

fully automated luxury communism

fully automated luxury communism is a visionary concept that has sparked significant debate across political, economic, and technological circles. As automation and artificial intelligence continue to reshape industries, the idea of a society where machines handle all labor, enabling universal abundance and leisure, becomes increasingly relevant. This article explores the origins of fully automated luxury communism, its theoretical framework, potential benefits, challenges, and real-world implications. We will delve into how advanced technology could redefine work, wealth distribution, and social structures, and examine the criticisms and misconceptions surrounding the concept. By the end, readers will have a comprehensive understanding of what fully automated luxury communism entails, its feasibility, and its potential future impact on society.

- Origins and Definition of Fully Automated Luxury Communism
- Theoretical Foundations and Influential Thinkers
- Key Technologies Driving Automation
- Potential Benefits of Fully Automated Luxury Communism
- Challenges and Criticisms
- Real-World Applications and Case Studies
- Future Outlook and Societal Impact

Origins and Definition of Fully Automated Luxury Communism

Fully automated luxury communism is a modern political and economic theory advocating for a society where technological advancements eliminate the need for human labor. In this envisioned system, automation and artificial intelligence create an abundance of goods and services, which are distributed equitably, enabling everyone to enjoy a luxurious standard of living. The term originated in leftist academic circles during the early 2010s and gained popularity due to its provocative promise of merging automation with egalitarian values. Unlike traditional communism, which emphasizes collective ownership and the abolition of private property, fully automated luxury communism focuses on leveraging cutting-edge technology to achieve material abundance and social welfare. The concept stands in contrast to capitalist models, proposing that advanced automation can resolve issues of scarcity, inequality, and overwork.

Theoretical Foundations and Influential Thinkers

Philosophical Roots

The theoretical groundwork for fully automated luxury communism is rooted in Marxist ideology, which envisions a post-scarcity society where resources are abundant, and work becomes a voluntary activity. Thinkers such as Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels discussed the potential for technology to liberate humanity from the necessity of labor. In the modern era, theorists like Aaron Bastani have expanded on these ideas, proposing that automation, artificial intelligence, and robotics can create conditions for universal luxury.

Modern Advocates

- Aaron Bastani – Author of "Fully Automated Luxury Communism," popularizing the term and refining its vision.
- Nick Srnicek – Explores the intersection of technology, labor, and post-capitalism.
- Paul Mason – Advocates for technology-driven post-capitalist transitions.
- Yanis Varoufakis – Examines the economic implications of automation and redistribution.

These thinkers argue that technological progress can usher in a new era of abundance, challenging conventional ideas about work, ownership, and wealth.

Key Technologies Driving Automation

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Artificial intelligence and machine learning are pivotal technologies in fully automated luxury communism. They enable machines to learn, adapt, and perform complex tasks previously reserved for humans. AI systems now manage logistics, financial analysis, healthcare diagnostics, and even creative endeavors.

Robotics and Automation

Robotics have revolutionized manufacturing, agriculture, and service industries by performing repetitive and precise tasks with minimal human intervention. From automated factories to drone delivery, robotics play a crucial role in reducing labor costs and increasing productivity.

Renewable Energy and Resource Automation

Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power are essential for a sustainable automated society. Smart grids and energy storage solutions enable efficient resource management, while automation in mining, farming, and logistics ensures the continuous availability of essential materials.

Internet of Things (IoT) and Smart Infrastructure

IoT devices and smart infrastructure facilitate seamless communication between machines, optimizing resource allocation and maintenance. Smart cities with automated transportation, waste management, and public services exemplify how technology can elevate living standards for all.

Potential Benefits of Fully Automated Luxury Communism

Elimination of Scarcity

The central promise of fully automated luxury communism is the eradication of scarcity. Advanced automation can produce goods and services at minimal cost, making essentials like food, housing, healthcare, and education universally accessible.

Universal Leisure and Creativity

With machines handling routine and labor-intensive tasks, individuals can pursue leisure, creativity, and personal development. This shift redefines the purpose of work, emphasizing fulfillment and self-expression over economic necessity.

Equitable Wealth Distribution

- Automated production reduces dependence on human labor, challenging traditional wage-based systems.
- Resources can be distributed based on need and preference rather than market dynamics.
- Social programs funded by automated industries could guarantee universal basic income and services.

Environmental Sustainability

Automated systems can optimize resource use, reduce waste, and minimize environmental impact. Renewable energy and precision agriculture exemplify how technology can support sustainable development while addressing climate change.

Challenges and Criticisms

Technological Feasibility

Critics question whether current technology can truly achieve the levels of automation required for universal luxury. Complex human activities such as caregiving, creative arts, and nuanced decision-making remain difficult to automate fully. There are also concerns about technological reliability and security.

Social and Economic Disruption

The transition to fully automated luxury communism would disrupt existing economic structures, potentially leading to unemployment and social unrest. Ensuring a fair transition and reskilling the workforce are significant challenges that require careful planning and policy intervention.

Political Resistance

- Entrenched interests may resist changes to ownership and wealth distribution.
- Policy shifts towards automation and universal welfare could face legislative hurdles.
- Global disparities in technological access may exacerbate inequality.

Ethical Considerations

Automated decision-making raises ethical questions about privacy, autonomy, and accountability. Determining who controls automated systems and how benefits are distributed remains a contentious issue.

