

Q & A FOR GEORGE J. CHANOS

Question

In an introduction to your book is the phrase: "To survive and thrive in the 21st Century, you will need to pivot and adapt to a rapidly and radically changing environment. You will need to engage in a process of lifelong learning, unlearning and re-learning. And you will need to learn how to think critically and guard against misinformation, all while surfing a tsunami of technological change." In what ways does your book address this? Why is this so imperative for ALL to know?

Answer

In 2014, Stephen Hawking said that success in creating AI would be "the biggest event in human history."

Ray Kurzweil, the head of AI for Google, says that AI will eclipse human intelligence by 2029. Kurzweil predicts that by the 2040s, AI will be a billion times more capable than human intelligence.

We lack the intellectual capacity to even comprehend what this could mean to humanity, but one thing is clear, this represents a technological tsunami on the immediate horizon. This technological tsunami will affect all of us.

In January 2016, the World Economic Forum issued a report titled *The Future of Jobs*, which says, "The Fourth Industrial Revolution, which includes developments in previously disjointed fields such as artificial intelligence and machine-learning, robotics, nanotechnology, 3-D printing, genetics and biotechnology, will cause widespread disruption not only to business models but also to labor markets over *the next five years*, with enormous change predicted in the skill sets needed to thrive in the new landscape." Millions of jobs will be lost to automation over the next ten years. *Millennial Samurai* shows you what jobs will and won't be available for humans, what skills sets will be needed for those jobs, and how to develop those skills sets.

The disruption, that we are certain to experience, will impact a public that is already economically insecure. America has historically experienced rising wages, it was the foundation of the middle class. For millions of Americans, life got better with each year as the value of their wages increased and our economy grew. This is no longer happening. The middle class is disappearing. For most Americans, real wages have been stagnant or falling for decades. We now have the highest-ever percentage of

people on food stamps— double the historical rate. Economic insecurity creates social and political instability. And this instability can be agitated and exploited by hostile actors using social media to weaponize misinformation. Again, these issues will affect all of us. Millennial Samurai makes you aware of how and why your brain is susceptible to manipulation, how we are likely to be manipulated, and how to guard against that manipulation and find the truth.

Social media is the first wave of the technological revolution. There are over 2 billion people on Facebook alone, and social media platforms like Facebook, are already being used to shape public opinion. Moreover, our knowledge of the brain, and the technology available for manipulation, has increased exponentially over the last decade. Success and survival in the 21st century will require an ability to acquire, analyze and integrate diverse sources of information, while guarding against misinformation. It will require critical thinking. And critical thinking is in decline. As Justice Souter warned, "our republican government isn't threatened by foreign invasion or a military coup, but by civic ignorance". This is especially true when misinformation is weaponized, and intentionally deployed in highly targeted, disinformation campaigns. Again, these issues will affect all of us. Millennial Samurai teaches you how to think critically and guard against misinformation.

James Wolfensohn, the former chairman of the World Bank, warned in his farewell speech to the bank two decades ago that the problem that disturbed him the most when contemplating the future of the world economy was corruption. Studies have shown that we are now more polarized as a nation, than at any time since the civil war. America is now divided into two groups, Republicans and Democrats. In 1961, James Stoner released a groundbreaking study which showed that groups actually make more polarized decisions than individuals do. In the early 1970s, Yale University psychologist Irving Janis found that certain conditions can lead to a particularly extreme form of polarization called "groupthink" during which an illusion of consensus takes over. Factors that lead to groupthink include members being close-knit and like-minded, a group leader who makes his or her position known and the group being shut off from other influences and opinions. These conditions exist today. At a time when we should be planning and preparing, we are instead divided by race, age, sex, religion, economics and identity politics. And we are paralyzed by political corruption, division and dysfunction. The institutions that should be acting as our first line of defense, our elected representatives, are instead contributing to our division and decline. While the institutions that should be acting as our last line of defense, a free and robust press, are instead engaged in a search for ratings, which is fueling, rather than reducing our polarization. These issues are already affecting all of us by creating an intensely divided nation. We see it in the news everyday.

These are the issues that we should all be discussing and debating. Bill Gates said, "I don't know why more people aren't talking about it."

Millennial Samurai addresses all of these issues and many others. It is the most complete and comprehensive book on the market to assist Millennials with creating a healthy mindset, developing core values, understanding core principles, recognizing the need for critical thinking, and gaining a working knowledge of the most fundamental and important issues that Millennials are likely to face over the next thirty years.

What is perhaps most unique and important about Millennial Samurai is that it is not just about providing information or knowledge. Information and knowledge are available from Google. Millennial Samurai goes well beyond providing information. It teaches you how to develop intelligence, awareness, and insight. It shows you how to learn and approach problem solving with an open mind and a helicopter perspective that allows you to see the big picture. It teaches you how to pivot and adapt to changing circumstances. It shows you how to find opportunity in adversity. It shows you how to enhance and build your resilience. It encourages you to engage in a process of lifelong learning, unlearning and re-learning. It teaches you how to develop a successful, optimistic, grateful and compassionate mindset, that will allow you to think critically and guard against misinformation, all while surfing a tsunami of technological change.

Reading Millennial Samurai and embracing its teachings, will not only enhance your ability to survive and thrive in 21st Century. It will help you to lead a happier, more successful and more meaningful life today. It is a book that everyone should read.

It is especially important for parents who want their children to have a better life in a world that will include incredible new opportunities and challenges - a world that will look nothing like our past.