Human intelligence makes a very broad range of life outcomes better.

It's the lever that we have used for millennia to create the world we live in today

What AI offers us is the opportunity to profoundly **augment** human intelligence.

In the new era of AI, every child and adult will have a teacher/coach/mentor/assistant that is infinitely patient, compassionate, knowledgeable and helpful.

With AI we will be able to take on new challenges that have been impossible to tackle without AI, from curing all diseases to achieving interstellar travel.

It will even improve war, until now reliant on highly flawed humans making flawed decisions with limited information.

It's the most important – and best – thing our civilization has ever created. We have a moral obligation to proliferate it.

So why is everyone freaking out?

It's simple. *Every* new technology that matter has sparked a moral panic (check out https://pessimistsarchive.org/)

Throughout history, we've had:
- Baptists, who genuinely believe we need restrictions to prevent social disaster
- Bootleggers, who promote regulations because they benefit from it

Even when the baptists are right - bootleggers typically win.

For example, in 2008, baptists told us we need to break up the banks to avoid a similar scenario in the future. But the Dodd-Frank Act actually benefited the Big Banks - the bootleggers.

So - Fear #1: Will AI kill us all?

The fear that technology will destroy us is coded in our culture. Examples reach as far back as Prometheus - who was condemned to torture for bringing fire to man.

But AI is not a living being. It's math - code - computers by, owned, used and controlled by people.

AI doesn't have goals or desires. It's a machine that won't come alive more than your toaster will.

Baptists' calls to ban it are non-scientific. Their only argument is "you can't prove it won't happen" - not "how do we know when we are getting into a danger zone?"

Instead, AI risk has become an apocalypse cult that's now in the public conversation. It pulls in industry experts and wealthy donors, like Sam Bankman-Fried.

But they've pulled themselves into a frenzy of their own making.

Fear #2: Will AI ruin our society?

On the one hand, every country makes at least some content illegal.

On the other hand, the slippery slope is real. Once some restrictions are in place, government agencies and activists will demand more censorship and "alignment".

But most people don't agree with "AI alignment" based on the values of a few coastal elites.

Don't let the thought police suppress AI.

Fear #3: Will AI take all our jobs?

Every new major technology in history has led to more jobs at higher wages.

Yet every wave of innovation is deemed to be "the one that finally delivers the blow to human labor."

Remember the outsourcing panic of the 2000s or the automation panic of the 2010s.

This time is no different. In fact, AI could cause the most dramatic economic boom of all time.

That's because:

Technology applied to production → productivity growth → lower prices → extra spending power → increased demand → new production → new jobs for people replaced by machines in other jobs.

These new jobs have higher wages too because they'll be more productive.

(read the Curse of Machinery and Bastiat's Callemaker's Petition for more detail).

"But what happens if ALL human labor was replaced by machines?"

Productivity would skyrocket. Prices would drop to near 0. Consumer spending would skyrocket. New demand would explode. Entrepreneurs would create new products and services. It's a straight-up spiral to a material utopia neither Adam Smith nor Karl Marx ever dared dream of.

Fear 4#: Will AI lead to crippling inequality?

That's the classic Marxist fear that owners of the means of production would steal all the wealth from the people who do the actual work.

But as an owner of technology, it's your interest to sell to as many consumers as possible.

A classic example is Elon's plan for Tesla:

Step 1: Build [expensive] sports car

Step 2: Use that money to build an affordable car

Step 3: Use that money to build an even more affordable car

Elon Musk became the richest man in the world by selling to the largest market possible - the world.

In the end, everyone gets access - as happened with electricity, cars, radio, computers, Internet, phones, search engines, etc.

Customers capture most of the value.

(inequality instead is driven by sectors most resistant to technology which have the most government intervention - i.e. housing, education and health care).

Fear #5: Will AI lead to bad people doing bad things?

Yes. All tools can be used to do both good and bad things, and AI is no exception.

But that doesn't mean we should ban it.

Instead, we should:
- Ban illegal use cases of AI-assistance (e.g. hacking into the Pentagon).
- Build new systems that solve the problems of AI *(e.g. cryptographic signatures to verify people and content)*
- Put AI to work for legitimate defensive purposes *(cyber/bio-defense, counter-terrorism, etc.)*

The Actual Risk of AI

AI is being developed not just by the West, but also by China - as a mechanism for authoritarian population control, proliferated around the world (using their 5G networks, their Belt & Road partners, their apps like TikTok, etc.)

The biggest risk of AI is that it gets dominated by China.

We need to lean into AI as hard as we can.

What can we do?

1) Allow big AI companies to build AI as fast and aggressively as they can without achieving regulatory capture.
2) Allow startup AI companies to build AI as fast and aggressively as they can.
3) Allow open-source AI should to freely proliferate and compete with both big AI and startups.
4) Combine the power of the private sector and government to use AI to maximize society's defensive capabilities.

5) Use the full power of the private sector and government to drive American and Western AI to absolute global dominance, including inside China itself. We win, they lose.

It's time to build, 2036ers!