Real-World Applications and Case Studies

Automated Industries

Manufacturing, agriculture, and logistics are increasingly automated, with companies employing robots, self-driving vehicles, and intelligent scheduling systems. These advancements have led to greater efficiency, reduced costs, and improved safety.

Smart Cities and Infrastructure

Cities worldwide are implementing smart infrastructure, including automated public transportation, energy management, and waste processing systems. These technologies improve quality of life, reduce pollution, and optimize resource use.

Universal Basic Income Experiments

- Finland and Canada have piloted universal basic income programs to study the effects of automation on employment and welfare.
- These experiments highlight both the potential and limitations of automated wealth redistribution.

Open-Source and Collaborative Platforms

Platforms like Wikipedia, open-source software, and decentralized production models demonstrate how collaborative automation can create public goods outside traditional market frameworks.

Future Outlook and Societal Impact

Steps Toward Implementation

Transitioning to fully automated luxury communism requires coordinated efforts in technology development, policy reform, and cultural adaptation. Governments, businesses, and civil society must collaborate to ensure equitable access, safety, and sustainability.

Shifting Social Values

As automation changes the nature of work and wealth, social values may shift towards greater emphasis on creativity, leisure, and community. Education and cultural institutions will play a crucial role in fostering new paradigms for fulfillment and success.

Global Implications

- Automation could reduce global poverty and inequality if managed responsibly.
- International cooperation will be necessary to address disparities in technological access.
- Ethical governance frameworks must be developed to guide the use of advanced technologies.

The future of fully automated luxury communism will depend on continuous innovation, inclusive policymaking, and a commitment to social justice.

Trending Questions and Answers About Fully Automated Luxury Communism

Q: What does fully automated luxury communism mean?

A: Fully automated luxury communism refers to a societal model where automation and artificial intelligence handle all labor, producing abundant goods and services that are distributed equitably, enabling everyone to enjoy a luxurious lifestyle without the need to work.

Q: Who coined the term fully automated luxury communism?

A: The term was popularized by Aaron Bastani, a British theorist and author, in his book "Fully Automated Luxury Communism."

Q: How could automation create universal abundance?

A: Advanced automation can produce goods and services at minimal cost, making essentials like food, housing, healthcare, and education widely accessible, thereby eliminating scarcity.

Q: What are the main criticisms of fully automated luxury communism?

A: Critics question the technological feasibility, potential social and economic disruption, political resistance, and ethical challenges related to automated decision-making and wealth distribution.

Q: How does fully automated luxury communism differ from traditional communism?

A: While traditional communism focuses on collective ownership and abolition of private property, fully automated luxury communism emphasizes leveraging technology to achieve abundance and luxury for all.

Q: What technologies are key to fully automated luxury communism?

A: Artificial intelligence, robotics, renewable energy, and smart infrastructure are the main technologies driving the vision of fully automated luxury communism.

Q: Is universal basic income part of fully automated luxury communism?

A: Yes, universal basic income is often proposed as a mechanism to redistribute wealth generated by automated industries, ensuring everyone benefits from technological progress.

Q: Are there any real-world examples of fully automated luxury communism?

A: While no country has fully implemented the concept, experiments with universal basic income, smart cities, and collaborative platforms like open-source software demonstrate aspects of automation and equitable distribution.

Q: What social changes might result from fully automated luxury communism?

A: Society could shift towards valuing creativity, leisure, and personal fulfillment over traditional employment, with education and cultural institutions adapting to new paradigms.

Q: What is the future outlook for fully automated luxury communism?

A: The future depends on technological innovation, policy reform, ethical governance, and international cooperation to ensure automation leads to equitable and sustainable outcomes for all.

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Fully Automated Luxury Communism: A Deep Dive into the Future of Abundance

Introduction:

The phrase "Fully Automated Luxury Communism" (FALC) might sound like science fiction, a

utopian dream relegated to the pages of speculative novels. But this concept, born from discussions around technological advancement and resource management, is sparking increasingly relevant conversations about the future of work, wealth distribution, and societal structure. This post will explore the core tenets of FALC, examine its feasibility, and address potential challenges and criticisms. We'll delve into the technological advancements that could make it a reality, the societal implications, and ultimately, whether it represents a plausible path towards a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

What is Fully Automated Luxury Communism?

FALC envisions a future where advanced automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence handle the vast majority of labor, leading to an abundance of goods and services. This abundance, coupled with a communist-style distribution system, aims to ensure everyone has access to a high standard of living – a "luxury" lifestyle for all. The "communism" aspect emphasizes shared ownership and control of the means of production, eliminating the need for profit-driven systems and potentially leading to a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources.

The Technological Foundation of FALC

The feasibility of FALC hinges on the successful development and widespread implementation of advanced technologies. Specifically:

Advanced Robotics and Automation: Factories, farms, and even service industries would be largely automated, drastically reducing the need for human labor.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI would play a crucial role in optimizing production, managing resources, and potentially even contributing to scientific advancements that further fuel automation.

Renewable Energy Sources: A sustainable energy infrastructure is paramount. FALC requires a clean and abundant energy supply to power the automated systems and maintain a high standard of living without harming the planet.

3D Printing and Additive Manufacturing: This technology could revolutionize production, allowing for on-demand creation of goods, further reducing waste and increasing efficiency.

