A fawning 8000 word Vanity Fair feature "Elon Musk's Billion-Dollar Crusade to Stop the A.I. Apocalypse" peddles a fear of the future to advance the cause of Silicon Valley's robot reverence. The article positions Musk as an anti-AI apocalypse hero from the unexamined starting point of machines making humans obsolete. Elon Musk's plan to save humanity from robots follows the same model the military industrial complex applies to world peace. It opens with a hysterical end times narrative sufficient to cower the population into abandoning common sense and individual rights. The approach operates as a self-fulfilling prophecy, because the resulting policies produce the threatened calamity.

The various Silicon Valley luminaries promoting robot reverence argue the exponential pace of technology improvements will push machine self-actualization from science fiction into reality. The immense valuations awarded Google, Facebook, Amazon, Tesla, et. al. rely on machine dominance hype with investment capital replacing human beings en route to infinite scaling. As with all hype, pretending reality does not exist does not make reality go away. Moore's Law does not concede the future to machines because human domination of the planet does not owe to computation. Any road map granting machines self-determination includes "miracle" as one of the steps. A million years of exponential improvement will not remove human creativity underlying machine accomplishments or the limitations imposed by human error.

Information technology merely "models" human activity and other aspects of reality. No amount of improvement in the precision of these models turns the "model" into the "thing". Robot reverence attempts plausibility by collapsing the breadth of human potential and capacities. It requires sweeping away all the unknowns and uncertainties engaging the sciences. Kurt Gödel's 1931 "Incompleteness Proof" demonstrates pure computation remains insufficient to establish truth without axioms - requiring human creativity - outside the system. The debate regarding human infinities and the existence of God remains intact, but machines making humans obsolete cannot escape science fiction.

The dehumanizing nature of automation self-limits efforts to scale mega-platform as recent problems demonstrate. There already exists widespread resistance to the expanding powers of the big brands in Silicon Valley without inventing a robot apocalypse. Google remains unable to solve the "click fraud" problem undermining AdWords and AdSense. Efforts to address China's censorship imperative and recent "fake news" anxieties defy Facebook. Twitter's inability to curb abuse derailed plans to sell itself to Salesforce.com. A routine interaction with a call center provides abundant evidence customer satisfaction and aggressive automation are mutually exclusive. Human beings remain the source of all intent.
and the judge of all outcomes. Machines provide mere facilitation in the journey from intent to outcome.

The proposal by Elon Musk and others regarding a "basic income" transfer payment as solution to massive robot induced unemployment reflects their dim view of individual responsibility and potential. The bargain citizens make in delegating power to government owes to the promise of flourishing the Preamble calls "general welfare" - not dependency. The experience with the 70 or so existing welfare programs, food stamps, and Medicaid does not offer much of an endorsement for transfer payments. Dehumanization links basic income and other proposals necessary to turn machine hype into reality. The perfection of machines requires making human considerations disappear. Self-driving cars work as long as the plan includes prohibiting human drivers. Basic income works as long the goal is no longer human flourishing.

The shrinking portion of the population viewing their status as flourishing already drives a populist outrage responsible for making Donald Trump President. The new Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin made news last week by dismissing the imminent subjugation of humans by robots. The collective gasps (tweets these days) mocked Mnuchin for missing the robot apocalypse memos. The fact Mnuchin's naive faith in human resilience threatens Silicon Valley robot reverence exposes the disdain the techno-dogma holds for humanity behind supposed "Don't be Evil", "Make the World More Open and Connected", "Stop the A.I. Apocalypse" platitudes.

The odd credibility and fawning media coverage awarded robot reverence reflects a powerful hidden agenda. Populations hiding in bunkers do not threaten their power elite with accountability. Do stagnate wages and declining labor force participation rates owe to robots and automation or failure of government education and economic policy? Does global chaos reflect "fake news" propagated by social networks or two decades of military interventions in the Middle East? It seems prudent to assess the benefits accruing from the $48 trillion spent across the terms of President's Bush and Obama before getting too exercised by threat of exponential improvements in iRobot's Roomba.

The strategic imperative of imposing a fear of the future dates to the earliest attempts at civilization pitting the powerful against the powerless. Permanent human longing for self-determination makes concentrating power impossible without a population in fear of the future as a necessary condition. Optimism about the future discourages war and the territorial conquest ambitions of rulers. The present fear mongering drumbeat emanates from Hollywood, academia, think tanks, media and punditry, political parties, government leaders, global institutions, and sadly now Silicon Valley. Robots do not threaten humans with obsolescence absent the substitution of hype for reality necessary to revere robots - the inanimate products of human creativity - more than actual humans.