

I AM SO SICK OF AMERICAN SINGULARITY POLLYANNISTS

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Abstract

I am really tired of listening to the childlike naivety of American “singularity pollyannists.” I don’t deny the probable truth of what they say when they focus on the positive things that may come from accelerating future technologies (the “singularity” as Americans call it) in the coming decades, but I sneer increasingly at the narrowness and myopia of their thinking. Their childlike blindness to the possible extremely negative possibilities makes me increasingly impatient. It’s almost like a religion to them. They WANT to believe in all the wonderful benefits of future technologies, so their minds blot out the possibility that “all (technological) roads lead to the artelect” (artificial intellect, massively intelligent machine) and hence the strong likelihood of the worst war occurring that humanity has ever known over the issue of species dominance. Do these pollyannists truly believe that all of humanity is simply going to accept passively that humanity is to be superseded by the artelects/cyborgs without a fight? Do they? I’m looking forward to when China’s intellectuals get freedom of speech so that 1.4 billion of them can devote their intellects to the domination of the dominant 21st century debate on “species dominance” and bring their old world maturity to it, instead of the gullible naivety coming from the new world. This essay expresses my frustration with the current American dominance of the “species dominance debate” and hopes that China will take over

that role in the next decade or two, by ridding it of America's lack of sophistication and historical sense. This issue is too important to be sidetracked by "new world hicks" or as the French say (and I speak French) "petits cons americains."

1. Introduction

It is undeniable that future decades will give us miracles in technology. Moore's Law (which states that the number of transistors that one can cram onto a chip keeps doubling every year) has been valid now for nearly 50 years, and shows no sign of stopping. As soon as one technology exhausts its possibilities, a new one takes over. This has happened again and again. The result is the annual doubling speed of the internet; massively powerful computers capable of simulating the full operation of the human brain; etc. Soon we will have paper thin, wall size televisions in vivid 3D, bringing us (as I say myself in several essays and a book) all the world's media, creating a world language, a culturally homogenized global culture and a global government – hence no more wars, no arms trade, no ignorance, no poverty, all very optimistic and rosy, yes?

The American futurist pundits who talk about these things paint a very rosy picture, in their typical new world fashion, making all things sound wonderful and to be looked forward to with glee.

The old world cultures, on the other hand, are much less sanguine. I was recently in Paris, giving an invited talk on species dominance and the likelihood of a species dominance war, and was very happy to be met with what I felt to be a much more balanced view of the future. The old world cultures have a much longer cultural history and hence can balance the positive with the negative, since reality seems to be a real mixture of both. Old world cultures such as Europe and China have had major wars on their territories within living memory, so don't look on the future with the same level of

childlike gullibility as do Americans. White Americans have not had a *major* war on their territory ever (unless you call the US Civil War in the 1860s as major (i.e. about 600,000 killed, and spread over only about half a dozen states.) To get a sense of proportion, the “Taiping Rebellion” was going on at the same time in China, which killed 20 million. That was a *major* war. So were WW1 (20 million killed) and WW2 (50-100 million killed) confined largely to the Eurasian continent.

2. The “Multi” Viewpoint

When I listen to American singularity/futurist pundits, I feel like a ping pong ball bouncing back and forth between the narrow confines of two walls in the minds of these pundits. I find their thinking so narrow, so naïve, so gullible, so inferior, that I’m becoming increasingly sneering and becoming ever more vocal in expressing my frustration and growing contempt.

To explain why, I need to explain a bit about my multicultural background, because it is highly relevant to my views. I am a “multi” i.e. a multicultural person. I have lived in 7 countries (Australia, England, Holland, Belgium, Japan, America, China). I obviously see the world very differently from a “mono” i.e. a mono cultured person. As a multi, I look down on monos. I see them as unsophisticated, just as “city slickers” look down on “country bumpkins” and for the same reason. Country bumpkins are unsophisticated and limited in their life experiences and so are “monos.”

