ROBOT WARS AND SKYNET: IS SCI-FI BECOMING OUR REALITY? PT. 1

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My Interest In Robotics And Nanotechnology, US Military UAVs/Drones And Robotic Vehicles, The Civilian Casualties Controversy, DARPA, The Darpa Urban Challenge, Roboticist William L. Whittaker, The Lunar X Prize Competition, The Positive And Negative Contributions Of Modern Technology, Wicked Heart Of Man, George W. Bush And Illegal Invasion Of Iraq, Destruction Wrought In Iraq, Americans And Body Bags, American Casualties From The Iraq War, DARPA's Aim: Protect People On The Battlefield, Remote Killing And Robots On The Battlefield Are The Wave Of The Future, Masters Of Science Fiction: Jerry Was A Man, Future Wars Fought with Automated Machines, Secret Robot Wars With No More Accountability To The Public, Callous American Public, America Was Founded On War, America Survives And Expands Her Empire Through War And Shrewd Economic Policies, Government Propaganda Machines And Malleable Gullible Public, Shock And Awe Wars, Are AI-Enabled Robot Wars In Our Future?, Current Advancements In Robotics, OpenAI Astounds The World With ChatGPT, Warning To Slow Down AI Development, Terminator Movies And SkyNet, Will Artificial Intelligence Become A Threat?, Huge Investment in AI By U.S. Military, The Joint Artificial Intelligence Center And Super Soldiers, AI Warnings From Stephen Hawking Elon Musk Geoffrey Hinton And Other Concerned Individuals, A Fight For Survival

As some of my regular readers may know, I have been a loose follower of developments within the fields of robotics and nanotechnology for a number of years now. Not only do I find these topics interesting, but I believe that it is important that we have at least a basic understanding of where these two fields are headed, so that we can better grasp what may quite possibly lie ahead in the not-too-distant future. And trust me when I tell you that the picture which is currently being painted is becoming alarming, and is a cause for concern.

What originally motivated me to write this article in 2007 was a series of newspaper articles which centered around the U.S. military's efforts to create robotic vehicles which it planned to use in its wars of the coming decade. Of course, that is now this past decade, being as this article was written in 2007. The American government, as well as other countries, have indeed made progress in this area. As many people already know, at this current time, deploying UAVs -- or Unmanned Air Vehicles, also known as drones -- in foreign countries, is now a regular part of the American military's operations, and other countries have followed suit as well.

These pilotless vehicles are used, among other things, to map terrain, to spy on the activities of perceived enemies, and even to fire missiles on selected targets with deadly precision. It is this latter point which has in fact stirred up quite a controversy around the world, due to the number of civilian casualties which have resulted from such aerial strikes by Predator drones and other UAVs. Israel, and a few other nations have likewise resorted to using the very same deadly tactics.

In order to pool ideas, and speed up the development of its battle machines of the future, around 2005 or so, a special US government agency known as DARPA -- an acronym for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency -- began sponsoring a robot race -- driverless car competition -- which drew participants from major corporations and universities all across America. These included Stanford, MIT, Carnegie Mellon, Virginia Tech, as well as other prestigious institutions. While the races -- which were called the "Darpa Urban Challenge" -- were a lot of fun for the participants, we should not lose sight of the fact that the primary goal of these races was actually to assist the Pentagon in building its next generation of war machines. In fact, it should be noted that the third race -- which occurred in 2007 -- was held at a former Air Force base located in Victorville, California, called George Air Force Base. This facility is now used as the Southern California Logistics Airport.

Of course, these universities weren't just participating in the DARPA races because they were a lot of fun, or even just because they were American patriots. There was a lot of money involved. The 2007 challenge involved navigating a sixty-mile course through a simulated urban environment; and the robotic vehicles had to accomplish this task in less than six hours. Only in this way could they qualify for one of three prizes,

which were two million dollars, one million dollars, and five hundred thousand dollars.

