

Artificial Intelligence

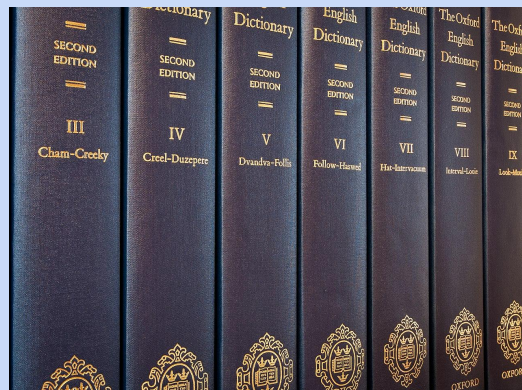
Bill's World-Class English Class Conversation Kickstarter #52 (Version 1.7)



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Let's talk about the future of artificial intelligence (or is AI the future, period?!)

I. Valuable Vocabulary (Which of these terms are you not familiar with?)



(Credit: [mrpolyonymous](#) - Flickr)

1. [adjoining](#)
2. [algorithms](#)
3. [artificial intelligence](#)
4. [bubble](#)
5. [bullish](#)
6. [canine](#)
7. [contribute](#)
8. [disturbing](#)
9. [enslave](#)
10. [extremism](#)

11. [hegemonic](#)
12. [humanoid](#)
13. [influencing](#)
14. [institutional](#)
15. [ironically](#)
16. [leakage](#)
17. [legislative](#)
18. [lumping](#)
19. [pacifist](#)

20. [pilotless](#)
21. [plowing](#)
22. [positioned](#)
23. [potentialities](#)
24. [proposal](#)
25. [reappropriating](#)
26. [robot](#)
27. [securities](#)
28. [simulated](#)
29. [unemployment](#)

II. Artificial Intelligence and Human Unemployment



The first and most immediate threat from artificial intelligence (AI) that comes to most minds is the threat of unemployment. Many people fear that one day soon their job will be performed by a machine.

1. Do you think that your job could be done by a computer program? Would a physical robot be needed?
2. A pattern throughout history is that workers replaced by the “creative destruction” of new technology often go on to find new opportunities (e.g., workers no longer busy plowing fields found work driving trucks full of grain to flour mills). If you were to lose your job to a machine, what would you do next?

