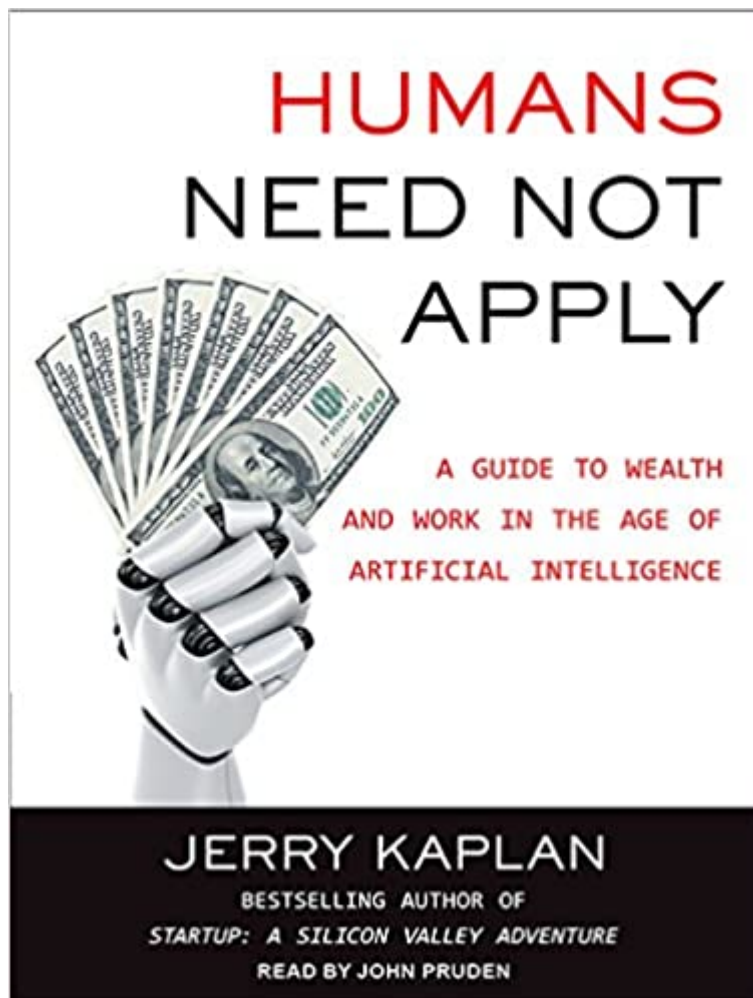




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Humans Need Not Apply: A Guide To Wealth And Work In The Age Of Artificial Intelligence



Synopsis

After billions of dollars and fifty years of effort, researchers are finally cracking the code on artificial intelligence. As society stands on the cusp of unprecedented change, Jerry Kaplan unpacks the latest advances in robotics, machine learning, and perception powering systems that rival or exceed human capabilities. Driverless cars, robotic helpers, and intelligent agents that promote our interests have the potential to usher in a new age of affluence and leisure-but as Kaplan warns, the transition may be protracted and brutal unless we address the two great scourges of the modern developed world: volatile labor markets and income inequality. He proposes innovative, free-market adjustments to our economic system and social policies to avoid an extended period of social turmoil. His timely and accessible analysis of the promise and perils of artificial intelligence is a must-listen for business leaders and policy makers on both sides of the aisle.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This accessible and timely work is suitable for technology enthusiasts and those readers with an interest in the application of robotics and AI to the workforce of the future." ---Library Journal

Jerry Kaplan is widely known in the computer industry as a serial entrepreneur, technical innovator, and bestselling author. He is currently a fellow at the Center for Legal Informatics at Stanford University and teaches ethics and impact of artificial intelligence in the Computer Science Department. John Pruden is a professional voice actor who records audiobooks, corporate and online training narrations, animation and video game characters, and radio and TV commercials. An

AudioFile Earphones Award winner, John has a solid creative foundation from which to draw for his intelligent audiobook narrations.