Addressing Resource Scarcity and Environmental Concerns

A common criticism of FALC is the potential for resource depletion. However, proponents argue that advanced technologies can mitigate this. Closed-loop systems, advanced recycling techniques, and sustainable resource management strategies are key to ensuring the long-term viability of a FALC society. Furthermore, automation could lead to more efficient resource utilization, reducing waste and minimizing environmental impact.

Societal Implications of Fully Automated Luxury Communism

The transition to a FALC society would have profound societal consequences:

The Future of Work

The most significant shift would be in the nature of work itself. With automation handling most labor, the concept of work as we know it would likely change dramatically. Humans might focus on creative endeavors, scientific research, artistic expression, and community building. The notion of "work" could evolve into activities that fulfill intrinsic human needs rather than solely economic necessities.

Redefining Wealth and Value

In a post-scarcity society, the traditional definition of wealth – accumulation of material possessions – becomes obsolete. Value might be redefined in terms of personal growth, creative expression, social contribution, and overall well-being.

Ensuring Equitable Distribution

The communist element of FALC is crucial for ensuring equitable distribution of resources. Mechanisms would need to be implemented to prevent hoarding, inequality, and the emergence of new forms of power structures. This could involve sophisticated resource allocation systems guided by AI and community input.

Challenges and Criticisms of Fully Automated Luxury Communism

While FALC presents a compelling vision, several challenges remain:

Technological Hurdles: Reaching the level of automation required is a monumental technological undertaking, facing significant obstacles in areas like AI development, energy production, and material science.

Social and Political Resistance: The transition to FALC would require substantial social and political

changes, potentially encountering significant resistance from those who benefit from the current economic system.

Unforeseen Consequences: Predicting the long-term effects of widespread automation and resource redistribution is difficult. Unintended consequences could arise, requiring adaptation and adjustments.

Human Purpose and Meaning: The shift away from traditional work could pose psychological challenges, raising questions about the purpose and meaning in life for individuals.

Conclusion:

Fully Automated Luxury Communism remains a speculative concept, but its exploration compels us to critically examine our current economic and social structures. While significant hurdles remain, the technological advancements we're witnessing suggest that some aspects of FALC might become increasingly plausible. The discussion surrounding FALC is ultimately a discussion about creating a more equitable and sustainable future, urging us to consider alternative models that prioritize human well-being and planetary health.

FAQs

1. Is FALC truly achievable? The technological prerequisites are immense, but ongoing progress in AI, robotics, and renewable energy suggests it's not entirely impossible in the distant future.
2. What about human creativity and innovation in a FALC society? The elimination of the need for survival-based labor could free humans to pursue creative and intellectual pursuits, potentially leading to an explosion of innovation.
3. How would a FALC society handle decision-making? This is a critical question requiring careful consideration. Democratic processes combined with AI-driven data analysis could potentially inform efficient and equitable decision-making.
4. What about cybersecurity threats in a highly automated society? Robust cybersecurity measures would be paramount to protect against malicious actors and ensure the stability of the system.
5. Isn't FALC just a utopian fantasy? While utopian elements are present, the core concept is rooted in an analysis of technological trends and a desire for a more just and sustainable society. It prompts critical examination of existing systems and potential alternatives.

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paradigm has emerged. Fully Automated Luxury Communism claims that new technologies will liberate us from work, providing the opportunity to build a society beyond both capitalism and scarcity. Automation, rather than undermining an economy built on full employment, is instead the path to a world of liberty, luxury and happiness. For everyone. In his first book, radical political commentator Aaron Bastani conjures a new politics: a vision of a world of unimaginable hope, highlighting how we move to energy abundance, feed a world of nine billion, overcome work, transcend the limits of biology and build meaningful freedom for everyone. Rather than a final destination, such a society heralds the beginning of history. Fully Automated Luxury Communism promises a radically new left future for everyone.

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fully automated luxury communism: The Anxious Triumph Donald Sassoon, 2019-06-27 'A magnum opus, an accessible and genuinely global history ... This is a book for today and tomorrow' Financial Times Capitalist enterprise has existed in some form since ancient times, but the

globalization and dominance of capitalism as a system began in the 1860s when, in different forms and supported by different political forces, states all over the world developed their modern political frameworks: the unifications of Italy and Germany, the establishment of a republic in France, the elimination of slavery in the American south, the Meiji Restoration in Japan, the emancipation of the serfs in Tsarist Russia. This book magnificently explores how, after the upheavals of industrialisation, a truly global capitalism followed. For the first time in the history of humanity, there was a social system able to provide a high level of consumption for the majority of those who lived within its bounds. Today, capitalism dominates the world. With wide-ranging scholarship, Donald Sassoon analyses the impact of capitalism on the histories of many different states, and how it creates winners and losers by constantly innovating. This chronic instability, he writes, 'is the foundation of its advance, not a fault in the system or an incidental by-product'. And it is this instability, this constant churn, which produces the anxious triumph of his title. To control or alleviate such anxieties it was necessary to create a national community, if necessary with colonial adventures, to develop a welfare state, to intervene in the market economy, and to protect it from foreign competition. Capitalists needed a state to discipline them, to nurture them, and to sacrifice a few to save the rest: a state overseeing the war of all against all. Vigorous, argumentative, surprising and constantly stimulating, *The Anxious Triumph* gives a fresh perspective on all these questions and on its era. It is a masterpiece by one of Britain's most engaging and wide-ranging historians.

