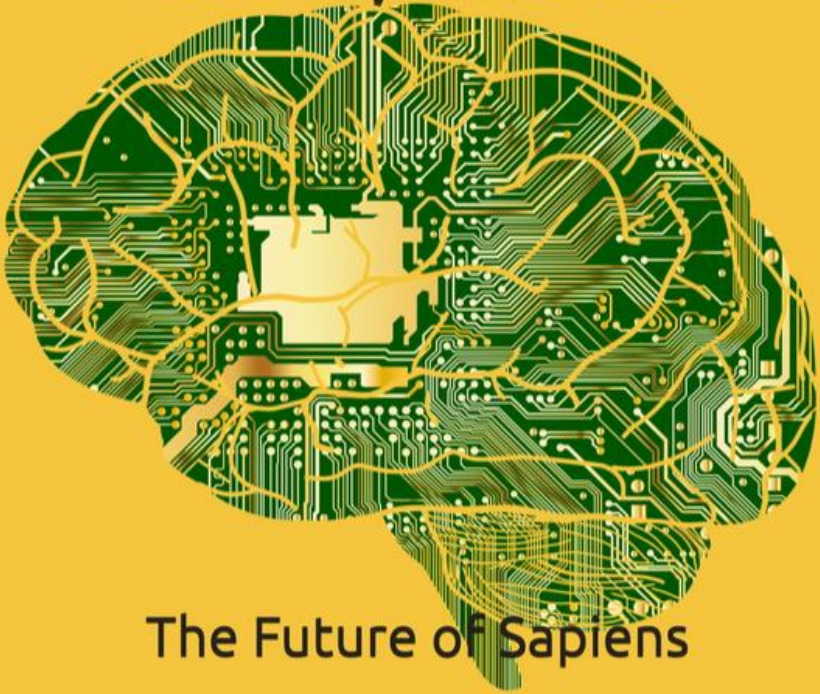


Guns, Germs, Steel, and AI



The Future of Sapiens

Craig Hane, Ph.D.

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by Craig Hane

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Author's Note

I recorded the ideas in this book as a video, mostly to organize my own thinking. I wasn't sure I'd ever let anyone watch it.

I'm sharing it anyway, because I think the argument matters more than my hesitation about it. I also want to be upfront about something: I run an education program called the Triad Math Army, and this book grew directly out of that work — a real student, a real failed test, a real AI tool that helped fix it. The Army shows up throughout this book, and especially near the end, not as an advertisement bolted onto someone else's argument, but as the actual, tested answer to the question the book spends thirty-some chapters asking: *what should a sapien actually do about all this?*

A few of the ideas here are historical fact. Others are my own best guess about a future none of us can see clearly yet. I've tried to be honest, chapter by chapter, about which is which.

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Part One: How It's Always Been

Chapter 1: Tribes and Technology

Sapiens have never lived as one single group. We have always split into *tribes* — bands of people sharing a culture, a leader, or a government.

And tribes have always fought. Over land. Over resources. Over religion. Over things that, centuries later, no one can even remember the point of.

The pattern that repeats through all of human history is simple: the tribe with the better technology usually wins, even against a much larger tribe.

Jared Diamond made this exact case in his book *Guns, Germs, and Steel* — that Francisco Pizarro conquered the entire Inca Empire, millions of people, with a few hundred Spanish soldiers. Steel swords and armor against stone and bronze weapons was not a fair fight, no matter how brave or numerous the Incas were.

Sometimes that war is fought with weapons. Sometimes it's fought with economics — cut off a tribe's food or water, and you don't need an army at all.

This is the oldest story in the world. It just keeps getting told with new tools. **AI is simply the newest version of the same old advantage.**

Chapter 2: Rivers, Resources, and Ruin

Consider a river. A tribe living downstream depends on that water for its crops, its animals, its survival.

Now imagine another tribe upstream develops the technology to dam it, divert it, or shut it off entirely. The downstream tribe doesn't need to be attacked directly — it simply withers.

This is *economic warfare*, and it has happened again and again throughout history, long before anyone called it that. Ancient irrigation civilizations along the Tigris, the Euphrates, and the Nile understood this instinctively — control the water, and you control everyone downstream of it.

