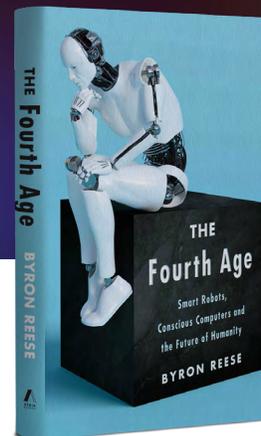


THE FOURTH AGE: SMART ROBOTS, CONSCIOUS COMPUTERS AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

BY BYRON REESE



A J.P. Morgan 2018 Summer Reading List pick, described as "entertaining and engaging"

by *The New York Times*, and cited as a *May 2018 Business Bestseller* by 800 CEO Read

What is possible with artificial intelligence?

Should we fear it or welcome it? Will robots take all the jobs, and if they do, would that be a good thing? Can computers achieve consciousness, and if so, do they then acquire rights?"

In **"The Fourth Age: Smart Robots, Conscious Computers and the Future of Humanity,"** Byron identifies these as fundamentally philosophical, not technical questions, and in doing so, invites the reader to consider these from that vantage point, beginning with the question, "Are humans machines?"

"The Fourth Age" then proceeds to tell the story of technology over the last 100,000 years, focusing on three times in the past when humanity created a technology so profound, says Byron **"that it permanently altered our bodies and minds, changing the trajectory of human history in a dramatic way."**

Byron explores the wide-ranging implications of the Fourth Age as he tackles the questions of artificial general intelligence, employment, automation, creative computers, consciousness, radical life extension, income inequality, artificial life, AI ethics, the future of warfare, superintelligence, and the implications of extreme prosperity.

He eschews simple dogmatic answers to these complex questions and analyzes the basic assumptions that undergird each one. Thus, "The Fourth Age" doesn't foist the opinions of the author but offers a framework for understanding how technology and human history come together to create the future.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Both a futurist and optimist, Byron believes we are approaching a Fourth Age for humanity that promises to be infinitely better than anything we have seen before.

As the CEO and Publisher of GigaOm, one of the world's most respected technology research companies, Byron leads the company in their mission to help business leaders understand the implications of emerging technologies and their impacts on business, media, and society. Byron produces and hosts GigaOm's podcasts *Voices in AI* and *The AI Minute* and is also the author of *"Infinite Progress: How Technology and the Internet Will End Ignorance, Disease, Hunger, Poverty, and War."*

Byron possesses a diverse body of patented work, and enjoys talking about the intersection of technology, history and the future to both technical and non-technical audiences around the world. Byron brings his experience as a technologist, his passion for history, and his proven business acumen to illuminate how today's technology can solve many of our biggest global challenges. As a lifelong entrepreneur with multiple IPOs and successful exits under his belt, Byron has spent the better part of his life exploring the interplay of technology with human history. Byron believes that humanity is about to be so transformed a fourth time, due to artificial intelligence and robots and frequently speaks to business audiences on how to excel in the world of tomorrow, and how to deploy technology successfully.



"The Fourth Age" not only discusses what the rise of A.I. will mean for us, it also forces readers to challenge their preconceptions. And it manages to do all this in a way that is both entertaining and engaging. – *New York Times*

The
New York
Times

"A must-read for anyone interested in the intersection of technology, society and work ..." – JP Morgan

J.P.Morgan

"Explores the next stage of humanity's evolution—the age of artificial intelligence and its potentially "species-changing" implications." – *Publisher's Weekly*



"This book is not only timely: it is desperately needed as a resource to come to grips with where we find ourselves now and in the not too distant future." – *San Francisco Review of books*



"I highly recommend that you pick up a copy of Byron's book." – Tonya Hall, ZD Net



"Consider The Fourth Age: Smart Robots, Conscious Computers, and the Future of Humanity, by Byron Reese." – *Barron's*

BARRON'S

"The Fourth Age" focuses on deconstructing the beliefs that undergird the many different views on robots, jobs, AI, consciousness, and life." – Hugh Forrest, Chief Programming Officer at SXSW

SXSW

"If you only read just one book about the AI revolution, make it this one." – John Mackey, co-founder and CEO, Whole Foods Market



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