

Re: The robot economy (AKA how robots will steal your jobs)

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Mark Monson <m_monson@ztech.com> wrote in message
news:SsiNc.45164\$Yw3.19115@bignews3.bellsouth.net...

>

> "smithaa02" <asdf@asdf.net> wrote in message
news:4105aff4_3@newspeer2.tds.net...

>> *Imagine as a thought experiement that there exist robots that are
identical*

>> *to humans in every way except they turn over any income to their owners.*

>>

>> *Now in addition to these robots there are humans and limited land. The
>> humans are subdivided into land owners and non-landowners.*

>>

>> *The humans break down into your classic equilibrium economy... The
worker*

>> *humans do what they do best in working the land, and the landowning
humans*

>> *do max out their comparative advantige of owning the land and collecting
>> what the working humans make.*

>>

>> *Say with 5 workers, the farmer is unhappy. He is fat, but he wishes to
be*

>> *fatter, so he hatches a plan... He reasons that if he can eat what the
>> workers eat, then he can achieve his dream.*

>>

>> *He faces a dillema... If he eats the food intended for the workers,
then*

>> *the workers may go on strike (to increase their bargainning power) to
which*

>> *he the landowner would go hungry. To prevent this he devises a plan to
>> create robots. He will pay 1 worker slightly more to make a batch of
robots*

>> *instead of making food.*

>>

>> *This one worker then creates 5 new robots at the end of the harvesting*

>> *season for the landowner. The landowner then has the robots go compete
with*

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> > *the workers at the annual land auction to determine how much rent each
> > worker will have to pay to use the land.*
> >
> > *The robots and the humans thus compete for the lowest land rent. This
year*
> > *bolds ill for the human workers, for where they had last worked X hours
for*
> > *yearly food, the robots will now accept that wage as well, thus
displacing*
> > *the human workers. The humans get desperate (for they need food to
eat), so*
> > *they outcompete the robots to offer to work 2X hours for the same amount
of*
> > *food.*
> >
> > *The landowner has a touch of pity, so he offer a couple of lucky saps
food*
> > *for a mere 1.5X labor to make some more robots!*
> >
> > *The same happens next year, and the year after...*
> >
> > *Each time increasing the misery of workers while increasingly fattening
the*
> > *productive means owners.*
> >
> > *Here the workers are producing the rope to hang themselves. Another way
of*
> > *putting this is that the workers through their generation of non-worker
> > owned capital are creating overpopulation of sorts. Given a finite
amount*
> > *of base means of production that is privately controlled, an increase in
> > worker population will not hurt the means of production owner, but will
hurt*
> > *the property-less workers. More entities competing for the same limited
> > production capabilities, will surely drive down the price of labor. Now
it*
> > *can be seen that these robots are merely an attempt by the landowner to
> > induce artificial overpopulation (the owner's consumption is the source
of*
> > *overpopulated demand). The owners want to create overpopulation because
it*
> > *drives down the bargaining power of competing labor interest, to give
the*
> > *owner more wealth.*
> >
> > *Hence capital throughout history has not been the tool increase the
ratio of*
> > *fruit of labor, but to do the opposite and steal from the laborers to
give*
> > *to the capitalists.*
>

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- > *Your conclusion does not follow from your premises. You correctly grasp that the*
- > *landowner has superior bargaining power over workers, but then you lump land in with*
- > *capital at the end.*

But both capital and land are means of production.

- > *Land ownership is the primary monopoly. Workers who enjoy*
- > *equal access to land can produce capital (tools) of their own.*

But only by paying monopoly land rent.

- > *Incidentally, Mark Twain wrote a piece similar to yours that shows how land monopoly*
- > *enslaves labor:...*

Good stuff. By chance could you provide a source showing that it was indeed Mark Twain who wrote that? (just curious if he actually said all that)