

In the Age of AI (1 hour, 54 min)

Frontline: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/in-the-age-of-ai/>

YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dZ_lvDgevk

- 1) What is AI? What is 'deep learning'?
- 2) What does it mean to say there are AI superpowers?
- 3) How does China's population size give it an advantage in developing AI?
- 4) What, according to the film, is the potential impact of AI and automation on a) the U.S. economy and b) social life in the US?
- 5) How does AI deepen inequality?
- 6) What is surveillance capitalism? How does AI help to create wealth?
 - a. Dr. Zuboff says, roughly, "you think you are using social media, but it is using you." What does that mean?
 - b. How is machine learning used to predict user interests, and how did Google monetize that?
 - c. How has Facebook used data to generate money? What is behavioral prediction monetarily valuable?
 - d. How has Facebook influenced behaviors?
- 7) AI is currently used mostly to generate wealth for a small group of people. How else might it be used?
- 8) Discuss the potential impact of AI on governance.
- 9) Should the US government do more to regulate the use of AI? If so, how?
 - a. What do you think of the "right to know, right to say no" effort in California?
- 10) What is the "surveillance state"?
 - a. How has China used AI to surveil the ethnic minority Uyghur population?
 - b. China has exported AI technology through the 'belt and road' initiative. What concerns does the film express about this move?
- 11) Kai-Fu Lee calls the U.S. and China "AI Superpowers."
 - a. What is China gaining by sharing AI with some countries in the global South?
 - b. What are the drawbacks or dangers of framing the relationship as one of "superpowers" competing for control?
 - c. Should U.S. and Chinese companies collaborate? Why or why not?
- 12) Given AI's prevalence in our personal lives, commercial interactions, and government, how do we make data collection and use more transparent?
- 13) What privacy should people have? Why?
- 14) Is democracy threatened by AI? If so, how? How should we respond?