There were eleven entrants in the "Darpa Urban Challenge", and the grand prize went to a vehicle designated as "Boss", which was designed by noted roboticist William L. Whittaker and his team at Carnegie Mellon University. According to the information I have read, Professor Whittaker was one of the original individuals to propose using these kinds of vehicle races as a means to advance robotics. Since earning his B.A. and Ph.D. at Carnegie Mellon University in the mid-70s, he has been deeply involved in the field of robotics. In fact, in the same year that he received his Ph.D., the infamous Three Mile Island nuclear accident occurred, and Whittaker and his team constructed robots to inspect and repair the damage which had occurred in the reactor's basement. Later, in 1986, Whittaker would perform a similar function when the Chernobyl nuclear disaster occurred in Ukraine.

In addition to his experience with nuclear reactor meltdowns, beginning in the late 1990s, Professor Whittaker and his team designed and created a robot called Nomad the meteorobot; the purpose of which was to search for fallen meteorites in the glacial ice fields of Antarctica. This project was funded by a $5 million dollar grant from NASA's Telerobotics Research Program in the Space Science Office. Furthermore, the project was a prelude to sending exploratory robots to the Moon, as well as to Jupiter's frozen moon, Europa, and also to the red planet, Mars. Furthermore, Whittaker has been involved in projects which have sent robotic vehicles into the craters of active volcanoes, and also into collapsed mine shafts.

In addition, Professor Whittaker led the Carnegie Mellon team in Google's "Lunar X Prize" competition. The challenge of the competition was for privately funded teams to be the first to land a robotic spacecraft on the Moon, travel five hundred meters, and then transmit high-definition video and images back to the Earth. As it turns out, none of the teams were able to make a launch attempt by the March 31, 2018 deadline. As a result, the thirty million dollar prize went unclaimed, and the X Prize Foundation later announced that the Lunar X Prize competition would continue as a non-cash competition.

While there are obviously ways in which the aforementioned races could have benefitted society as whole -- such as by leading to the eventual production of regular vehicles which will be safer for the general public -- nevertheless, as I

read these newspaper articles years ago regarding the DARPA project, it occurred to me how dangerous these developments could become as well. Thus, I will now explain to you why I feel this way.

As I point out in articles such as "Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?", modern technology can be very beneficial for humanity in many different ways. Through a plethora of modern inventions and discoveries, no one can deny that our lives have become so much easier. As a result of advances made in modern medicine, many lives have been prolonged, and the suffering of a lot of people has also been eased. On a personal note, as I have grown older, and have been afflicted with a number of serious health issues, I myself have likewise benefitted from some of the medical advances which have been made, as have other members of my immediate family as well. So unlike certain Christians, I am not completely close-minded to such things, and I am most certainly not a Luddite.

However, just as there is potential for a lot of good to be derived from these modern technologies, there is likewise potential for evil being done as a result of them as well. It all depends on who has access to the technology, what their motivations are, and how they intend to use it. For example, on one hand, well-meaning scientists may create prosthetic limbs, or an artificial heart, or a drug which alleviates or perhaps even cures a particular disease. But on the other hand, men of science have also invented hellish nuclear, biological and chemical weapons which indiscriminately kill thousands of people, including women and children and other non-combatants. So truly then, modern technology can be a double-edged sword. It just seems that the worst in people eventually rises to the surface. I was just reminded of the following Bible verses which reveal the depth of our sinful and dark nature:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
Genesis 6:5, KJV

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
Jeremiah 17:9, KJV

"And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth

the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed
evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts,
covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil
eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things
come from within, and defile the man."
Mark 7:20-23, KJV

To give you a more or less recent example of how evil such
technology can be, stop and consider how much of the world
was opposed to America's illegal, ill-conceived invasion and
war in Iraq. Yes, I am fully aware of the fact that said war
was promoted as a coalition effort by the American government
and other countries in order to acquire the support of the
American people. However, the fact of the matter remains that
the Unites States was always the main player in that fiasco,
with a few other foreign nations barely pitching in. Not only
that, but as you may recall, as soon as it became possible
for them to do so, the few other nations which were involved
in the war effort, pulled their troops out. If memory serves
me correctly, Great Britain was the last nation to withdraw
its troops, leaving the USA to slog on alone.