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conditioning the choices available to us in the years to come. How do they work? What challenges do they present to us, as individuals and societies? Who benefits from their adoption? In answering these questions, Greenfield's timely guide clarifies the scale and nature of the crisis we now confront—and offers ways to reclaim our stake in the future.

fully automated luxury communism: Breaking Things at Work Gavin Mueller, 2021-02-09 In the Nineteenth-century, English textile workers responded to the introduction of new technologies on the factory floor by smashing them to bits. For years the Luddites roamed the English countryside, practicing drills and manoeuvres that they would later deploy on unsuspecting machines. The movement has been derided by scholars as a backwards-looking and ultimately ineffectual effort to stem the march of history; for Gavin Mueller, the movement gets at the heart of the antagonistic relationship between all workers, including us today, and the so-called progressive gains secured by new technologies. The luddites weren't primitive and they are still a force, however unconsciously, in the workplaces of the twenty-first century world. *Breaking Things at Work* is an innovative rethinking of labour and machines, leaping from textile mills to algorithms, from existentially threatened knife cutters of rural Germany to surveillance-evading truckers driving across the continental United States. Mueller argues that the future stability and empowerment of working-class movements will depend on subverting these technologies and preventing their spread wherever possible. The task is intimidating, but the seeds of this resistance are already present in the neo-Luddite efforts of hackers, pirates, and dark web users who are challenging surveillance and control, often through older systems of communication technology.

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fully automated luxury communism: Adorno, Foucault and the Critique of the West Deborah Cook, 2018-11-27 The alliance of critical theory between Frankfurt and Paris Adorno, Foucault and the Critique of the West argues that critical theory continues to offer valuable resources for critique and contestation during this turbulent period. To assess these resources, it examines the work of two of the twentieth century's more prominent social theorists: Theodor W. Adorno and Michel Foucault. Although Adorno was situated squarely in the Marxist tradition that Foucault would occasionally challenge, Deborah Cook demonstrates that their critiques of our current predicament are complementary in important respects. Among other things, these critiques converge in their focus on the historical conditions-economic in Adorno and political in Foucault-that gave rise to the racist and authoritarian tendencies that continue to blight the West. Cook also shows that, when Adorno and Foucault plumb the economic and political forces that have shaped our identities, they offer remarkably similar answers to the perennial question: What is to be done?

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lives? In this much needed book the acclaimed economist Roger Bootle responds to the fascinating economic questions posed by the age of the robot, steering a path away from tech jargon and alarmism towards a rational explanation of the ways in which the AI revolution will affect us all. Tackling the implications of Artificial Intelligence on growth, productivity, inflation and the distribution of wealth and power, THE AI ECONOMY also examines coming changes to the the way we educate, work and spend our leisure time. A fundamentally optimistic view which will help you plan for changing times, this book explains AI and leads you towards a more certain future. Extraordinary innovations in technology promise to transform the world, but how realistic is the claim that AI will change our lives? In this much needed book the acclaimed economist Roger Bootle responds to the fascinating economic questions posed by the age of the robot, steering a path away from tech jargon and alarmism towards a rational explanation of the ways in which the AI revolution will affect us all. Tackling the implications of Artificial Intelligence on growth, productivity, inflation and the distribution of wealth and power, THE AI ECONOMY also examines coming changes to the the way we educate, work and spend our leisure time. A fundamentally optimistic view which will help you plan for changing times, this book explains AI and leads you towards a more certain future.

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fully automated luxury communism: *Inventing the Future* Nick Srnicek, Alex Williams, 2015-11-17 This major new manifesto offers a “clear and compelling vision of a postcapitalist society” and shows how left-wing politics can be rebuilt for the 21st century (Mark Fisher, author of Capitalist Realism) Neoliberalism isn’t working. Austerity is forcing millions into poverty and many more into precarious work, while the left remains trapped in stagnant political practices that offer no respite. *Inventing the Future* is a bold new manifesto for life after capitalism. Against the confused understanding of our high-tech world by both the right and the left, this book claims that the emancipatory and future-oriented possibilities of our society can be reclaimed. Instead of running from a complex future, Nick Srnicek and Alex Williams demand a postcapitalist economy capable of advancing standards, liberating humanity from work and developing technologies that expand our freedoms. This new edition includes a new chapter where they respond to their various critics.

fully automated luxury communism: *Exodus* Paul Collier, 2013 It is one of the most pressing and controversial questions of our time -- vehemently debated, steeped in ideology, profoundly divisive. Who should be allowed to immigrate and who not? What are the arguments for and against limiting the numbers? We are supposedly a nation of immigrants, and yet our policies reflect deep anxieties and the quirks of short-term self-interest, with effective legislation snagging on thousand-mile-long security fences and the question of how long and arduous the path to citizenship should be. In *Exodus*, Paul Collier, the world-renowned economist and bestselling author of *The Bottom Billion*, clearly and concisely lays out the effects of encouraging or restricting migration. Drawing on original research and case studies, he explores this volatile issue from three perspectives: that of the migrants themselves, that of the people they leave behind, and that of the host societies where they relocate. Immigration is a simple economic equation, but its effects are complex. *Exodus* confirms how crucial it will be that public policy face and address all of its ramifications. Sharply written and brilliantly clarifying, *Exodus* offers a provocative analysis of an issue that affects us all.

