conflicts happen faster?
- Who controls the guiderrails





**Who is in
Control?**

Who controls AI?

Who Controls the Most Powerful Technology Ever Created?



Do we even know?

Can it be controlled?

Who controls AI?

Government Control (China - Russia etc)



- State-directed AI strategy
- State-funded and prioritized
- Tech aligned with government
- Surveillance and security focus
- National priorities drive innovation

Who controls AI?

Corporate Control (USA)



- Private companies build the AI
- IP is owned privately
- A few firms dominate the field
- Powerful CEOs shape decisions
- Leaders are not publicly elected

Should a few tech leaders shape the future of AI?

Who controls AI?

Decentralized and Open Source (No Control)



- Openly downloadable
- Few restrictions or guidelines
- Very little global regulation
- Hard to control misuse
- Deepfakes and misinformation

Who controls AI?

When AI Control Collides



Final Thoughts



Thinking About AI



Who thinks AI will mostly improve Life?

Who thinks AI will bring almost insurmountable problems?

ANY QUESTIONS



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