As a direct result of George W. Bush's foolish invasion of
that sovereign nation, literally millions of people's lives
in Iraq were negatively affected. Iraq's government, as well
as its military forces, was shattered. The social order was
destroyed. Iraq's economy was obliterated. Its infrastructure
was in large part destroyed, and basic social services came
to a standstill. Furthermore, as the mass media and a number
of other organizations have revealed, millions of people were
displaced, and hundreds of thousands of people died, or else
they were physically or psychologically crippled needlessly.
In addition, poverty, sickness, starvation and misery became
more widespread throughout the country.

Today, twelve years after that awful war supposedly ended in
2011, Iraq continues to struggle to rebuild itself, and its
people still remain divided between different political and
religious factions and ideologies, such as the Shi'ites, the
Sunnis and the Kurds. And then there are radical elements
such as ISIS, which have been extremely difficult -- and
costly -- to totally eradicate from Iraq, and surrounding
nations. While the United States government has now claimed
victory in that arena, the future will tell the real tale.

But in America, as past wars have clearly shown, what makes a
particular war unpopular, isn't when the US military inflicts

serious damage on another sovereign nation, but rather when the body bags begin to arrive home, or when soldiers arrive home horribly disfigured, missing limbs, or psychologically messed up. If those numbers rise too high, that is when the American public begins to cry out "Enough is enough". This is precisely what occurred during the Viet Nam war era, and this is what likewise happened with the Iraq war too. As a result, next to the economy, the war in Iraq became one of the most important issues to American voters as the 2008 presidential election approached. We all know how that turned out. Barack Hussein Obama became America's 44th president for the next eight years, pushing the Republican party out of the highest office in the land. Well, if you actually believe that it is the highest office in the land. I would have to disagree.

At any rate, in spite of the fact that President Bush did everything within his power to keep the full truth from the American people regarding how many American dead and injured there were, enough of the truth leaked out, to where a large portion of the American population became sick of the war, sick of Bush's lies and deception, and they wanted American forces out of Iraq. What was supposed to be a war that would last a few weeks, or perhaps a few months at best, turned into an eight-year long war. All the while, Bush and his warmongering cronies insisted that America needed to remain there longer. Years in fact. For the record, as of June 29, 2016, according to the U.S. Department of Defense casualty website, there were 4,424 total deaths -- including both killed in action and non-hostile -- and 31,952 wounded in action, as a result of the Iraq War. How truthful those figures are remains to be seen.

So how does the war in Iraq relate to our main discussion? Well, what would happen if instead of there being thousands of American casualties, plus thousands more of American soldiers maimed, disfigured and psychologically messed up, there were only hundreds, or perhaps even dozens, or less? After all, Norman Whitaker, who was DARPA's project manager for the 2007 "Darpa Urban Challenge" race, stated "We have been looking at the problem of protecting people on the battlefield." Exactly what did Whitaker mean by that? Well, what better way would there be to protect American soldiers on a foreign battlefield, than by not having to use real people at all, or at least very few of them?

My friends, this scenario is not as far-fetched an idea as you may think. There are in fact indications that this is

precisely the ultimate goal of the scientists and military folks who are involved with these types of technologies. UAVs are just the tip of the iceberg. As you will see in a moment, huge investments have been made in this area since I first authored this article in 2007. Remote killing, and robots on the battlefield, is clearly the wave of the near future. Is it starting to sound a little too much like the "Terminator" movie franchise?

Back then, I had the opportunity to view a short-lived sci-fi television show called "Masters Of Science Fiction". One of the four episodes was called "Jerry Was a Man". It turns out that Jerry was an android designed, like his fellow androids, to clear mines in a battlefield. Sometimes the robots would take the wrong step and would be blown up. Jerry, however, was different. In a particular test, he clearly demonstrated the will for self-preservation when he purposely bumped into another android, which subsequently stepped on a mine, and was blown up. The reason why I find this story interesting, is because, as we have seen through other examples of modern technology, our science fiction is slowly catching up with us in the real world. What does this say about our future, and the future of human warfare?

So robotic wars being fought without accountability to the public is precisely what could happen in the not-too-distant future, if an American president -- or any world leader for that matter -- could fight a war primarily using intelligent robotic machines. As I said a moment ago, the high-flying drones that are now in use are just the beginning, and the tip of the iceberg, of what terrible wars could lie in the world's near future. Can you perceive the danger of such a scenario?