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author of *Postcapitalism* How do we preserve what makes us human in an age of uncertainty? Are we now just consumers shaped by market forces? A sequence of DNA? A collection of base instincts? Or will we soon be supplanted by algorithms and A.I. anyway? In *Clear Bright Future*, Paul Mason calls for a radical, impassioned defence of the human being, our universal rights and freedoms and our power to change the world around us. Ranging from economics to Big Data, from neuroscience to the culture wars, he draws from his on-the-ground reporting from mass protests in Istanbul to riots in Washington, as well as his own childhood in an English mining community, to show how the notion of humanity has become eroded as never before. In this book Paul Mason argues that we are still capable - through language, innovation and co-operation - of shaping our future. He offers a vision of humans as more than puppets, customers or cogs in a machine. This work of radical optimism asks: Do you want to be controlled? Or do you want something better?

fully automated luxury communism: *Dark Deleuze* Andrew Culp, 2016-06-15 French philosopher Gilles Deleuze is known as a thinker of creation, joyous affirmation, and rhizomatic assemblages. In this short book, Andrew Culp polemically argues that this once-radical canon of joy has lost its resistance to the present. Concepts created to defeat capitalism have been recycled into business mantras that joyously affirm "Power is vertical; potential is horizontal!" Culp recovers the Deleuze's forgotten negativity. He unsettles the prevailing interpretation through an underground network of references to conspiracy, cruelty, the terror of the outside, and the shame of being human. Ultimately, he rekindles opposition to what is intolerable about this world. *Forerunners* is a thought-in-process series of breakthrough digital works. Written between fresh ideas and finished books, *Forerunners* draws on scholarly work initiated in notable blogs, social media, conference plenaries, journal articles, and the synergy of academic exchange. This is gray literature publishing: where intense thinking, change, and speculation take place in scholarship.

fully automated luxury communism: *Post-Growth Living* Kate Soper, 2020-11-10 An urgent and passionate plea for a new and ecologically sustainable vision of the good life. The reality of runaway climate change is inextricably linked with the mass consumerist, capitalist society in which we live. And the cult of endless growth, and endless consumption of cheap disposable commodities isn't only destroying the world, it is damaging ourselves and our way of being. How do we stop the impending catastrophe, and how can we create a movement capable of confronting it head-on? In *Post-Growth Living*, philosopher Kate Soper offers an urgent plea for a new vision of the good life, one that is capable of delinking prosperity from endless growth. Instead, she calls for a renewed emphasis on the joys of being, one that is capable of collective happiness not in consumption but by creating a future that allows not only for more free time, and less conventional and more creative ways of using it, but also for more fulfilling ways of working and existing. This is an urgent and necessary intervention into debates on climate change.

fully automated luxury communism: *Half-Earth Socialism* Troy Vettese, Drew Pendergrass, 2024-04-23 Empowers readers to write their own recipes for a future in peril: an exercise in democracy few books have dared to undertake. -Andreas Malm, author of *How to Blow Up a Pipeline* A plan to save the earth and bring the good life to all In this thrilling and capacious book, Troy Vettese and Drew Pendergrass challenge the inertia of capitalism and the left alike and propose a radical plan to address climate disaster and guarantee the good life for all. Consumption in the Global North can't continue unabated, and we must give up the idea that humans can fully control the Earth through technological "fixes" which only wreak further havoc. Rather than allow the forces of the free market to destroy the planet, we must strive for a post-capitalist society able to guarantee the good life the entire planet. This plan, which they call Half-Earth Socialism, means we must: • rewild half the Earth to absorb carbon emissions and restore biodiversity • pursue a rapid transition to renewable energy, paired with drastic cuts in consumption by the world's wealthiest populations • enact global veganism to cut down on energy and land use • inaugurate worldwide socialist planning to efficiently and equitably manage production • welcome the participation of everyone—even you! Accompanied by a climate-modelling website inviting readers to design their own "half earth," Vettese and Pendergrass offer us a visionary way forward—and our only hope for a future.

fully automated luxury communism: A Small Farm Future Chris Smaje, 2020-10-22 A modern classic of the new agrarianism Chris Smaje...shows that the choice is clear. Either we have a small farm future, or we face collapse and extinction.—Vandana Shiva Every young person should read this book.—Richard Heinberg In a groundbreaking debut, farmer and social scientist Chris Smaje argues that organizing society around small-scale farming offers the soundest, sanest and most reasonable response to climate change and other crises of civilisation—and will yield humanity's best chance at survival. Drawing on a vast range of sources from across a multitude of disciplines, *A Small Farm Future* analyses the complex forces that make societal change inevitable; explains how low-carbon, locally self-reliant agrarian communities can empower us to successfully confront these changes head on; and explores the pathways for delivering this vision politically. Challenging both conventional wisdom and utopian blueprints, *A Small Farm Future* offers rigorous original analysis of wicked problems and hidden opportunities in a way that illuminates the path toward functional local economies, effective self-provisioning, agricultural diversity and a shared earth. Perfect for readers of both Wendell Berry and Thomas Piketty, *A Small Farm Future* is a refreshing, new outlook on a way forward for society—and a vital resource for activists, students, policy makers, and anyone looking to enact change.