III. Artificial Intelligence and the Stock Market

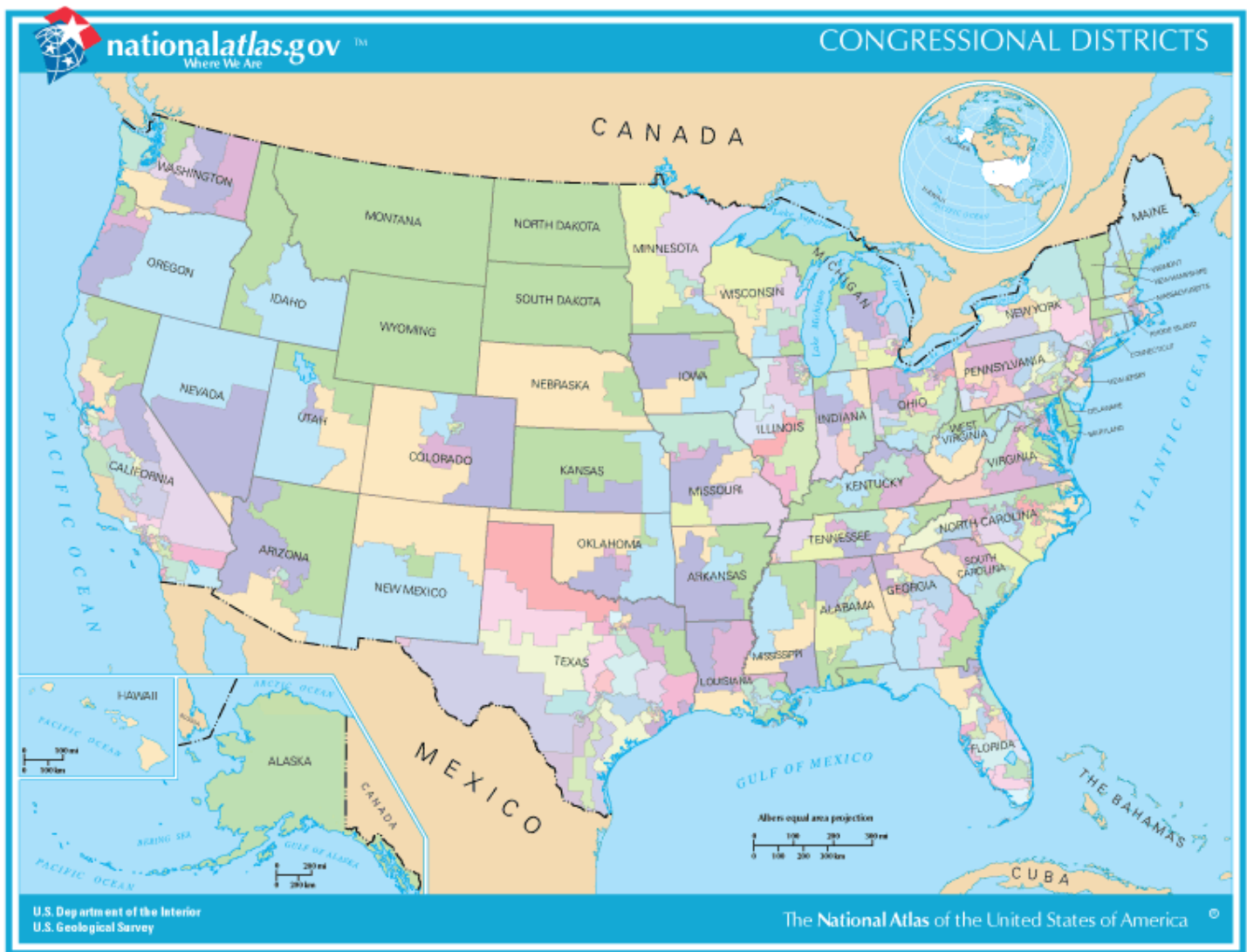


(Credit: [Katrina Tuliao / Flickr](#))

As of 2023, stock markets are generally [bullish](#) on tech stocks (i.e., the stocks of high-tech companies such as [Alphabet](#) and [Microsoft](#)) out of the belief that any company positioned to offer AI products will do well in the future. Ironically, there's a darker and potentially more dangerous connection between AI and securities: as early as 1987, computers (i.e., AI) [almost crashed modern capitalism with automatic trading algorithms](#).

1. How strong are the stock or bond markets in your own country? Would you invest in them yourself?
2. Some institutional investors think that [we're in an AI stock bubble](#). Do you agree?

IV. AI as an Answer to Political Extremism?



It could be argued that early forms of artificial intelligence have been used by the major US political parties to draw US House congressional districts in their favor (since [at least 1965](#), computer programs have been used to draw legislative districts, often with an eye on, say, lumping the other party's voters into a single super-majority district to prevent them from influencing elections in adjoining districts). From [time](#) to [time](#) there's been an "if you can't beat them, join them" response to this, in the form of proposals for districts drawn fairly using AI.

1. How are representatives in your country's legislature chosen? Do you feel like your rep speaks for you?
2. It could also be argued that politicians being able to choose their voters, versus voters being able to choose their politicians, [has contributed to the political divide in the US](#). Do you think this could be true?

V. Killer Robots



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While humanoid killer robots (akin to the above *Star Wars* video game character) might still be a few years off, the present reality might be more profound, and perhaps disturbing for some: the US Air Force [pulled off the first pilotless flight](#) just days before this writing, and even the militaries of much smaller nations are [shifting towards AI](#). The recent Netflix documentary [Unknown: Killer Robots](#) outlines potentialities rapidly being turned into realities, among them AI-flown fighter jets routinely defeating [Top Gun](#)-level pilots in simulated air combat.

1. Does your own country have a strong military? Is there a strong pacifist movement in your country?
2. The first AI-flown plane was named “[Valkyrie](#).” Do you think this is a case of [psychological leakage](#) on the part of the hegemonic American military, or a case of reappropriating a [defeated enemy’s imagery](#)?

VI. A.I. Artificial Intelligence (2001) - Official Trailer

Dog owners often become attached to “man’s best friend” in spite of themselves. Could a new “species” that happens to be artificial intelligence try to pull off the canine trick of creating emotional bonds with humans?

Let’s watch this trailer for the 2001 Steven Spielberg film A.I.!



1. Did you ever have a loved one that turned out to be dangerous? Do you think you could ever have the same [feelings for something](#) that you know is a machine as you’ve had for your favorite pet?
2. Some think AI could destroy us, enslave us, or serve us coffee. What other possibilities might exist?

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