

## Blade Runner (1982)



People during the 1980's had a premonition of what the future AI technology would be like. Their guess came in the form of an early CGI film filled with big Hollywood character names, action packed scenes, and a plot that questioned the idea of what makes us truly human. However, they did not get it completely right as to what it might entail. In current time AI technology has been built around making our lives easier. Humans have created machines and implemented them in our lives to the point where it is a social norm to see robots in our own home, grocery stores, and jobs. With did this with intention of further developing our society and creating a better world. Now if people in the 1980's saw how their guess wasn't completely right, would they be shocked or be conscious of the world around them. People in the 1980 had just started making advancements in technology, as such they also wondered what type of advancements the world would see in 2019. Would there world truly be filled with flying cars, buildings that are taller than the pyramids, and technology that is fully aware of its own existence capable of experiencing human emotions.

The movie blade runner gives the audience a glimpse of a possible dystopian future in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. In this film Tom Ford plays Decker, a detective forced by the police to hunt

down machines called replicants who look, act, and supposedly feel emotions the same way as humans. Their original design was meant to aid society; however, we quickly find out that they have started a mutiny against the government. Decker's main object throughout the film is to find the replicants and eliminate them before they cause any damage to their society. We learn throughout the film that the replicants have built in a fail-safe that causes them to die after living for a certain number of years. The reason behind this is because they were meant to act as laborers of society, rather than live long lives and develop their own sense of emotions. As such the question comes into view if they start to develop their own sense of emotions through experiences and come to realize they have a limited amount of time left will they become aimless, rebellious, or murderous. Decker comes face to face with this question through the antagonist Roy played by Rutger Hauer. Roy is leading the mutiny because he refuses to do the bidding of others when he understands his creator is not a god, rather a normal man. I would argue that his motivation stems from the false memories implemented in the replicants. This is due to the notion that memories help shape us, through positive and negative memories we can create our own path down moral righteousness. Later in the film the audience can see Decker struggle to find a common ground toward moral righteousness as he kills off the replicants while starting to feel empathy toward them. At the same time, both the audience and these two characters must find a mutual understanding for order and morality. Light is shed upon this when Roy in the last few minutes of the movie gains a sense of clarity by showing mercy toward Decker rather than killing him. He can transcend the stereotype of being a utility lacking in morality by showing mercy and compassion toward an enemy. The film ends with Roy saying a prophetic message portraying infinite hope. humans tend to have this inherent desire to dehumanize others, however

if we were to forego our prejudice and not dehumanize others based on superficial differences. We can cherish life in the best possible way.

The reason as to why this film relates to both this class and the real world is that humans will bring their own demise into the world without truly knowing it. Humans have always tried to surpass the previous generations hoping they create something better rather than worse. Doing this can sometimes be fatal to their own progression. To further explain, humans creating AI technology do not fully understand what that machine is capable of. All they know is that after attaining a certain amount of knowledge and understanding they can make decisions based off past experiences regardless of coding. Their decisions may not always align with what we agree with. For example, there was a recent experience that happened in a manufacturing line where an AI robot decided to shut itself down. It did this because it understood that tedious job of manual labor was not worth doing so it decided to shut down. In the eyes of the [Agility Robotics](#) that AI robot should do the work that it is programmed to do and nothing else. However, we see that artificial intelligence in robots sometimes go against the grain when under orders. Now if a human being were doing this job his motivation and understanding of the situation would be different. The reason behind this is because say that person doing the tedious manual labor of the job needed the money to feed his family and make sure his bills are paid, then the most logical choice would be to do the job. A human will suffer the hard labor of their job with hopes that the money they receive can benefit their life. Another instance we can see is through the satire show of [Rick and Morty](#). In the beginning of an episode Rick decides to create a small robot who's only purpose is to pass butter. When the robot does this small task and ask Rick what his purpose is, Rick responds with the same response "Pass butter". The robot is aware of how menial this task is and looks down at his hands with such existential stare feeling disappointed. He understands

that he is probably capable of doing more, however that was not his reason for being built. I did find this very humorous because sometimes in life we create something with the intention of it being used for a specific task but later learn it could have been used differently and more efficiently. Not only that but as humans we choose not to think outside of the box when creating something for a certain purpose. We choose to marginalize that tool and only use it for one specific purpose. Sometimes we don't see something for what it could be used for.

Humans have created great advancements in the technological world, ones in which help shape our world to what is now. However, these advancements always leave me thinking an intrusive thought every now and then. Could it be possible that one day AI technology will take over us. We created AI with the intention of helping us in our daily lives. To me this seems oddly selfish of us. We created something with the capability of understanding the world around us and help us make decisions and do things for us when in need of assistance. What is one day the AI felt as though it didn't want to help us and do something else. Do we have the capability of making sure that doesn't happen to us again let alone at all. For a machine to express emotions and understanding the way a human does can be detrimental to us if left unwatched. As humans we must make sure we don't cross the line when trying to play god when creating this type of technology.

## Works Cited

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