fully automated luxury communism: Capital Is Dead McKenzie Wark, 2021-02-09 It's not capitalism, it's not neoliberalism - what if it's something worse? In this radical and visionary new book, McKenzie Wark argues that information has empowered a new kind of ruling class. Through the ownership and control of information, this emergent class dominates not only labour but capital as traditionally understood as well. And it's not just tech companies like Amazon and Google. Even Walmart and Nike can now dominate the entire production chain through the ownership of not much more than brands, patents, copyrights, and logistical systems. While techno-utopian apologists still celebrate these innovations as an improvement on capitalism, for workers—and the planet—it's worse. The new ruling class uses the powers of information to route around any obstacle labor and social movements put up. So how do we find a way out? *Capital Is Dead* offers not only the theoretical tools to analyze this new world, but ways to change it. Drawing on the writings of a surprising range of classic and contemporary theorists, Wark offers an illuminating overview of the contemporary condition and the emerging class forces that control—and contest—it.

fully automated luxury communism: Four Futures Peter Frase, 2016-11-01 An exploration of the utopias and dystopias that could develop from present society Peter Frase argues that increasing automation and a growing scarcity of resources, thanks to climate change, will bring it all tumbling down. In *Four Futures*, Frase imagines how this post-capitalist world might look, deploying the tools of both social science and speculative fiction to explore what communism, rentism and exterminism might actually entail. Could the current rise of the real-life robocops usher in a world that resembles *Ender's Game*? And sure, communism will bring an end to material scarcities and inequalities of wealth—but there's no guarantee that social hierarchies, governed by an economy of likes, wouldn't rise to take their place. A whirlwind tour through science fiction, social theory and the new technologies are already shaping our lives, *Four Futures* is a balance sheet of the socialisms we may reach if a resurgent Left is successful, and the barbarisms we may be consigned to if those movements fail.

fully automated luxury communism: Inhuman Power Nick Dyer-Witheford, Atle Mikkola Kjosen, James Steinhoff, 2019 The past several years have brought staggering advances in the field of Artificial Intelligence. And Marxist analysis has to keep up: while machines were always central to Marxist analysis, modern AI is a new kind of machine that Marx could not have anticipated. *Inhuman Power* explores the relationship between Marxist theory and AI through three approaches, each using the lens of a different Marxist theoretical concept. While the idea of widespread AI tends to be celebrated as much as questioned, a deeper analysis of its reach and potential produces a more complex and disturbing picture than has been identified. *Inhuman Power* argues that on its current trajectory, AI is likely to render humanity obsolete and that the only way to prevent it is a communist revolution.

fully automated luxury communism: Marx Returns Jason Barker, 2018-02-23 Karl Marx is a revolutionary. He is not alone. It is November 1849 and London is full of them: a bunch of fanatical dreamers trying to change the world. Persecuted by a tyrannical housekeeper and ignored by his sexually liberated wife, Marx immerses himself in his writing, believing that his book on capital is the surest way of ushering in the workers' revolution and his family out of poverty. But when a mysterious figure begins to take an obsessive interest in his work Marx's revolutionary journey takes an unexpected turn... Marx Returns combines historical fiction, psychological mystery, philosophy, differential calculus and extracts from Marx and Engels's collected works to reimagine the life and times of one of history's most exceptional minds, in this next fiction offering from Zero Books.

fully automated luxury communism: How the World Works Paul Cockshott, 2020-01-21 A sweeping history of the full range of human labor Few authors are able to write cogently in both the scientific and the economic spheres. Even fewer possess the intellectual scope needed to address science and economics at a macro as well as a micro level. But Paul Cockshott, using the dual lenses of Marxist economics and technological advance, has managed to pull off a stunningly acute critical perspective of human history, from pre-agricultural societies to the present. In *How the World Works*, Cockshott connects scientific, economic, and societal strands to produce a sweeping and detailed work of historical analysis. This book will astound readers of all backgrounds and ages; it will also will engage scholars of history, science, and economics for years to come.

fully automated luxury communism: This Is Not A Drill Extinction Rebellion, 2019-06-13 Extinction Rebellion are inspiring a whole generation to take action on climate breakdown. Now you can become part of the movement - and together, we can make history. It's time. This is our last chance to do anything about the global climate and ecological emergency. Our last chance to save the world as we know it. Now or never, we need to be radical. We need to rise up. And we need to rebel. Extinction Rebellion is a global activist movement of ordinary people, demanding action from Governments. This is a book of truth and action. It has facts to arm you, stories to empower you, pages to fill in and pages to rip out, alongside instructions on how to rebel - from organising a roadblock to facing arrest. By the time you finish this book you will have become an Extinction Rebellion activist. Act now before it's too late.

fully automated luxury communism: Art and Postcapitalism Dave Beech, 2019 What can art tell us about a postcapitalist future?