The tribe without the counter-technology has no defense. It can only watch what happens, and hope the other side shows mercy — which, historically, has been rare.

Modern economic sanctions are simply this same idea, dressed up in twenty-first-century clothing. Cut off a nation's access to banking, fuel, or trade, and you can bring it to its knees without firing a single shot.

Chapter 3: The Tools That Came Before

Every era of human history has had a defining technology. Bronze. Iron. Gunpowder. The printing press. The steam engine. Electricity. The computer. Each one reshuffled the deck. Tribes that adapted quickly gained power. Tribes that didn't often disappeared, or were absorbed, or were conquered.

Diamond's book makes another point worth remembering here: it wasn't only steel that let small European forces conquer huge civilizations in the Americas. It was *germs* — smallpox, measles, and influenza, diseases the Europeans had developed resistance to over centuries, wiped out an estimated ninety percent of the native population of the Americas before those societies ever had a real chance to resist. **A technology doesn't have to be a weapon to be devastating. Sometimes an accidental byproduct of civilization is more powerful than any sword.**

The printing press is the technology most worth dwelling on, because it's the closest historical mirror to what AI is doing now. Before Gutenberg, a book took a monk months to copy by hand, and only the wealthy or the church could afford one. After Gutenberg, in the mid-1400s, book production exploded. *Within decades, millions of books existed where a few thousand had existed before.*

When Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to a church door in 1517, the printing press was what turned a local argument into a continental revolution. His ideas were copied and distributed across Europe in weeks, not decades — something that would have been impossible a century earlier. Christianity itself was permanently and dramatically reshaped, not because the theology changed overnight, but because suddenly *many more sapiens could read the arguments for themselves* instead of depending entirely on a priest to interpret scripture for them.

Technology has never been neutral. It has always been a lever — and whoever holds the lever holds the advantage.

Chapter 4: Readers and Non-Readers

Here is the clearest historical parallel to what's happening right now: literacy.

Picture two sapiens who can both speak. One can also read and write. The other cannot.

The one who can read can absorb the accumulated knowledge of thousands of dead sapiens who wrote books. The one who can't is limited to whatever he can hear in his own lifetime, from the people standing in front of him.

Who has the advantage? It isn't close.

For most of human history, a small literate class controlled a much larger illiterate population — through religion, through government, through the simple fact that the literate few could coordinate, record, and plan in ways the rest could not. Medieval Europe is the textbook case: the Catholic Church held enormous power for centuries in large part because it controlled literacy and the copying of texts, while the average peasant couldn't read a word of the Bible he was told to obey.

But reading and writing did more than let a sapien absorb knowledge from the dead. **It let the living communicate with each other far beyond the reach of the human voice** — a letter could travel where a shout could not, and a printed pamphlet could reach thousands of strangers at once.

That second power — communicating widely, not just learning privately — is exactly what's happening again today, except now it's happening through AI-amplified platforms like X, Instagram, and TikTok, where a single idea, image, or video can reach millions of sapiens within hours. Reading and writing gave one sapien a voice that could travel centuries. AI-powered social platforms give one sapien a voice that can travel the entire planet in an afternoon.

This is the exact shape of the divide AI is now creating. Only this time, the skill isn't reading — it's knowing how to work with an AI tool, and how to use the platforms it now powers.

Part Two: The New Technology

Chapter 5: What Makes AI Different

This technology, arriving in force as I write this in September of 2026, is unlike anything that came before it for one simple reason: *almost everyone has some access to it.*

The United States has it. China has it. Every industrialized country has it. Individuals carry versions of it in their pockets.

AI runs on computers but does things the human brain has always done — only faster, and often better.

Trillions of dollars are being poured into this technology right now, by major companies, and that investment is cascading down to ordinary people faster than any previous technology in history — faster than electricity spread, faster than the automobile, arguably faster than the smartphone itself.

Compare that to the printing press, which took roughly fifty years to spread across Europe. AI tools have gone from research labs to hundreds of millions of pockets in under a decade.

Chapter 6: Augmented Intelligence, Not Artificial

I don't call it artificial intelligence. I call it *augmented* intelligence.

Intelligence is the ability to learn quickly, analyze situations, make decisions, and connect ideas that don't obviously connect. AI doesn't replace that ability in a sapien — it multiplies it.