As a result of this kind of advanced technology, an American president -- or any world leader -- could wage a secret, endless war against his enemies, and not be held accountable for it, because there would be very few, if any, body bags coming home from the war front. The sad truth is that many Americans have become so callous, that as long as there are no American casualties, and as long as the economy is doing well, they would probably offer very little protest to such unethical and morally-deplorable wars.

It is a well-established historical fact that the U.S.A. was founded upon war. America, and its economy, have survived to this day, as a result of being almost in a constant state of

war, somewhere in the world. The U.S.A. has repeatedly used war, or at least the threat of war, as a means to subjugate other nations, and to expand its imperialistic empire around the world. Hegemony is a key word in the vocabulary of the leaders of the U.S.A. Coupled with rather shrewd, calculated economic policies and practices, and lucrative deals which sell hi-tech American military hardware to other nations, she has greatly enriched herself, and is a formidable foe.

To reiterate, the US government has repeatedly used war and civil unrest to divide and punish its perceived enemies, and to also force "belligerent" nations into submission to the will, and the foreign policy objectives of the war hawks in Washington D.C. Each country is viewed as either being a pro-American nation, or an anti-American nation. There is no middle ground regarding this issue in the eyes of America's leaders.

Given America's clear history over the past two hundred plus years, it can be honestly said that the American people are really a war-prone people. While they claim to be a peaceful nation, the record reveals that the USA has resorted to war in order to achieve its objectives, more than any other major world power during the last seventy years. Whenever Americans have hesitated to engage in a war, the president, along with his propaganda agent, the mass media, has always found a way to convince them that waging war is in their best interest. The war, so he claims, will make them a lot safer, and it will protect the comfortable American way of life, which no American is about to give up, for any price.

At any rate, the prevailing attitude seems to be that it is far better to make the other fellow, in some other country, pay the price for Americans' luxury, and wasteful lifestyle. Thus, through a constant barrage of slick propaganda, the American public is lulled back to sleep, and the war of the day -- whether it is legitimate or not -- is waged by their Commander-In-Chief. Now, while I have highlighted America's war sins, it should be noted, of course, that the American president is not the only world leader who engages in such subtle tactics. All world leaders, when embarking on the war path, have to first convince their constituents, that a war is a just and necessary cause, even if it is a distasteful one. Thus, just like the American president, they too will promote patriotism, and will spin whatever lies they deem necessary, in order to convert the populace to their way of thinking.

As I pointed out earlier, if robotic vehicles and automated fighter machines -- including UAVs and similarly AI-enabled devices -- are primarily used in future wars, it means that the human casualty rate on the American side will be a lot lower, if not totally nonexistent. As a result, lethargic American society will have nothing to complain about, and a president could potentially wage a war for years, without ever taking any negative heat for it. Tragically, as long as the economy is strong, and the public continues to enjoy their materialistic lifestyle, everyone is happy; except, of course, for the people in the targeted country, whose lives are being destroyed by America's merciless, "shock-and-awe" wars. So this is the potential evil which could someday soon result from fighting wars with only AI-enabled machines.

For those of you who are not familiar with the current state of advanced robotics and Artificial Intelligence technology, I encourage you to conduct some online research of your own. You will find plenty of interesting videos scattered across the Internet, including on YouTube. What you will quickly discover is that this technology has advanced far beyond the lumbering, tether-attached machines of even a decade ago. While some of the modern robots still require to be remotely controlled by humans, they can now not only walk, but they can run, jump, do backflips, climb over objects, manipulate obstacle courses, climb up and down stairs, open and close doors, balance themselves, etc. Some of them are extremely noisy. I found some of them to be quite menacing-looking. It is not something you would want to meet in a dark alley some night.

Of course, this is all in addition to the widening range of industrial robots, and the human-shaped robots, which serve very different purposes, some of which are rather kinky. With their small servo motors, "frubber" skin -- such as Einstein, Sophia, Philip K. Dick, Alice and Jules -- and other human attributes, some of them are quite impressive. At least for robots. The Japanese, in particular, are quite advanced in this area.

