



Political Theory and Rise of Artificial Intelligence –

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Abstract-

Artificial Intelligence is transforming human society with the advent of artificial intelligence operated tools and apps. Generative Artificial Intelligence is creating the possibility of creating a kind of machine which will be far more intelligent from ordinary human beings. Transformer neural network architecture has revolutionized the capabilities of machine learning in the present times. Apps like ChatGPT is a form of generative AI- which is a tool that lets users enter prompts to receive humanlike images, texts or videos that are created by AI. Political theory will have to understand the consequences of such a great transformation and the potential challenges it will impose on humanity.

Political Theory and Rise of Artificial Intelligence -

Politics has always been related to the workplace especially in the modern times. Industrial revolution has been at the core of bringing workers into politics before these workers were reduced to the status of sub-human in the concerns of medieval and ancient empires or polities. It was the upheaval caused by the modernity and industrial revolution which paved the way for the modern political conception of human equality. Christian theology and philosophy of the West also help fomenting the spirit of human welfare and service among the leading lights of early industrial times. This was the reason that good Christians like Saint Simon and others provided the intellectual foundations and practical examples of the possible welfare state. This change was reflected in the secular domain by the workers movements and formation of worker or labor parties which started championing the cause of the workers. In the psychological and social level it was the transformation of the state into a loving and caring god. This culminated into the formation of the modern democracy where the new elite - bourgeois - accepted legal equality of workers. Expansion of the voting rights subsequently culminated in the adoption of universal adult franchise for everyone. The politics and political theory of modern democratic or undemocratic states started revolving around the question of the economic welfare of the entire population, which is popularly known as welfare politics. Ideology like liberalism and socialism believed that the economic prosperity of an entire society could only be achieved by modern industrialization. These differed only with regard to the role of the state in these two ideologies. After the Second World War the entire world reached the consensus that welfare of the masses was the sole aim of any political system. This was reflected in the theories like the End of the ideologies.

Ending of the Working class politics-

Marxian ideology ruled and enamored the world with the basic principle that all the values are created by the labor and this fueled the workers' mobilization to claim their own created wealth from the hands of parasitical capitalists. Marxian ideology with its failed experiment of the USSR revolution which gave birth to totalitarianism, started to shift towards democracy and workers participation in the industrial production process rather than capturing political power. Subsequently Frankfurt school and other neo- Marxian schools entered into

the domain of culture and the plight of workers became secondary to their concern. Classical Marxian assumption that labor is the true source of value, now cannot stand with the advent of Artificial Intelligence and the process of machine learning. With such a learning machine, highly intelligent and expertise oriented jobs like teaching, investing in share markets, medical profession, law, software coding and research in science will be done by these machines. Only a few human geniuses and professionals will be able to lead in such fields, rest of the routine work will be done by the smart machines. As we already see that construction and manufacturing sectors are presently becoming more and more machine driven than relying on more human labor.

Artificial Intelligence and changes in the Human condition-

Artificial intelligence has been transforming human experience and going to transform the nature of the human condition. This transformation will have an impact on the nature of political activity. Machine learning algorithms have reached the stage of deep learning. The age of big data has also helped in the growth of AI and has enriched the neural networks.

Transformer neural network architecture has revolutionized the capabilities of machine learning in the present times. Apps like ChatGPT is a form of generative AI- which is a tool that lets users enter prompts to receive humanlike images, texts or videos that are created by AI. The GPT stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer " which points towards its modes of accepting requests and formulates responses. ChatGPT is trained via a reinforced learning process which depends on the human feedback which it gets. Its system is capable of rewarding the models that rank the best responses. Open AI- an artificial intelligence research company -created ChatGPT and launched it in November 2022.¹

If we see the trajectory of past expansion of computing technology and reduction in the cost of operation which **Moore's Law** clearly pointed to, then it's clear that the cost of operating AI services will reduce over the period of time.² AI will impact the present level of employment opportunities in different sectors of the modern economies and it will become very difficult for the workforce to reskill them in this process of rapid transformation. This AI replacement of workers will help in health, education, transport, software, engineering, law and markets. This will increase the level of income inequality in the society and can create tension in the society. Political debates have already started in this direction in the developed societies which have started adopting such AI based applications. Political discourse will revolve around the options of either adopting the Luddite approach or either thinking about regular income transfer to the weaker sections of the society. Politics will demand transfer of welfare money even on a larger scale to the middle class and the poor sections of the different countries. Once political discourse is able to solve the income security of the weaker sections of the society and ensure a good lifestyle to the people then the question of workers' rights will be put to the backburner.

But the biggest threat and challenge to the political discourse in the era of AI will be the assertion of human autonomy. Because ever increasing dependence of humans on AI for their day to day activities and domination of AI created apps will pose a challenge to independent human judgement. If AI based new apps and applications start to become much more intelligent than human, can there be a danger of coup by these self-learning and conscient machines of human governance. Historians like Yuan Novel Hariri are asserting that the rise of AI will mark the end of Human history although humans may live as species on the Earth. Ex-Google Officer Mo Gawdat who was once the part of AI developing projects claims that real danger to humanity is from the misuse of AI technology by the humans for the harmful purposes like creation of war machines, weapons, viruses. He believed that AI in itself is neutral in its nature and it will return to humanity whatever humanity will ask it to generate. He

¹ What is generative AI? Everything you need to know, Amanda Hetler

² Brock, David C., ed. (2006). *Understanding Moore's Law: Four Decades of Innovation*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Chemical Heritage Foundation. ISBN 0-94901-41-6. OCLC664663488.