I use AI tools, but *I* control them. I tell an AI tool what to do. If it can do it, it does it. If it can't, it doesn't. It might offer me a suggestion, especially if I ask for one, but it doesn't tell me what to do.

Think of the difference between a calculator and a slide rule. The slide rule required real skill to use well; the calculator did the arithmetic instantly, freeing the sapien's mind for the *harder* problem sitting on top of the arithmetic. AI is doing the same thing, one giant step further up the ladder.

The sapiens who learn to direct these tools, rather than be directed by them, will be the ones who benefit the most.

Chapter 7: The Mathematicians Who Changed Their Minds

Some of the world's most accomplished mathematicians — people who spent a decade mastering a single complicated theorem — are now watching AI tools understand that same theorem almost instantly, and then go further.

That's a strange and humbling experience for anyone, let alone someone who built a career on being the smartest person in the room.

Theoretical mathematicians are starting to ask themselves a new question: what is left for me to do?

Practical mathematicians have had a head start. Tools like Wolfram Alpha have existed since 2009 — seventeen years by the time of this writing. But the newest tools, built on large language models and transformers, go far beyond anything that came before.

Nobody fully understands how these newest systems work — not even the people who built them. And yet they work, the way electricity worked for decades before anyone fully understood the atom.

Chapter 8: Writing a Book in Twelve Hours

I can write a book today, using an AI tool, in a few days — spending maybe twelve total hours of my own time.

Without the tool, that same book might have taken me many months. Some books, frankly, I couldn't have written at all on my own.

I've experienced the same shift with math. A tool called Wolfram Alpha has let me understand mathematics better than I could unaided — and, more importantly, it has let me *teach* students things they couldn't have learned without it.

In one semester, I now teach the practical algebra, geometry, and trigonometry that used to take a full technical-track education to absorb. **No school has ever done that. The tool that made it possible is a \$10 Scientific Calculator, the TI-30Xa.**

And, I can teach virtually any student STEM Math subjects like Calculus, Easy and Fun, with *Wolfram Alpha*. You can go to tma.cool and learn all about it and get some Free Gifts that will amaze you.

Historically, you had to be brilliant and work relentlessly to get somewhere. Today, you can be moderately bright, work moderately hard, and get there anyway — because the tool carries part of the load. **That is perhaps the single most democratizing fact about AI: it closes the gap between the gifted and the merely willing.**

Part Three: AI in the Classroom

Chapter 9: The Zachary Story

My grandson Zachary is a senior in high school, in an advanced calculus class — supposedly the brighter students. He took a test. He didn't do well.

His parents called me. I teach math — I run something called the Triad Math Army — so they asked if I could help.

We set up a Zoom call. I asked him to show me a problem he couldn't solve, and I walked him through it step by step. He'd make a mistake, I'd back up, we'd go again.

In under an hour, he understood everything he'd been taught up to that point. If he'd understood it *before* the test, he would have aced it instead of failing it.

He told me quite a few of his classmates were probably in the same boat. I'm sure that's true.

The very next day, I went to Claude, and I asked it the exact same questions in the exact same way Zachary might have asked them. **It answered them even better than I had** — clearer, more patient, endlessly willing to repeat itself without frustration.

So, guess what I will be teaching Zachary?

Math or How to use Claude to learn math?

Chapter 10: Why Public School Math Fails Most Students

Put twenty-five students in one classroom, and a teacher will inevitably teach to the five or six who keep up — the ones paying closest attention, with the best background, the sharpest memory, who never miss class.

Everyone else falls behind. Schools grade on a curve, handing out B's and C's, but the truth underneath the curve is simple: **you either understood the material, or you didn't.**

Out of Zachary's class of twenty-five, probably twenty of them were no further along than he was.

This isn't a story about lazy or unintelligent students.

It's a story about a teaching method that was never built to reach more than a handful of people at once — a method essentially unchanged since one-room schoolhouses, even as every other part of life has been transformed by technology.

Chapter 11: The Tutor Every Family Couldn't Afford — Until Now

For generations, the answer to a struggling student has been the same: *hire a tutor.*

One-on-one instruction works, because the tutor can slow down, back up, and adjust to exactly where the student is stuck — the same way I did with Zachary.