If the previous information proves anything, it is that due to the current pace of technological developments, what was once considered to be merely writing vehicles employed in the science fiction genre, are now, in certain cases, actually becoming reality. Robots and AI-enabled devices are now here to stay, and they will only proliferate more and more in the

coming decades. The question is, how far will they be allowed to go in regards to their development? When will enough be enough? Will humanity have the sense to put on the breaks before it is too late?

As I update this article at this current time in May of 2023, this is precisely the concern which is being addressed, due in large part to the introduction of ChatGPT and GPT-4 to the world. As you may know, this AI-enabled chatbot -- which is the product of Sam Altman and his company OpenAI -- has taken the world by storm. I myself have also been amazed by this chatbot's advanced capabilities. But a lot of top people in the field of Artificial Intelligence and related disciplines are beginning to sound the alarm, warning that we really need to slow down and take a pause in further AI development. This is because we still do not fully understand it, or even the repercussions which may result from further improving it.

Many of you reading this article have undoubtedly viewed the highly popular "Terminator" movies, and perhaps the American television spin-off program, "Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles". As you may know, the central premise of James Cameron's franchise is modern technology gone awry. And not just gone awry, but totally in control, and out to destroy its own human creators.

While the writers behind the popular "Terminator" franchise have obviously taken a certain degree of artistic license with their creation of the sinister "SkyNet" threat, and ask us to suspend our disbelief for a few hours, I cannot help but wonder if, perhaps like the Patriarch of old once said, we might in fact bring upon ourselves those things which we fear the most. In other words, by the inventions of our own hands. As Job said in a moment of desperation:

"For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me."
Job 3:25, KJV

At our current time, the general consensus within scientific circles is that computers will become as smart as humans, or perhaps even surpass human intelligence, around the middle of this same century. My friends, that is only three decades from now. As far-fetched as it may sound, is it conceivably possible that when that day arrives, SkyNet will begin to evolve? Will our machines begin to outsmart us and possess the ability to take control of human affairs? Will there be

some kind of failsafe system in place? Will we be able to simply unplug them from their power source? As I said, these issues are already of concern, thanks to OpenAI's ChatGPT.

Before you scoff at such a notion, consider the fact that, as we discussed earlier, even now, the U.S. military is heavily investing money -- to the tune of billions of U.S. dollars -- in the development of smart weapons which employ AI. That is to say, Artificial Intelligence. In recent years, military news, and even the mainstream media, has seen an uptick with regards to articles about this very thing. Consider some of these alarming headlines which resulted from a simple Google search:

"Artificial Intelligence is the Future of Warfare (Just Not in the Way You Think)" -- usma.edu.

"Eric Schmidt says A.I. could be the military's new nuke—but only if the Pentagon acts like a tech firm" -- Fortune.com.

"How AI Will Revolutionize Warfare" -- foreignpolicy.com.

"Pentagon makes massive new AI push for tanks, ships, weapons, drones and networks" -- Fox News.

"The military wants to build lethal tanks with AI" -- ZDNet.

"The next fear on AI: Hollywood's killer robots become the military's tools" -- New York Times.

"The Pentagon Doubles Down on AI — and Wants Help from Big Tech" -- Wired Business News.

"U.S. Army Chief Wants Robots and Artificial Intelligence Forces to Play a Bigger Role on the Battlefield" -- Newsweek.

"U.S. Army pledges $72 million for Carnegie Mellon AI defense research" -- VentureBeat.

"US DoD to use artificial intelligence algorithms to enhance warfare capabilities" -- Army Technology.

"US military to spend $2 billion on developing artificial intelligence" -- Internet of Business.

So as you can see, this is very serious business. It is no

longer just creative sci-fi stories you will find by flipping through the channels on your device of choice, or by visiting your local movie theater. To give you an example concerning what the aforementioned news outlets have been reporting for a number of years now, consider the following excerpt taken from a July 2018 report by Fox News:

----- Begin Quote -----

The Pentagon is making a massive push to accelerate the application of artificial intelligence to ships, tanks, aircraft, drones, weapons and large networks as part of a sweeping strategy to more quickly harness and integrate the latest innovations.

Many forms of AI are already well-underway with U.S. military combat systems, yet new technologies and applications are emerging so quickly that Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan has directed the immediate creation of a new Joint Artificial Intelligence Center.