fully automated luxury communism: Humans Need Not Apply Jerry Kaplan, 2015-08-04 An "intriguing, insightful" look at how algorithms and robots could lead to social unrest—and how to avoid it (*The Economist*, Books of the Year). After decades of effort, researchers are finally cracking the code on artificial intelligence. Society stands on the cusp of unprecedented change, driven by advances in robotics, machine learning, and perception powering systems that rival or exceed human capabilities. Driverless cars, robotic helpers, and intelligent agents that promote our interests have the potential to usher in a new age of affluence and leisure—but as AI expert and Silicon Valley entrepreneur Jerry Kaplan warns, the transition may be protracted and brutal unless we address the two great scourges of the modern developed world: volatile labor markets and income inequality. In *Humans Need Not Apply*, he proposes innovative, free-market adjustments to our economic system and social policies to avoid an extended period of social turmoil. His timely and accessible analysis of the promises and perils of AI is a must-read for business leaders and policy makers on both sides of the aisle. "A reminder that AI systems don't need red laser eyes to be dangerous."—Times Higher Education Supplement "Kaplan...sidesteps the usual arguments of techno-optimism and dystopia, preferring to go for pragmatic solutions to a shrinking pool of jobs."—Financial Times

fully automated luxury communism: Bullshit Jobs David Graeber, 2019-05-07 From David Graeber, the bestselling author of *The Dawn of Everything* and *Debt*—"a master of opening up thought and stimulating debate" (*Slate*)—a powerful argument against the rise of meaningless, unfulfilling jobs...and their consequences. Does your job make a meaningful contribution to the world? In the spring of 2013, David Graeber asked this question in a playful, provocative essay titled

"On the Phenomenon of Bullshit Jobs." It went viral. After one million online views in seventeen different languages, people all over the world are still debating the answer. There are hordes of people—HR consultants, communication coordinators, telemarketing researchers, corporate lawyers—whose jobs are useless, and, tragically, they know it. These people are caught in bullshit jobs. Graeber explores one of society's most vexing and deeply felt concerns, indicting among other villains a particular strain of finance capitalism that betrays ideals shared by thinkers ranging from Keynes to Lincoln. "Clever and charismatic" (The New Yorker), *Bullshit Jobs* gives individuals, corporations, and societies permission to undergo a shift in values, placing creative and caring work at the center of our culture. This book is for everyone who wants to turn their vocation back into an avocation and "a thought-provoking examination of our working lives" (Financial Times).

fully automated luxury communism: *In Praise of the Common* Cesare Casarino, Antonio Negri, 2008 A publishing event -- the history and evolution of Antonio Negri's philosophical and political thought. A leading Marxist political philosopher and intellectual firebrand, Antonio Negri has inspired anti-empire movements around the world through his writings and personal example. In *Praise of the Common*, which began as a conversation between Negri and literary critic Cesare Casarino, is the most complete review of the philosopher's work everpublished. It includes five exchanges in which the two intellectuals discuss Negri's evolution as a thinker from 1950 to the present, detailing for the first time the genealogy of his concepts.

fully automated luxury communism: *Insurgent Universality* Massimiliano Tomba, 2019 Scholars commonly take the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen of 1789, written during the French Revolution, as the starting point for the modern conception of human rights. According to the Declaration, the rights of man are held to be universal, at all times and all places. But as recent crises around migrants and refugees have made obvious, this idea, sacred as it might be among human rights advocates, is exhausted. This book suggests that we need to think of a different idea of universality that exceeds the juridical universalism of the Declaration. *Insurgent Universality* investigates alternative trajectories of modernity that have been repressed, hindered, and forgotten. Investigating radical upheavals, Tomba excavates an alternative idea of universality that is based on popular political practices that disrupt and reject the existing political and economic order. The book shows how this tradition builds bridges between European and non-European political and social experiments.

fully automated luxury communism: Foretelling the End of Capitalism Francesco Boldizzoni, 2020-05-12 Intellectuals since the Industrial Revolution have been obsessed with whether, when, and why capitalism will collapse. This riveting account of two centuries of failed forecasts of doom reveals the key to capitalism's durability. Prophecies about the end of capitalism are as old as capitalism itself. None have come true. Yet, whether out of hope or fear, we keep looking for harbingers of doom. In *Foretelling the End of Capitalism*, Francesco Boldizzoni gets to the root of the human need to imagine a different and better world and offers a compelling solution to the puzzle of why capitalism has been able to survive so many shocks and setbacks. Capitalism entered the twenty-first century triumphant, its communist rival consigned to the past. But the Great Recession and worsening inequality have undermined faith in its stability and revived questions about its long-term prospects. Is capitalism on its way out? If so, what might replace it? And if it does endure, how will it cope with future social and environmental crises and the inevitable costs of creative destruction? Boldizzoni shows that these and other questions have stood at the heart of much analysis and speculation from the early socialists and Karl Marx to the Occupy Movement. Capitalism has survived predictions of its demise not, as many think, because of its economic efficiency or any intrinsic virtues of markets but because it is ingrained in the hierarchical and individualistic structure of modern Western societies. *Foretelling the End of Capitalism* takes us on a fascinating journey through two centuries of unfulfilled prophecies. An intellectual tour de force and a plea for political action, it will change our understanding of the economic system that determines the fabric of our lives.

fully automated luxury communism: *Against Automation Mythologies* J. Jesse Ramirez,