Monos are typically so ignorant of their lack of multicultural sophistication that they don’t even know they are unsophisticated until told so by the mults. To the mults, monos are “limited as individuals by the limitations of the one culture that programs them” whereas mults “benefit from the superiorities of several

cultures that program them.” Typically, when multis and monos confront each other, the narrow horizons of the monos bore and frustrate the multis. If a multi complains about the limitations and inferiorities of the culture of the mono, then the mono will only see a complaining multi and not have a clue what the multi is complaining about. The mono does not have the more sophisticated multicultural basis of comparison of the multi who can compare the inferior aspects of the culture of the mono with the superiorities of the other culture(s) that the multi has lived in. Such a multicultural basis for comparison lies outside the life experience of the mono.

I have written a whole book (my second) about all this, called (not surprisingly) “Multis and Monos : What the Multicultural Can Teach the Monocultural : Towards the Creation of a Global State” It is selling very poorly in the US, because compared to Europe, Americans are much more mono. They have to make a much greater effort to leave their huge country because America’s states (with all their monotonous Main Streets, in a zillion small towns, and their chain stores that are the same from coast to coast) are the size of Europe’s countries. Europeans can hop in their cars and drive for a few hours and be in another country with a different language and mentality. Americans can’t do that. European TV is not national any more and typically has the television of many other European countries in their TV cables. This is much less the case in the US.

American television is largely under corporate control, and makes its money from advertising. The IQ Bell curve ensures that the majority of US TV viewers are of average intelligence, situated in the peak of the Bell curve, and hence are called “peakers.” The morons and intellectuals are such a tiny minority of the general US population, that corporate controlled US television ignores them. These TV corporations are always competing with each other for viewers, and need to cut costs. One way to do this is to reduce the

number of foreign correspondents, by concentrating news items onto local (i.e. American) issues. The result is that Americans are poorly informed about how other countries think and feel. In this sense Americans are ignorant and gullible when it comes to multicultural thinking.

America's "peakered" media is so dumbed down, from the point of view of America's intellectuals, that they simply don't watch it. It insults their intelligence, but the result then is a much less sophisticated and informed American intelligentsia than say in Europe, where the media is controlled partly by governments which pitch the intellectual level of its television programs at not only the "peakers" but also to the "subs" and to the "sages." The result is that European intellectuals know hugely more about the world than their American equivalents.

Unfortunately, for the world, because of America's intellectual dominance, its intellectual leadership is greatly inferior to what it could have been, if the US were a far more sophisticated culture, which unfortunately it is not. The US is not really a country. It is more a continent, in fact (roughly speaking) the second largest country (in land mass) in the world (a position shared with Canada and China, which are both slightly bigger). Only Russia is a lot bigger than the US. The US has the third largest population in the world, at over 310 million. Only the giants of China and India are (a lot) larger. The US is also blessed with huge natural resources, and was colonized by the (democratic) British. It has therefore one of the highest standards of living (in purchasing power terms) in the world, and hence education is highly valued.

If one defines "sages" as the top 1% of the population in IQ terms, who have PhDs, have ideas, and write books about them, then such people are probably 1 in a 1000. The US therefore has about 300,000 such sages. China has (potentially) 1.4 million of them (more on that later.)

It is therefore not surprising, that the US currently dominates the world intellectual scene, because of its sheer numbers and the current historical reality. The 20th century was America's and the 21st will be China's but the transition is yet to be made.

From my own perspective, it is frustrating to see such a “parvenu” unsophisticated culture as the US become the dominant global intellectual power, an attitude certainly shared by the French, who are probably the most sophisticated people on the planet in my view. The Americans bring their lack of sophistication and gullibility to the global intellectual market place, and create a lot of frustration (and some admiration as well of course – the Americans do after all, dominate the Nobel and Abel Prizes) to the more sophisticated sages of other cultures.

But, from a multi's point of view, this current American intellectual dominance is a historical aberration, and will not last. It will be replaced by a far older, far larger culture, with a history that goes back 5000 years. I'm speaking of China, my next topic.

3. China, the Rising Dominant Intellectual Global Power

I really am impatient to see China rise. I would like it to take over the role from the US as the intellectual leader in the “species dominance debate” that will so dominate the history of the 21st century. But the US will remain the dominant intellectual power for several more decades at least. China has a lot of work to do to take over that prestigious role, but the cards are stacked in its favor.

