

What AI tells us about capitalism

REGULATE US, PLEASE!



On September 9th, AI researcher Jacob Coxon resigned from Anthropic. In his resignation letter, he said:



Jacob Coxon ✓
@hilbertspaess

...

The people building AI earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade. This is not a marketing stunt. If anything, many executives and senior researchers will couch their phrasing in the press to sound sensible - but I hear the same people express fear privately. No other human activity poses this level of danger.

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In response, Evan Hubinger, the alignment science* lead at Anthropic, said:



Evan Hubinger ✓
@EvanHub

...

Jacob is correct here—we really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans! I personally think it is >10% within the next decade. I believe Anthropic is trying its best, but we do not yet have a plan to solve alignment for superintelligence and are not clearly on track to.

***Note:** Alignment science is the study of how to make AI systems compliant with human values and ethics.



The existential nature of AI development is debatable.

But if we accept that there is some level of danger, then why are AI companies continuing to develop the technology? →



Market Anarchy

Under capitalism, production is not planned. Instead, individual companies compete with each other in a blind pursuit of profit. If one company falls behind, then it risks bankruptcy, threatening the class position of its owners.

Capitalists might be aware that what they're doing is immoral, but they have little choice but to compete if they want to avoid joining the ranks of the working class themselves.



Marx observed this dynamic in Volume 1 of *Capital*, noting how in 1836 over 20 different potteries in England asked the government for “some legislative enactment” against the use of child labour:

“Competition with other capitalists, they said, did not allow them to limit the hours worked by children voluntarily”



Dictatorship of Capital

In 2026, we find a similar situation: **tech barons asking to be regulated** so that they aren't 'forced' to go too far.

This reveals a deeper truth. **People have no democratic control over the development of AI. In some sense, those developing it don't either.** Capitalism compels a ruthless race forward regardless of the potentially catastrophic outcomes.



We must democratise not just AI, but the means of production in general. This is the only way to restore control over society and prevent our ruinous trajectory.