----- End Quote -----

Wow! A Joint Artificial Intelligence Center! Why not just call it SkyNet? Yes, I am just being sarcastic. However, it should be apparent to you by now, that the marriage of AI and military hardware and software is not simply going to disappear. Future wars will clearly involve significantly more automated technology, and advanced weaponry that relies upon Artificial Intelligence. As I mentioned earlier, UAVs, bomb-sniffing robots, and similar devices are just the tip of the iceberg. God only knows what evil inventions the wicked heart of man will create at some point in the future, in order to maintain his dominance over his fellow man. Of course, there will still be some level of direct engagement by humans in future warfare. However, they will be enhanced human beings, or what has been referred to by some as "super soldiers".

So is it possible that the 2003 "Terminator" film "Rise of the Machines" will actually become a reality sometime during the current century? From my perspective, it really comes down to one important question: Will man eventually cede -- willingly, or unwillingly -- control of his war machines to the machines themselves? While certain people -- such as the now-deceased, noted theoretical physicist and cosmologist, Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, and

Geoffrey Hinton, who is referred to as the "godfather of AI"
-- have issued dire warnings regarding this very possibility,
at this point in time, in my view, it seems highly unlikely
that this will occur, unless man has simply taken total leave
of his senses. I think it is a safe bet to say that human
beings, as fragile and puny as they are, would rather go down
fighting, than become the slaves of their own creations. Wait
a minute! Doesn't that sound exactly like the "Terminator"
franchise?

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

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ROBOT WARS AND SKYNET: IS SCI-FI BECOMING OUR REALITY? PT. 2

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Despite The Warnings Marriage Of AI And Military Hardware And
Software Will Not Stop, Pentagon Officials Resist Request To
Pause AI Development, The US's Enemies Won't Stop Development,
Why Automated Responses May Sometimes Be Necessary, Challenge
Of Hypersonic Missiles, 1969 Moon Landing, The Gradual Pace Of
Human Achievements, Get That Government Grant, CBS Anchorman
Walter Cronkite's 1970s Vision Of The Future, SpaceX Elon Musk
And Starship, Potential For SkyNet And Our Unknown Future, A
Destructive Version Of ChatGPT, AI Power In The Wrong Hands,
Unregulated Government Monitoring And Control, AI Genie Won't
Be Placed Back In The Lamp, We Are Caught In An AI Loop, My
Dislike Of Voice Recognition And Related Technologies, Trust
God For The Future, Closing Remarks, Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part one, as I have already

made clear, despite the warnings which are currently being raised due to the introduction of ChatGPT and similar A.I. technologies, the marriage of AI and military hardware and software is not simply going to disappear. Future wars will clearly involve significantly more automated technology, and advanced weaponry that relies upon Artificial Intelligence. While high-ranking people within the AI world have already suggested a six-month moratorium on further AI development, it is quite evident that the U.S. military has no intentions of abiding by such a request. While Pentagon officials claim that they will proceed carefully, and will put guardrails in place, they are nevertheless going to proceed.

As proof of this, consider the fact that just yesterday, May the 6th, 2023, I was reading a New York Times article called "The Next Fear on AI: Hollywood's Killer Robots Become the Military's Tools". Part of this article states the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

But even as Biden was issuing his warning, Pentagon officials, speaking at technology forums, said they thought the idea of a six-month pause in developing the next generations of ChatGPT and similar software was a bad idea: The Chinese won't wait, and neither will the Russians.

"If we stop, guess who's not going to stop: potential adversaries overseas," the Pentagon's chief information officer, John Sherman, said Wednesday. "We've got to keep moving."

----- End Quote -----

Further down in the same NYT article, Eric Schmidt, who is a former chair at Google, and who served as the inaugural chair of the advisory Defense Innovation Board, noted the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"A core problem with AI in the military and in national security is how do you defend against attacks that are faster than human decision-making, and I think that issue is unresolved," Schmidt said. "In other words, the missile is coming in so fast that there has to be an automatic response. What happens if it's a false signal?"

In fact, this same article points out that there are already certain weapons which operate on autopilot, due to this very reason. For example, Patriot missiles, which are designed to shoot down a missile or plane which may enter a restricted airspace, have long had an "automatic" mode that enables them to fire without human intervention when they are overwhelmed with incoming targets faster than a human being is able to react. However, such automated firing systems are supposed to be supervised by human beings who can abort attacks, should it become necessary.