For a start, the Chinese are smarter on average than the Americans. According to many world wide IQ measurement studies, the average IQ of Chinese (and Koreans, and Japanese) is 105,

whereas in the US it is only 100. If you shift the IQ Bell curve up 5 points, that has quite a significant impact on the number of geni in that smarter population (assuming the same population size.) But China has over 4 times the population of the US and its economic growth has been averaging about 10% for the past 3 decades (compared to America's average of only 3% over the same period.) Thus it is obvious that the US may be currently in a superior *position*, but China has a greatly superior *momentum*, and will probably overtake the US in a few decades on all counts.

It will be the largest economy in gross national product within a mere few years (by 2016 in purchasing power terms says the IMF). The eastern coastal cities of China, such as Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, etc will be reaching purchasing power parity with the US in a decade or so and then will sweep past the US. Their greater salaries will then attract the best brains in the world to come to China, and hence enhance China's growing reputation all the more.

The US has benefitted enormously from its superior salaries over the past half century. In today's science PhD programs in the US, most of these super bright students are NOT Americans. They are Asians, who will return to Asia with their knowledge, leaving Americans in their obese self complacency, until the shit really hits the fan, which is starting to happen now. The transition of global intellectual dominance from the US to China will be painful for the US. It has become accustomed to being number one, which is a difficult psychological crown to have to give up, but it is inevitable that it will happen. A massive brain drain to China from all over the world I expect to take place in the 2020s (after China democratizes.)

China was the dominant culture world wide for a whole millennium, from about the time of the fall of the Roman Empire, to the rise of the European renaissance. It is a real pity that the

Chinese did not discover science and that they turned inward on themselves (to defend themselves from the invading Mongols, in the 15th century.) If they had continued their overseas explorations (with ships 5 times the length of Columbus's "Santa Maria") world history might have been very different, and most of the planet now would be speaking Chinese, the world language.

Today's China however is a shit hole. I say this as a 7 country multi, who has lived nearly 6 years full time in China. It has a LOT of work to do, to overtake the US and return to its old "natural" place as the dominant culture, a position it deserves, given its enormous potential, but one it certainly does NOT deserve at the moment. I have written quite a few essays about the many inferiorities of China that will need to be "fixed" before China can hold its head high on the world stage. At the moment, Chinese leaders are welcomed for their cheque books, but are despised behind their backs, for being members of the greatest criminal organization in history.

I have written of the 70+ million of its own citizens that have been killed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), mostly under Mao, the greatest tyrant in history, who has killed more people than Stalin or Hitler, yet his face is still on China's money. China still has "laogai" (slave labor camps for political prisoners), over 1000 of them today, with somewhere between half to two million such prisoners. These are not the symbols of a globally dominant nation. They are the symbols of a backward, inferior, shit hole nation, that the world despises, so if China is to take its potential place as the intellectually dominant global power, it will first have to "clean up its act."

It will have to democratize (one of the last major countries to do so, and a national disgrace that is it so slow in starting.) 90% of people who live outside China live in democracies of various shades. The CCP is on its last legs. It has to put down some

100,000 (one hundred thousand) political demonstrations per year, and their number keeps growing year by year. In less than a decade, 100 million Chinese tourists will be travelling overseas to democratic countries and will inevitably be influenced by the democratic freedoms they see taken for granted in more civilized, more law based countries and push for reform at home. China will pass the economic “democracy threshold” of \$6000-\$8000 per person per year within a decade, when the rising middle, educated class, insist of the rule of law (to protect their growing property) and the right to vote out incompetent leaders.

I predict China will democratize within a decade, before 2020. That will be a momentous event, one of the greatest of the 21st century, because it means that a fifth of humanity will obtain freedom of speech, an essential ingredient if China’s sages are to feel their full intellectual muscle. Once China democratizes, the impact on world politics will be immense and exciting. The threat of a major war between the US and China then will decrease significantly, because the US will then respect China far more, rather than hating China’s leaders for being such a brutal contemptible dictatorship.

The major (now democratic) nations can then bully the remaining (little) dictatorships into becoming democracies, so that the world can become entirely democratic, and hence far more peaceful, because democratic nations are far less likely to go to war with each other because their voting populations would not tolerate a war mongering leader who wants to go to war against a democratically elected leadership in another country (which didn’t stop the US in Chile in the 1970s by the way) but on the whole its true.