2020-06-02 Inspired by Roland Barthes's practice of semiotics in *Mythologies*, this book offers a technocritique; a cultural critique of US narratives, discourses, images, and objects that have transformed the politics of automation into statements of fact about the rise of the robots. Treating automation as an ensemble of technologies and science fictions, this book foregrounds automation's ideologies, exaggerations, failures, and mystifications of the social value of human labor in order to question accepted and prolific automation mythologies. Jesse Ramirez offers a study of automation that recognizes automation as a technosocial project, which uses the tools of cultural studies and history to investigate the narratives and ideologies that often implicitly frame the automation debate, and that concretely and soberly assesses the technologies that have made the headlines. The case studies featured include some of the most widely cited and celebrated automatic technologies, such as the Baxter industrial robot, the self-driving car, and the Watson AI system. An ideal resource for anyone interested in or studying emerging technology and society, automation, Marxian cultural theory, cultural studies, science fiction studies, and the cultural history of technology--

fully automated luxury communism: The Ostrich Paradox Robert Meyer, Howard Kunreuther, 2017-02-07 The *Ostrich Paradox* boldly addresses a key question of our time: Why are we humans so poor at dealing with disastrous risks, and what can we humans do about it? It is a must-read for everyone who cares about risk. —Daniel Kahneman, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics and author of *Thinking, Fast and Slow* We fail to evacuate when advised. We rebuild in flood zones. We don't wear helmets. We fail to purchase insurance. We would rather avoid the risk of crying wolf than sound an alarm. Our ability to foresee and protect against natural catastrophes has never been greater; yet, we consistently fail to heed the warnings and protect ourselves and our communities, with devastating consequences. What explains this contradiction? In *The Ostrich Paradox*, Wharton professors Robert Meyer and Howard Kunreuther draw on years of teaching and research to explain why disaster preparedness efforts consistently fall short. Filled with heartbreaking stories of loss and resilience, the book addresses:

- How people make decisions when confronted with high-consequence, low-probability events—and how these decisions can go awry
- The 6 biases that lead individuals, communities, and institutions to make grave errors that cost lives
- The Behavioral Risk Audit, a systematic approach for improving preparedness by recognizing these biases and designing strategies that anticipate them
- Why, if we are to be better prepared for disasters, we need to learn to be more like ostriches, not less

Fast-reading and critically important, *The Ostrich Paradox* is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand why we consistently underprepare for disasters, as well as private and public leaders, planners, and policy-makers who want to build more prepared communities.

fully automated luxury communism: Reassessing Marx's Social and Political Philosophy Jan Kandiyali, 2018-06-27 Interest in the study of Marx's thought has shown a revival in recent years, with a number of newly established academic societies, conferences, and journals dedicated to discussing his thought. This book brings together distinguished and up-and-coming scholars to provide a major re-evaluation of historical issues in Marx scholarship and to connect Marx's ideas with fresh debates in contemporary Anglo-American social and political philosophy. Among the topics discussed are Marx's relationship to his philosophical predecessors—including Hegel, the young Hegelians, and the utopian socialists—his concept of recognition, his critique of liberalism, and his views on the good life. This book will be of interest to scholars and advanced students interested in Marx, Hegel, the history of political thought, and social and political philosophy.

fully automated luxury communism: Socialism: The Failed Idea That Never Dies Kristian Niemietz, 2019-02-07 Socialism is strangely impervious to refutation by real-world experience. Over the past hundred years, there have been more than two dozen attempts to build a socialist society, from the Soviet Union to Maoist China to Venezuela. All of them have ended in varying degrees of failure. But, according to socialism's adherents, that is only because none of these experiments were "real socialism". This book documents the history of this, by now, standard response. It shows how the claim of fake socialism is only ever made after the event. As long as a socialist project is in its prime, almost nobody claims that it is not real socialism. On the contrary, virtually every socialist

project in history has gone through a honeymoon period, during which it was enthusiastically praised by prominent Western intellectuals. It was only when their failures became too obvious to deny that they got retroactively reclassified as “not real socialism”.

fully automated luxury communism: *Communism: A Very Short Introduction* Leslie Holmes, 2009-08-27 The collapse of communism was one of the most defining moments of the twentieth century. This Very Short Introduction examines the history behind the political, economic, and social structures of communism as an ideology.

fully automated luxury communism: The Corona Crash Grace Blakeley, 2020-10-27 Free market, competitive capitalism is dead. The separation between politics and economics can no longer be sustained. In *The Corona Crash*, leading economics commentator Grace Blakeley theorises about the epoch-making changes that the coronavirus brings in its wake. We are living through a unique moment in history. The pandemic has caused the deepest global recession since the Second World War. Meanwhile the human cost is reflected in a still-rising death toll, as many states find themselves unable—and some unwilling—to grapple with the effects of the virus. Whatever happens, we can never go back to business as usual. This crisis will tip us into a new era of monopoly capitalism, argues Blakeley, as the corporate economy collapses into the arms of the state, and the tech giants grow to unprecedented proportions. We need a radical response. The recovery could see the transformation of our political, economic, and social systems based on the principles of the Green New Deal. If not, the alternatives, as Blakeley warns, may be even worse than we feared.

fully automated luxury communism: Platform Capitalism Nick Srnicek, 2017-05-23 What unites Google and Facebook, Apple and Microsoft, Siemens and GE, Uber and Airbnb? Across a wide range of sectors, these firms are transforming themselves into platforms: businesses that provide the hardware and software foundation for others to operate on. This transformation signals a major shift in how capitalist firms operate and how they interact with the rest of the economy: the emergence of ‘platform capitalism’. This book critically examines these new business forms, tracing their genesis from the long downturn of the 1970s to the boom and bust of the 1990s and the aftershocks of the 2008 crisis. It shows how the fundamental foundations of the economy are rapidly being carved up among a small number of monopolistic platforms, and how the platform introduces new tendencies within capitalism that pose significant challenges to any vision of a post-capitalist future. This book will be essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how the most powerful tech companies of our time are transforming the global economy. Also available as an audiobook.

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