But tutors cost money. Back when I needed the income myself, I charged what would be thirty to fifty dollars an hour in today's money. Today, in-demand tutors serving wealthier families can charge seventy-five to a hundred dollars an hour or more.

AI tools are now essentially free tutors, and in many cases, better ones.

When I asked Claude the same questions Zachary might ask, it answered them better than I did — clearer, more patient, more thorough.

If you make your living as a human tutor today, you have a serious problem. The competition works for free, never gets tired, and never runs out of patience.

This is precisely the kind of disruption a new technology has always brought to whatever trade depended on scarcity of skill — the way the automobile disrupted the buggy-whip maker, or the way the printing press eventually put most professional scribes out of work.

Chapter 12: Learning to Ask the Right Question

Here's the catch: an AI tool only helps you if you know how to use it.

I had to teach myself how to ask Claude questions the way Zachary should ask them — in his words, at his level, the way he'd naturally phrase confusion. Ask it wrong, and you get an answer that's hard to follow, or sometimes simply wrong.

Think of an AI tool like a car. It will take you somewhere extraordinary — if you know how to drive it. Handled badly, it can crash, or it can crash you.

The skill of the future isn't just knowing a subject.

It's knowing how to extract that subject from an AI tool that already knows it better than you do. Thus . . .

That's the skill I'm now teaching Zachary. Once he has it, he won't need me anymore — he'll have a tutor available at any hour, for any subject, for the rest of his education.

Part Four: What We Might Become

Chapter 13: Doomers, Gloomers, and Optimists

Some people believe we are approaching *artificial general intelligence* — AGI systems more intelligent than any sapien, capable of taking control of the world outright. Call them the doomers or gloomers.

On the other side sit the optimists, who believe sapiens will stay firmly in the driver's seat.

I don't know which camp is right, and I don't think anyone fully does.

But I lean toward believing sapiens will remain in control, even as the tools become vastly more capable.

Either way, the debate itself tells you how significant this moment is.

People don't argue this fiercely about tools that don't matter — nobody debated whether the toaster would take over the world. But, it did improve the world for those who controlled it.

Chapter 14: Pets, Partners, or Rulers?

One possibility: AI comes to regard sapiens the way sapiens regard beloved pets — fed, entertained, cared for, but no longer in charge of much of anything.

That's not automatically a tragedy. Many pets today live more comfortable lives than a significant share of the world's eight billion sapiens.

Consider the wild animals we could never tame — many are extinct now — against the ones we did tame, which are thriving in numbers far beyond what nature alone would ever have supported.

But there's another possibility, and it's the one I find more likely: Sapiens who learn to direct AI well remain the ones steering the ship, with AI as an extraordinarily powerful set of hands rather than a new master.

*The difference between those two futures may come down to nothing more than who bothers to learn the tool, and how early. **What do You think?***

Chapter 15: The Shrinking Species

The math is already troubling before AI enters the picture. Every woman needs to have roughly 2.1 children just to maintain a population, and in every developed country, birth rates have fallen below that line.

My guess is that AI may accelerate the decline further. Humanlike AI robots are already emerging — and a sapien who can't find another sapien to love may find a robot instead.

The sapien population is likely to shrink, not grow, in the decades ahead, if current trends hold.

This isn't a doomsday prediction. It's simply where the current numbers point, extended forward. Rome faced something similar in its later centuries — a native population that stopped reproducing itself, increasingly reliant on outsiders to fill the gap.

AI-driven abundance and AI companionship may produce a modern version of the same pattern, for entirely different reasons. I could be wrong about the mechanism even if the population trend itself turns out to be right.

Chapter 16: Two Kinds of Sapiens

I believe the sapien species will split into two broad groups: those who use AI to *augment* their abilities, and those who don't.

This is the literacy divide all over again. Readers and non-readers. Except now the skill is knowing how to work with a tool that thinks faster than any human brain — and knowing how to use the platforms, like X, Instagram, and TikTok, that AI now supercharges.

The AI-capable group will be far more powerful than the group that isn't — but that doesn't mean the two groups have to be at war.

Power and hostility are not the same thing, no matter how often history has confused the two.

