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THE AGE OF AI
And Our Human Future

By Henry A. Kissinger, Eric Schmidt and Daniel Huttenlocher

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has already begun to transform what humans know, how we know, and even what we can know. As AI applications become more effective, inexpensive, and frequently used, we need to understand how this technology can transform the human experience and change the existing world order, so we all can play an active role in shaping our future.

In their new book *The Age of AI: And Our Human Future* (Little, Brown and Company; November 2, 2021), renowned thinkers **Henry A. Kissinger**, Chairman of Kissinger Associates, Inc. and former U.S. Secretary of State, **Eric Schmidt**, co-founder of Schmidt Futures and former Google CEO and Chairman, and **Daniel Huttenlocher**, inaugural dean of the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing, unite their perspectives to explore how AI is transforming human society—and what it means for us all.

While the advancement of AI may be inevitable, affecting our relationship with knowledge, politics, and the societies in which we live, its ultimate destination is not. *The Age of AI* seeks to explain AI and provide the questions our society must face in coming years, as well as the tools to begin answering them.

The book explores questions such as:

- What will AI mean for health, biology, space, and quantum physics?
- What will AI mean for war, security, and diplomatic negotiations?
- Can sophisticated AI befriend humans?
- Can sophisticated AI perceive aspects of reality humans cannot?
- How will AI affect human perception, cognition, and interaction?
- How will AI impact our culture, our concept of our humanity, and, in the end, our history?

Whether we consider it a tool, a partner, or a rival, AI will alter our experience as reasoning beings and permanently change our relationship with reality. Even if these evolutions prove to be benign or reversible, it is incumbent on societies across the globe to understand these changes so they can reconcile them with their institutions and social contracts.

AI cannot reflect, so the “significance” of its action is up to humans. Humans still control it. Humans, therefore, must regulate and monitor the technology. We must shape AI’s future with our values, and *The Age of AI* provides a roadmap to help us decide what that future should be.

About the Authors

Henry A. Kissinger served as the 56th Secretary of State from September 1973 until January 1977. He also served as the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs from January 1969 until November 1975. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977, and the Medal of Liberty in 1986. Presently, he is Chairman of Kissinger Associates, an international consulting firm.

Eric Schmidt is a technologist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He joined Google in 2001, helping the company grow from a Silicon Valley startup to a global technological leader. He served as chief executive officer and chairman from 2001 to 2011, and as executive chairman and technical advisor thereafter. Under his leadership, Google dramatically scaled its infrastructure and diversified its product offerings while maintaining a culture of innovation. In 2017, he co-founded Schmidt Futures, a philanthropic initiative that bets early on exceptional people making the world better. He serves as chair of The Broad Institute, and formerly served as chair of the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence. He is the host of *Reimagine with Eric Schmidt*, a podcast exploring how society can build a brighter future after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Daniel Huttenlocher is the inaugural dean of the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing. Previously, he served as founding dean and vice provost of Cornell Tech, the digital technology-oriented graduate school established by Cornell University in New York City. He has a mix of academic and industry experience: computer science faculty member at Cornell and MIT, researcher and manager at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), and CTO of a fintech start-up. Currently, he serves as the chair of the board of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and as a member of the boards of Amazon and Corning.

For author headshots, see [here](#).

Short Book Description

While the advancement of AI may be inevitable, its ultimate destination is not. In *The Age of AI: And Our Human Future*, three leading thinkers across government, business, and academia come together to consider what AI will mean for us all. This book is an essential road map to our present and our future, an era unlike any that has come before. *The Age of AI* is authored by Henry Kissinger, Eric Schmidt, and Daniel Huttenlocher.

For additional information, visit www.AgeOfAIBook.com

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Suggested Questions for the Authors

1. What prompted your dedication to the future of artificial intelligence and when did you begin your work together?
2. You compare today's implementation of AI to the Age of Enlightenment and the invention of the printing press. What points to AI's moment of huge societal impact?
3. In what ways have we slowly—almost passively—come to rely on the modern conveniences already being provided by AI without our knowledge?
4. What are some examples of AI detecting aspects of reality or creating solutions to problems that humans have not, or perhaps could not?
5. Why is it important for us to begin discussing and defining AI's role in society, instead of simply reacting and adapting to developments piecemeal?
6. How can we begin to bridge the various perspectives across all industries that currently determine how AI is made and deployed? Is it possible?
7. How can artificial intelligence transform entire fields by eliminating decision-making siloes among humans, AI, and human-AI pairs?
8. How can we better prepare for the social, legal, philosophical, spiritual, and moral implications this technology will have on humanity?
9. What governing body or organization should oversee these implications and/or regulate the technology?
10. How should this governing body set limits while simultaneously ensuring competitiveness with the rest of the world *and* avoiding unwanted escalation or crisis?
11. How should governments assess defense and security aspects of AI?
12. What can world leaders learn from the Cold War Era regarding international cooperation and agreement on the types of AI-related conflicts they do not wish to engage in?
13. What key sectors should engage in sustained reflection and dialogue to define acceptable limits of AI deployment?
14. Will it soon be impossible for people to opt out of a world filled with AI?
15. Can you give some examples of AI being used for good? What are some examples of what could happen if we don't chart the course of AI with preserving humanity as a priority?

16. How did the COVID-19 crisis impact your perspective on AI?
17. You dedicate a chapter of the book to what you call “global network platforms”—AI-enabled platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Uber, Google, and WeChat—that are often creating echo chambers of information. What responsibility do these platforms have to use AI responsibly to benefit society?
18. What do you think you could achieve when partnering with the AI technology of the future that your current self as a human thinker would not be capable of today?
19. What do you most hope readers will learn from this book?