Once China democratizes, which hopefully is being planned for (behind closed doors) within the CCP, so that it is smooth, without needing a civil war to topple the planet’s most despised regime,

then the Chinese people can be exposed to the “international community” or the “democratic union” of nations, especially by having free access to the internet and satellite television, and to books, etc. All these freedoms that are taken for granted in the democratic union are denied to China’s citizens, even today. As I say, today’s China is a shit hole.

Once China’s sages have free access to the ideas of the world and are free to express their own ideas, then one can expect a steamroller of intellectual creativity to power up. It will be overwhelming for little countries. Imagine the intellectual impact of 1.4 billion Chinese sages, from one culture. The US and Europe will be “blown away.”

Perhaps I should mention briefly at this point (since I’m talking about large numbers of sages) the potential of India, which has a population of 1.2 billion, just a little under China’s. I do not see India becoming much of a player on the global intellectual stage, since it has one MAJOR handicap. Indians are dumb. The global IQ scores I was mentioning above reflect negatively on India.

To summarize briefly the global IQ distribution – the dumbest people in the world are the Australian aborigines with an average IQ of 60. To them, counting is “one, two, many.” Next are the African blacks, at 70 (which to whites and Asians is “borderline mentally retarded.”) Next is a great swath of humanity – the native Americans, the north African Arabs, Middle Easterners, and Indians, all at 85. At 100 are the Europeans, and Russians, and at 105 are the north eastern Asians, the brightest large group in the world.

With a huge average IQ gap of *20 points* between the Chinese and the Indians, you can forget about the Indians ever becoming a challenger to China for leadership in the global intellectual arena, and in case you’re thinking economic growth will raise India’s

average IQ, let me state that IQ has one of the highest *heritabilities* at about 60% to 80%.

4. Democratic China's Sophisticating Global Influence

Let us assume I am right about China democratizing by about 2020. By 2030, assuming I am still alive, I expect to see China pulling away from the US in all intellectual fields. Most of the world's best brains will already have migrated to China and a very powerful "black hole" effect will have established itself, sucking in the best brains to China, and hence creating an even larger, more attractive intellectual black hole.

Once China becomes the most powerful, most creative intellectual center on the planet, due partly to its own large bright population, and partly to its top salaries that have attracted the planet's best brains, then China can bring its old world mentality, and judgment to the biggest question of the 21st century, namely "Should humanity build artifacts?" i.e. "Should human beings simply give up their current status as the planet's dominant species?"

I think a lot of people will simply not tolerate this and when the IQ gap between human intelligence and machine intelligence is about to close, these people (whom I call "Terrans") will go to war against those people who want to build artifacts (artificial intellects, massively intelligent machines) whom I label "Cosmists" and against those people who want to add artifactual components to themselves to become artifacts by increments, whom I call "Cyborgists."

Such a war which may take place around middle to late 21st century, using 21st century weapons, would be the most passionate in history, because the stake this time is whether humanity survives, so the scale of the mass killing in an "Artifact War"

would not be in the millions, as in 20th century wars, but in the billions, “gigadeath.”

This is such a huge issue, that we need the best minds on the planet to be dealing with it – sage, sophisticated, brilliant minds, not monocultured, naïve, gullible, new world Americans, who currently dominate the species dominance debate.

I am impatient to see China flex its intellectual muscles and rally its sages to the huge task at hand. I want to see the sages of the old world blow away the silliness of the new world pundits who have no sense of history, who are blind to the negative sides of human nature, who haven't a clue how to balance the optimistic with the pessimistic views of humanity's future. I am tired of America's “singularity pollyannists” and want to see them flushed down a very big Chinese toilet, and be replaced by the sages of the world, dominated by those living in the “New China”, a civilized, democratic China, with its 1.4 billion sages, its deep sense of history, its wisdom, and its vision. I despise today's China, but have great hopes for its future in the coming few decades. That's why I live in China. I can tolerate living in China's “dark decade” of the 2010s hoping to see its blossoming in the 2020s and 2030s, if I'm still alive.