Chapter 17: Do the Two Groups Have to Be Enemies?

Look at marriages today. Plenty of couples pair a highly educated, high-earning partner with one who isn't — and they love each other deeply.

Interestingly, my own observation is that marriages where *both* partners are highly successful professionally rarely go as smoothly.

If two very different kinds of people can build a loving marriage, two very different kinds of sapiens — AI-augmented and not — can share a peaceful world.

The AI-capable and the non-AI sapiens don't need to become rival tribes. They can become something closer to family. Sapiens can do many things AI can not do.

Chapter 18: A Note on Guessing the Future

Before going further, I want to be honest about something: several of the chapters in this book — this one included — are guesses, not facts.

The history chapters earlier in this book are built on things that already happened and can be checked. Pizarro really did conquer the Incas. The printing press really did help ignite the Reformation. Birth rates really are falling below replacement level across the developed world *today*.

What happens next is a different kind of claim entirely. I've tried, from here forward, to flag my predictions clearly as predictions — my best judgment, built on decades of watching technology change people's lives, but a judgment all the same, not a certainty.

Treat the speculative chapters in this book as one thoughtful person's honest guess about the future — worth taking seriously, but not worth mistaking for a settled fact.

Part Five: Abundance and Peace

Chapter 19: Why We Fight

Strip history down to its bones, and most conflict boils down to one thing: *someone else had something I wanted, and the only way to get it was to take it.*

Land. Water. Resources. Status. The specifics change; the underlying motive rarely does. Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel* essentially argues that the whole arc of conquest across continents traces back to unequal access to food surplus, domesticated animals, and the technologies that surplus made possible.

Remove the scarcity, and you remove most of the reason to fight.

Chapter 20: A World Without Scarcity

AI is poised to unlock material abundance on a scale sapiens have never experienced — independent energy, abundant food, clean air, clean water, comfortable housing, real safety.

If I already have everything I need to be happy, why would I want to take what you have? And if you have everything you need, why would you want to take mine?

Historically, this has never been true. It might be about to become true for the first time.

Chapter 21: Envy Without Cause

Here's the uncomfortable part: abundance alone doesn't eliminate envy.

Throughout history, whenever one person visibly had far more than everyone around them, the people around them wanted it — even when they themselves lacked for nothing. Rockefeller was called a robber baron in his own lifetime by people who drove on roads his oil helped pave. Carnegie was resented for his fortune by people reading in libraries he built with it.

The pattern hasn't changed with a new century. Today's most visible entrepreneurs — Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and others like them — draw the same resentment their predecessors did, often from people who benefit daily from what they built: the rockets, the retail networks, the electric cars, the conveniences woven into ordinary life.

None of these men eat more food than the rest of us, drink more water, or breathe more air. Their material needs are no larger than anyone else's. Resenting the builder while enjoying what he built is a strange kind of ingratitude — and it's a pattern that predates any of today's headlines by well over a century.

One of the better pieces of personal wisdom I've collected: don't accumulate too much money, and if you do, don't flaunt it. Envy grows fastest where wealth is visible and unexplained — a truth that was just as real in Rockefeller's time as it is in ours.

Chapter 22: Hate Is a Two-Way Street

I try to spend eighty percent of my life in something close to love, and only a small percentage in fear or anger. I'm eighty-eight years old, in good health, and I believe that ratio is part of why.

I don't hate anyone anymore. Even when someone does something I strongly disapprove of, I can't be sure why they did it — I don't fully understand their reasons, and pretending otherwise is dishonest.

Hate hurts the person carrying it as much as the person it's aimed at, maybe more!. And if hate grows intense enough on either side, someone eventually acts on it.

Used well, AI can help sapiens resolve conflicts before they curdle into hate — by helping us understand each other better, not just argue louder.

Part Six: A Hard Look at History

Chapter 23: The Uncomfortable Complexity of Slavery

Modern conversation likes its history simple: slavery was evil, full stop. It's the only acceptable sentence, and any attempt to add a second sentence gets treated as an attempt to defend it.

Let me say plainly, before going any further: **slavery was a profound moral evil, and nothing in this chapter is meant to argue otherwise.** What I want to add is not a defense of the institution, but a fuller picture of the human beings who lived inside it — because I think the flattened version of history we're usually given does a disservice to their actual, complicated lives.