As I thought on this issue, I was reminded of the hypersonic missiles which are now being developed by the Russians, the Chinese, the Americans, and possibly other parties as well. These projectiles are so fast, that they are impossible to destroy using conventional weapons. Thus, in such a scenario, an automated AI-enabled anti-missile system would be required.

Allow me to point out that when I was growing up almost six decades ago, there were some things which seemed unlikely back then, but which have since become a reality today. As a point of reference, consider that I was fifteen years old when the U.S. government announced that it had landed three men on the Moon. Yes, I realize that with some people, this subject is a contentious issue, and is up for debate. However, my main point is that whether or not you accept the July 20, 1969 Moon landing as being real, nevertheless, it has taken humanity not quite fifty additional years just to explore the furthest reaches of our own Solar System. Given what we know now, even the phrase "furthest reaches" is questionable. Not only that, but this feat has been accomplished by means of human-controlled robotic machines/probes, and not by way of actual human exploration. So what am I saying?

As I have mentioned on a number of previous occasions, the fact of the matter remains that human achievements in the scientific realm rarely happen as quickly as -- or even to the degree that -- we are initially led to believe. This is due in part to the fact that the human spirit just loves to boast about what it hopes to achieve. Not only that, but as we discussed earlier in this article, such projects and developments require unimaginable amounts of money; and the American government is not just going to throw billions of dollars at anybody who comes along. Thus, the posturing and the boasts by scientists, universities, CEOs, etc., in their

endeavors to secure government funding -- a.k.a. grants -- for their particular pet projects.

Concerning my previous comment, let me give you a specific example. I remember as a high school teenager sitting in class and watching videos as well-known CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite -- who was dubbed "the most trusted man in America" -- discussed the wonders, marvels and scientific achievements which would greet us at the turn of the century -- that being the year 2000 -- which at the time was still thirty years in our future. Mr. Cronkite spoke to us in his fatherly voice of having colonies on Mars by that time, and many other things which captured my imagination. Well, dear Mr. Cronkite passed away in 2009 at the ripe old age of ninety-two. Here we are in our early 2020s, and we are still sending robotic probes to the Red Planet, although Elon Musk hopes to change that in the next few years through SpaceX and his Starship project. So as you can plainly see, events do not always transpire as quickly as we expect them to. However, this doesn't mean that they will not happen at all. Our timetable may just be off a bit.

So does this mean that a real SkyNet threat will never come to exist? Who's to say? Given the wicked, destructive nature of the human heart, no one really knows what some nihilistic individuals might try to accomplish someday in the future. As some of the recent news articles point out, one major concern is that someone, or a group of someones, might remove all of the stopgaps and guardrails, and create a version of ChatGPT which is considerably more destructive in nature. It could even teach people how to build bombs, or how to perform even more devious and wicked acts. Clearly, OpenAI's ChatGPT does possess this type of destructive knowledge in its database. The only reason why it doesn't share such knowledge now with its users, is due to the guardrails which have been put into place by OpenAI.

If we have unstable people today who are so willing to mow down dozens of innocent people because they have a personal beef with society, or because they do not like conditions at their place of work, or because their twisted religious dogma mandates that they murder people in cold blood in order to please some god, who knows what kind of destruction could be wrought if such advanced AI technology were to ever fall into the wrong hands, whether it is some religious madman, or some political tyrant, or some renegade military leader who is desperate for power.

Quite frankly, I don't even trust our own government with AI. Do you? Our lives as well as our personal privacy, is already invaded so much on a daily basis. They probably already have more information on each of us than we care to know. And to be honest, even talking to computers gives me the creeps and makes me feel uncomfortable. I never really do it. I am just not into Voice Recognition, or personal assistants such as Siri, Alexa, Hey Google, Text-to-Speech and all of that kind of stuff. I feel the same way regarding Facial Recognition, which is now being forced upon us in cell phone technology, and in other areas of our lives. There is simply too much subtle, unregulated monitoring and control going on, folks.

