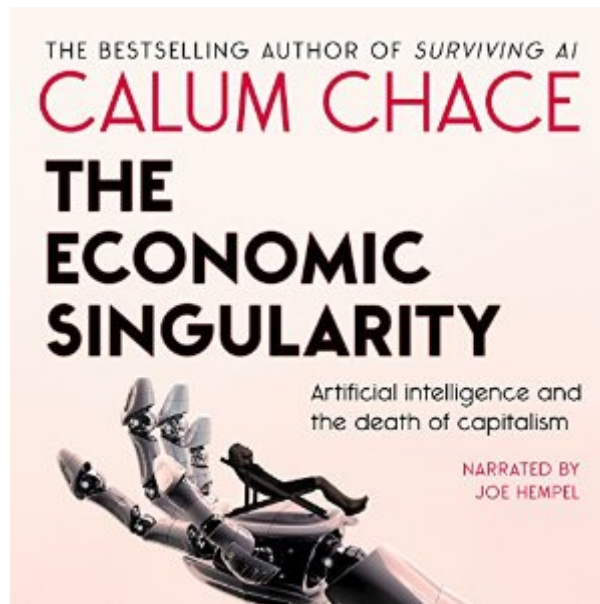


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The Economic Singularity: Artificial Intelligence And The Death Of Capitalism



Synopsis

Artificial intelligence (AI) is overtaking our human ability to absorb and process information. Robots are becoming increasingly dexterous, flexible, and safe to be around (except the military ones). AI is our most powerful technology, and you need to understand it. This new book from best-selling author Calum Chace argues that within a few decades, most humans will not be able to work for money. Self-driving cars will probably be the canary in the coal mine, providing a wake-up call for everyone who isn't yet paying attention. All jobs will be affected, from fast food McJobs to lawyers and journalists. This is the single most important development facing humanity in the first half of the 21st century. The fashionable belief that universal basic income is the solution is only partly correct. We are probably going to need an entirely new economic system, and we better start planning soon - for the economic singularity! The outcome can be very good; a world in which machines do all the boring jobs and humans do pretty much what they please. But there are major risks, which we can only avoid by being alert to the possible futures and planning how to avoid the negative ones.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 15 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Three Cs

Audible.com Release Date: July 27, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01J4K2SIS

Best Sellers Rank: #32 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Computers #194

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Social Science #790 in Books > Computers & Technology

Customer Reviews

Calum Chace is a British futurist whose most recent book, *Surviving AI*, introduces us to the potential changes that will be wrought by the coming of Artificial Intelligence (AI). His newest soon to be released *The Economic Singularity* is an attempt to awaken us to the potentially dramatic impact that intelligent machines will have on society in the (potentially) near future. With all the other world problems on our minds, Artificial Intelligence and the emerging supercomputers have not really

taken up a lot of our worry-time. That is, unless you're a professional futurist working in the area of emerging technologies. For Calum Chace, these concerns are central. As a result he's read widely on the subject and explored a lot of territory that most people have been unaware even existed. The author's biggest concern is not a Terminator-style "rise of the machines." Rather, it's the matter of mass unemployment as machines replace increasing numbers of humans in the job market. One of the strong features of this book is that though the author himself clearly has a position on these matters, he takes great pains to quote opposing points of view. Many are pessimistic about the future but there are many equally optimistic. Chace shows how some of the labor-saving benefits of machines will result in problems if we do not reconsider our current form of Capitalism. His recommendation, one that he is not alone in dispensing, is that we create a Universal Basic Income (UBI) to ensure that all basic needs are met, but he may be alone in cautioning (a) that it may be too early for this and (b) that it probably won't be enough, that we will actually need a new form of economy.

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