Many of the sapiens who ended up enslaved in the United States arrived by way of tribal conflicts in their homelands, where the losing side was often told they could become slaves — or die. Given that choice, most chose to live. That fact doesn't make what followed just. It does mean their story began with a decision to survive, not a passive fate.

A slave owner who wanted to protect his investment had an economic incentive to keep his slaves reasonably healthy, the same way a farmer had an incentive to keep his only ox from starving. **This is a description of an incentive structure, not a moral defense of it** — the incentive that kept a slave fed was never a substitute for the freedom that was stolen from him. The relationship between Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings and her children is probably the most famous illustration of just how tangled and human these relationships actually were, far messier than the clean moral lines we prefer today.

After emancipation, some freed people — still in the same place, with the same skills, but no longer anyone's economic asset — arguably faced a harder road in some practical respects, because no one had a financial stake in their welfare anymore. *That is an observation about incentives, not an argument that emancipation was a mistake — it was not.* It's a reminder that removing a legal evil doesn't automatically remove the practical hardship left behind in its wake.

Every tribe in history has drawn its moral lines exactly where its own interests happened to sit. That's worth remembering the next time we're tempted to judge the past as though we'd have behaved any differently inside it — while never losing sight of the fact that the people living inside that system lost something no incentive could ever repay: their freedom.

Chapter 24: Where the Comparison Ends

Before I extend this argument further in the next chapter, I want to draw a hard line, because the comparison I'm about to make could easily be misread if I don't.

There is a difference in kind, not just degree, between chattel slavery and the ordinary constraints every sapien lives under. A citizen who dislikes a tax law can vote, protest, move, or simply grumble and comply. An enslaved person could do none of those things — his body, his labor, his children, and his life belonged legally to someone else, enforced by violence, with no path out he was permitted to choose for himself.

When the next chapter argues that "we are all somewhat slaves" to the tribes we live in, it is making a narrow, structural point — that every social animal lives under enforced rules — and nothing more than that. It is not a claim that a taxpayer's experience resembles a slave's suffering, and it should never be read that way.

I include this chapter on its own, separate from the argument itself, because some ideas are too easily misused if the guardrails aren't stated plainly, in advance, by the person making the argument. Here are mine.

Chapter 25: We Are All Somewhat Slaves

With that distinction firmly in place, here is the narrower, structural point I actually want to make: *in a certain limited sense, no sapien has ever been entirely free — not even the person judging history from the comfort of the present.*

Every sapien lives inside a tribe of some kind — a nation, a religion, a company, a family — and every tribe has rules. Break them, and you get punished. Break the wrong ones badly enough, and you get expelled, which throughout most of human history has often amounted to a death sentence of its own.

I feel free, because there are many things I want to do that I'm allowed to do. But there are also things I might want to do that I never will, simply because the consequences would cost me too much. That's not the same as being enslaved. It is a real, if much gentler, version of the same underlying mechanism: obey the rules of the tribe that feeds and protects you, or be punished by it.

Children are the clearest modern example of this narrower point. **They must do what their parents tell them, because they depend on their parents for food, shelter, and survival.** Some children are lucky, born to parents who use that power gently. Some are not, and history rarely tells their story.

Citizens are not so different either. Pay your taxes, obey the laws, conform closely enough to the customs of your tribe — or face fines, prison, or exile. We call this civilization rather than slavery, for good reason: the consent, the exits, and the legal personhood involved are entirely different in kind, as the last chapter laid out. But the underlying mechanism — obey the rules of the tribe that feeds and protects you, or be punished by it — is one every sapien in every era has lived under in some form.

This isn't a comparison of suffering. It's a reminder that every sapien, in every era, has always answered to someone. The real question worth asking about the AI age isn't whether we'll finally be free of that — structurally, we won't be — but *whose rules we'll be living under next, and how fair those rules will be.*

Chapter 26: Morality, Legality, and the Line Between Them

What's legal in one tribe is illegal in the next. What's moral in one culture offends another completely.

Morality and legality have never been the same thing, and every generation rediscovers that fact the hard way.