As it has often been said, today's science fiction becomes tomorrow's reality. Let's just hope that domination by AIs is one reality which none of us have to ever live to see. I will say this though. My current thought is that now that the AI genie has been released from its lamp, nobody is ever going to place it back in there again. I also believe that despite the best intentions by some people to try to keep the technology under control, we have already reached a point where all parties are even now being controlled by the situation. In other words, the US won't stop, because the Russians, Chinese and other parties will not stop, and vice versa. We are already caught in a loop. Besides that, there is already too much money being made to turn off the AI spigot now. That is the reality of the situation, in my view.

Truthfully-speaking, only God really knows what is in store for the human race, and my position is that we should leave it at that. As Bible-believing Christians, we need to trust the Lord for our future -- whatever it brings -- and allow His peace to reign in our hearts. After all, fear only tends to weaken us. I am reminded of verses such as the following which admonish us to trust in the Lord. I hope that they encourage your heart and strengthen your faith:

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him."
Job 13:15, KJV

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is."
Jeremiah 17:7, KJV

"Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way,
when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they
that put their trust in him."
Psalm 2:12, KJV

"Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust
in the LORD."
Psalm 4:5, KJV

"But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let
them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let
them also that love thy name be joyful in thee."
Psalm 5:11, KJV

"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee:
for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."
Psalm 9:10, KJV

"Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the
land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in
the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he
shall bring it to pass."
Psalm 37:3-5, KJV

"Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and
respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies."
Psalm 40:4, KJV

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among
the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."
Psalm 46:10, KJV

"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will
praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear
what flesh can do unto me . . . In God have I put my trust:
I will not be afraid what man can do unto me."
Psalm 56:3-4, 11, KJV

"Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart
before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah."
Psalm 62:8, KJV

"In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to
confusion."
Psalm 71:1, KJV

"Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield."
Psalm 115:11, KJV

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."
Psalm 118:8, KJV

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."
Psalm 119:165, KJV

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."
Proverbs 3:5-6, KJV

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."
Isaiah 12:2, KJV

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:"
Isaiah 26:3-4, KJV

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."
Matthew 6:34, KJV

"And in his name shall the Gentiles trust."
Matthew 12:21, KJV

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
John 14:27, KJV

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."
Romans 8:28, KJV

"And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him

shall the Gentiles trust."
Romans 15:12, KJV

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:7, KJV

"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because
we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men,
specially of those that believe."
1 Timothy 4:10, KJV

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power,
and of love, and of a sound mind."
2 Timothy 1:7, KJV

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
1 Peter 5:7, KJV

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out
fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made
perfect in love."
1 John 4:18, KJV

So for us Christians, faith, peace and trust in the Lord is
what it is all about, no matter what our circumstances may
be now, or what they may be someday in the future. That is
exactly how I live my life. While I am aware of all of these
things, and aware of the evil which is going on in the world,
I simply do not let any of it bother me. I don't even worry
about tomorrow. I just live my life, and try to serve the
Lord the best I can each day. I encourage you to do the same
as well. As the previous verses admonish us, fretting over
tomorrow helps no one, and may even be detrimental to your
health.

In conclusion, John and Sarah Connor may be cool characters
in the world of science fiction, but personally, I would much
rather place my trust in Jesus any day. How about you? After
all, only He truly saves us. With these words, I am going to
bring this article to its conclusion. I pray that it has been
a blessing in your life. If you've been inspired or educated
by it, I ask you to please consider sharing its URL with your
online friends. If you happen to have an online account with
Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, or with any other social network,
I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click
or tap on the corresponding share link which is found on this

page. Thank you so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server:

Albert Einstein and God
Alien Intervention, Raelians, Pyramids and Nazca Geoglyphs
Alien Life, Extrasolar Planets and Universal Atonement
Comet Elenin, Hercolubus, Nibiru, and Planet X
IBM's Cognitive Computers, DARPA and the Image of the Beast
Is Science Better Than the Bible?
Keeping Things in Proper Perspective: ET, Where Are You?
Obama, McCain and the Bush Legacy
Our Expanding Universe: Einstein, Hubble, Dark Energy and God
Saddam Hussein's Execution and the Euro Dollar War
Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?
The Nibiru Planet X Wormwood Controversy

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