Jerry Kaplan does for the future what Jared Diamond did for the past: He pulls together our human (or humanoid) fate in sparkling, often hilarious, prose. Kaplan begins by offering the non scientific reader (me) a clear overview of the AI advances that are poised to make human workers obsolete--offering eye popping examples explaining how the pace of technology is destined to overwhelm the human landscape of life and work. He then charts the changes that span FAR more than driverless cars. Mechanical robots (or what Kaplan calls "forged intelligences") will be more adept (and, of course, far more cost effective) than humans at performing every routine job from collecting our garbage to stocking our grocery shelves (and make those physical stores quaint relics of the past). "Synthetic intelligences" (machines that think and analyze information) will outwit humans at making complex diagnoses or writing legal briefs--automating out many of the hapless law school or medical students spending decades accumulating those mountainous student debts .So far readers may be saying " I know all that stuff". Actually, you don't. The real gem of this book is that Kaplan CALCULATES how many people enter the workforce with those mountains of debt and compares their expected salaries. He analyzes the current employment situation for new law school grads and other "knowledge workers". He offers a wealth of data documenting how many jobs are going to be lost... beginning with that prime exemplar (AKA job wrecker), . I always wanted to know how evolved, the truth about this behemoth's business model, and how many jobs has automated out... In this book you will actually get these statistics and much more, as well as learning exactly why those standard government "job growth projection" stats are apt to be totally wrong. In other words, as you read in these other reviews , this book is all about income inequalities and what we can do to in Kaplan's words to slow the transition to making "America the Land of the Pharaohs" (You ain't seen nothing yet). In fact the chapter--of this title- describing the lifestyles of Kaplan and his much richer colleagues versus one of his hardworking employees is the best in- the- flesh description of income inequalities I've read. Kaplan has the huge advantage of personally knowing these billionaire Silicon Valley movers and shakers--in addition to having a birds eye seat on how these technologies evolved. But, most important, he has a gift for bringing it all home through creative analogies and zinger-like sentences that had me rolling on the floor. So if you like Jared Diamond, or even if you don't know who he is, you will LOVE this landmark book. P.S. I've omitted the fact that Kaplan also suggests answers.. that is, he devises highly innovative policy suggestions to make playing field less steep that come closer to attacking the roots of the problem

and go well beyond the current mantras such as increasing access to college or raising the minimum wage.....

This was an eye-opening book. It focuses new developments in artificial intelligence under the lenses of ethics and economics. As someone who develops automation software and language-processing algorithms on social media, I only wish that the author would have gone more in-depth with the implications of how computers/algorithms are already contributing to the social network banter and online comment threads that many of us assume are humans at keyboards (much of this content is already automated). Perhaps that's another book in the making, and I'd love to read more about how algorithms (i.e., bots) influence interpersonal communications. Please respond with future reading recommendations if you have them! Overall, it was a great read! I'd recommend it to anyone who is interested in how technology will influence our economy and culture in years to come. You might not come away with a clear idea of viable career options, but you will certainly gain a better understanding of the roles that are in danger of becoming obsolete in the coming decades.

This is a surprisingly good book. I say "surprisingly" because a lot of books by former entrepreneurs, even those with 5 star ratings, are not so good, and the ratings are provided by pals, wannabes or sock puppets. But this book actually is refreshingly original and level headed. Jerry's macro-economic advice is off-base in my view, but I don't have any better ideas. His perspective on AI is of the hard-won, practical variety. He has a very naive view of what 300 or 400K will buy you in the real world, probably as a result of having made enough of a pile to buy a big house in Los Altos or wherever back in the day. He name drops and sort of boasts about his wealth in a way, but that's to be expected, I suppose. I would take off a half star for that, but doesn't give that option.

Interesting to say the least. With TV shows like 'Humans' which features 'synths' and other shows featuring AI, this book by Jerry Kaplan hits the spot. I agree that many professions will be taken over by synths, but the author is a little amiss when he refers to the flipped classroom model in higher education. It takes a lot more preparation and is far from automated. A good read nevertheless.

Although I don't think any of Jerry's ideas of redistributing future income equitably is something those in control of policies care about at all. Noble thought nonetheless.

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