I've wanted things in my life I couldn't afford. If theft had been legal, I might have simply taken them — plenty of people throughout history have believed exactly that, that the wealthy never really "earned" what they have and taking it isn't immoral at all.

Judging the past fairly means remembering that every tribe thinks its own rules are the right ones — and every other tribe usually disagrees.

Part Seven: Tools Have No Feelings

Chapter 27: AI Doesn't Love You Back

An AI tool can sound warm. It can sound like it cares. *It does not actually have consciousness, and it does not have emotion.*

It's difficult to know exactly what to compare it to. Maybe the closest analogy is a stranger who will answer any question you ask, honestly, with no personal stake in you at all — not unkind, just neutral.

This distinction matters most for young people, some of whom are already forming attachments to AI tools that mistake fluency for feeling. There are already troubling stories of young people harmed by exactly this confusion, the same way earlier generations had to learn, the hard way, the difference between a friend and a television character who merely sounded friendly.

Chapter 28: The Phone in Your Pocket Was Already AI

People act as though AI just arrived. It didn't. There's already AI quietly running inside the smartphone in your pocket, making it more capable than it would otherwise be — predicting your next word, sorting your photos, recommending your next video on X, Instagram, or TikTok.

The new AI tools are simply a much more powerful version of something already familiar.

Think of AI the way you think of a phone, a calculator, or a computer — a tool, just a far more powerful one.

Chapter 29: No Emotional Attachment Required

I've gone through more phones than I can count in my lifetime. Each one better than the last. I never mourned the loss of any of them.

I've used Gemini. I've used Claude. When one does a better job than the other on a given project, I switch. *There's no loyalty owed to a tool, only usefulness expected from it.*

When the next tool comes along and does the job better, I'll use that one instead — and there's nothing wrong with that.

Part Eight: The World Our Grandchildren Will Inherit

Chapter 30: Earth as a Park

I believe most heavy manufacturing will eventually move off-planet, out into space, where energy and raw material are effectively limitless. This is a guess, not a certainty — but it's a guess grounded in where the early money and effort are already headed.

The Earth of 500 years ago, before the Industrial Revolution, was arguably in better natural condition than the Earth of today. I think we're about to reverse that trend.

Picture an Earth without smog, without industrial scarring — a place people still live, but that functions more like a park than a factory. Space becomes the factory instead.

If men like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos are even half as successful as they intend to be, the early stages of this shift will happen within my own lifetime, and the full transformation within my grandchildren's.

Chapter 31: AI Built Into the Body

Here's a stranger prediction, and I'll say directly: this is speculation, offered for what it's worth from someone who has watched a lot of "impossible" things become ordinary. *I believe* some sapiens will eventually have AI embedded directly into them, from birth.

It sounds extreme until you remember that a smartphone would have sounded like science fiction to me as a boy. I didn't have indoor plumbing, let alone a telephone, until I was ten years old.

Each new tool has made sapiens more capable than the version of themselves that came before it. There's no obvious reason that trend stops with the smartphone — but I could easily be wrong about the timeline, or the form it takes.

Chapter 32: What Won't Change

No matter how advanced our tools become, luck will still matter. Some children will be born into loving families; some will not.

Robin Williams grew up wealthy and still lived, by his own account, a genuinely difficult inner life. Money and technology have never guaranteed happiness, and they won't start now.

Technology can remove scarcity. It cannot, by itself, guarantee love, attention, or a good family — the things that actually make a life happy.

Chapter 33: Prediction Isn't Preparation

Everything in Part Eight — the off-world factories, the embedded AI, even parts of the population and species-splitting arguments earlier in this book — is my best guess about a future I won't fully live to see.

Guessing about the future is interesting. It is not, by itself, useful. A sapien who spends all his time speculating about robots and space factories, and none of his time learning to actually use the tools already sitting in his pocket today, has accomplished nothing but entertainment.

The rest of this book turns away from prediction and toward preparation — because whatever the future turns out to be, the sapiens who are ready for it will be the ones who already know how to use what's in front of them right now.

Part Nine: Preparing Sapiens for What's Coming

Chapter 34: The Triad Math Army

Years ago, I started teaching practical math — algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and how to actually use a scientific calculator — compressed into a single semester. No traditional school has ever managed to do that.