also asserts that there is the need to regulate and channelize this technology for the welfare of humanity. Sam Harris is of the opinion that the assumption that humanity has created the AI tools doesn't mean that one day they cannot overtake humanity with their ever increasing knowledge and ability to rewrite their own codes. He also asserted that humans will use AI to transform the internet into a tool of disinformation with the active use of AI. Sam stresses that creation of Artificial General Intelligence will become superhuman and will align with our durable human interests. Sam asserts that constant efforts to make intelligent machines will ultimately lead to the creation of General Artificial intelligence which will be far more intelligent than human. Their intelligence will make them misalign in the long run from human concerns and there is a very real possibility that these machines could take control in their own hand in the name of human welfare.³

Relevance of Indian concept of Swaraj in the era of Artificial Intelligence-

If Artificial intelligence is able to fulfil all the needs of human society even then the question will remain whether human beings know what they desire and what they are desiring is really worth desiring? What will be the long term consequence of those desires? The more fundamental question will remain how desires arise in the human mind and does there exist any existence beyond desires for human beings? The Indian concept of Swaraj with its inner dimension can still help in such turbulent times because western political discourse has no concept and tool in context. Western conception of politics is predominantly world oriented and the capacity of human beings to think is taken without any kind of critical inquiry. Eastern tradition and rather Indian tradition in particular lay stress on the inquiry into the human consciousness which is beyond and deeper than the mind. Indian tradition focuses on making the mind subservient to the consciousness which connects humans to the universes and thereby breaks the spell of Maya (false consciousness) in which humans see themselves separate from nature and others. This conception of self beyond mind and desires impacts upon the types of choices and demands a person will have from the political system. More efficient the AI operated tools and general intelligence becomes than humanity will require a deeper understanding of oneself and the nature of their desires. If this doesn't happen then AI will become a super instrument in the hands of those who will lay the foundation of self -destruction. If AI is about to create such a General intelligence which can provide the best possible governance for a country or the world which no human substitute can provide then what consequences will it have on the political process and political theory? Could it lead to the end of politics ?Or the activity of politics will be limited to people raising their demands or deciding which demand is legitimate and the rest will be left on the artificial general intelligence to fulfil? Or will politics challenge the legitimacy of the claim of general intelligence to represent the best possible outcome for humanity on their behalf?

Consciousness approach to Politics and Ethics- in the era of Artificial Intelligence

Yuval Noah Hariri presents his consciousness approach to politics and ethics by asserting that human society treats humans with more respect due their higher level of consciousness as compared to other living species. While deciding equal rights of people their intelligence is not the deciding factor rather their consciousness and ability to feel suffering is the most important thing. He asserts that if subsequent new research proves that animals and plants have a significant amount of consciousness (which he defines as the inherent ability to feel pleasure and pain) Yuval asserts this will change the very basis of ethics and politics. This will give the biggest boost to the concept of animal and plant rights. Political discourse and theory will be forced to include these rights within its areas of concern. While things which are not considered as conscious entities are reduced to the status of “**things of politics**” be they animals, plants and other non-living things.⁴ Can there be a scaling of consciousness and what consequences it will have on politics and ethics? Theories of consciousness can be wrong but if accepted

³ Sam Harris: Can we build AI without losing control over it, https://www.ted.com>talks>sam_harris_science ,29 Sept,2016.

⁴ Our Nonconscious Future, Yuval Noval Hariri, Encyclopedia Britannica,2016

by the society it has serious consequences for the society. Wrong theories of racial theories are the perfect example of this. How racial theories demeaned the level of consciousness and intelligence in the non-white races and legitimized this bias in the name of science. Hariri asserts that consciousness is not neutral and it should not be defined by the present dominant observational approach of science. He points out that the problem with the scientific method is that it starts the inquiry from simple to complex level understanding and reduces complex phenomena to its presumed smallest unit. There is the threat that complex phenomena like Consciousness can be reduced to the basic acts of seeing and observing things. Hariri asserts that suffering is at the core of consciousness and it usually emerges with the touch reality from which a person is not satisfied. This process of suffering brings about the ability to imagine the possibility of alternative reality. Yuval believes that computers are revolutionizing the world - understanding the linkage between suffering and consciousness will help us in this time of rapid change. Intelligence and consciousness cannot be synonymous according to Yuval Hariri and recognition of this difference can help us in the age of AI. Humans have both intelligence and consciousness but computers have only intelligence. This, according to him, should become the basis of any future political and ethical discourse to the age of artificial intelligence.

Conclusion- Artificial intelligence and its generative version is going to transform the nature of present human life forever. There is no doubt that mankind cannot be stopped from taking and adopting the advantages of the new technologies and this has been the story of our evolution. But there should be proper debates and frequent assessment of the negative consequences of the AI and tools generated out of it. More importantly intelligence and consciousness should not be treated as the same and their difference should also be kept in mind as Yuval has been asserting. This understanding of this difference can help in protecting the autonomy of humans in the age of smart and self -automated machines.

Political theory and discourse will have to imbibe this conflict between intelligence and consciousness in the age of AI. Now time has come that political theory will have to expand into the domain of the inner dimension of freedom and liberty which lies beneath the outward existence of human existence. This inner understanding of human personality can help in overcoming the human state of conditioning which normal reasoning and thinking cannot overcome.⁵ This is the reason why people in affluent societies become drunk, addicts to psychedelics, obese and bound to sexual pleasure despite having no outside compulsions. Because without correcting and studying the inner software of the people politics cannot construct a sound foundation of politics in the outward world.

⁵ J.Krishnamurti -Saanen 1976- Public Talk 7- When you are a light to yourself you are a light to the world, Krishnamurti Foundation of America.