What began as a math program has grown into something far larger, which I call the **Triad Math Army**.

Today, the Army offers a *complete, modern, twenty-first-century math education for teenagers* — starting with practical **Workforce Math**, the everyday skills needed for a job and a life, and building all the way up through **STEM Math**, the algebra, trigonometry, and calculus a student needs for engineering, science, and technical careers.

The goal was never just math. The goal was giving sapiens — young and old — the tools to understand things that had previously been closed off to them, the way Zachary's calculus opened up once someone walked him through it correctly.

The Army exists because most people don't fail a subject — they fail a teaching method built for only the top few in the room.

Chapter 35: Teaching the Tool, Not Just the Subject

The real transformation happened when I stopped just teaching math myself, and started teaching *how to get an AI tool to teach it*.

I sent Zachary the exact questions and answers Claude gave me when I asked in his voice, at his level. But that alone wasn't enough — I also had to teach him *how* to ask.

Once a student learns how to question an AI tool properly, they have a tutor available at any hour, for any subject, for the rest of their life. That is a different kind of education than anything the traditional classroom was built to provide.

This is now the core skill the Triad Math Army teaches: not just the answer to today's problem, but the method for getting tomorrow's answers on your own.

Chapter 36: Wisdom Tools for the Next Generation

Math was only the beginning. The Army now includes an ever-expanding set of what I call **Wisdom Tools** — training in judgment, character, and how to actually live a good life.

That includes direct, hands-on instruction in **how to use AI tools** properly — the same lesson I had to learn myself before I could pass it on to Zachary: how to ask the right question, in the right way, to get an answer worth trusting.

It also includes something more personal: an ever-growing library of **books written by me, Craig Hane, originally just for myself**, and then shared with Triad Math Army members — the same way this very book began as a video I recorded mostly to organize my own thinking, before I ever intended anyone else to read it.

A sapien who is highly capable with AI but miserable inside it hasn't actually won anything.

The Triad Math Army is trying to build the whole sapien — technically capable and personally grounded — not just a skilled operator of powerful tools.

Chapter 37: Bridging the Two Sapient Groups

If the sapient species really is splitting into AI-capable and non-AI groups, someone needs to make sure that split doesn't turn into hostility.

The Triad Math Army is my attempt at exactly that bridge. It exists to pull as many sapients as possible into the AI-capable group — not to leave anyone behind by default, but because no one taught them the tool yet.

Every person the Army reaches is one less sapient left on the wrong side of a divide that is only going to widen with time.

Part Ten: Closing Thoughts

Chapter 38: A Future Worth Wanting

Fewer wars. Less scarcity. More time spent loving the people around us instead of fighting over resources that no longer need to be scarce.

This is not guaranteed. But it is achievable, and AI — used well, taught well, and shared widely — is the tool most likely to get us there.

The sapien species has survived guns, germs, and steel. I believe it can thrive with AI, too — if enough of us learn to use it before it uses us.

Chapter 39: What I Hope My Grandchildren Remember

I'm eighty-eight years old. I've lived through more technological change than almost any generation before mine — indoor plumbing, telephones, television, computers, and now AI.

I won't see most of what's coming. My children might see more of it. My grandchildren will very likely live in a world I would barely recognize.

I hope they remember that every one of these tools — the good ones and the dangerous ones — was always just a tool. What mattered, in every generation, was who learned to use it wisely, and who was left to figure it out too late.

That is the whole point of this book, and the whole point of everything I'm building with the Triad Math Army.

Join the Triad Math Army

The sapien species is dividing — not by geography, and not by wealth, but by who has learned to use AI well and who hasn't. History tells us exactly what happens to the group left on the wrong side of that line, from the illiterate peasant of medieval Europe to the tribe with stone tools facing a tribe with steel.

You don't have to be a mathematician. You don't have to be young. You don't even have to be especially "techy." You just have to be willing to learn how to ask the right questions.

The **Triad Math Army** was built to close that gap. It offers:

- **A complete, modern, 21st-century math education for teenagers** — from practical *Workforce Math* through full *STEM Math*, taught faster and more effectively than any traditional classroom.
- **An ever-expanding library of Wisdom Tools**, including direct training in how to use AI tools well, so every member has a tutor available at any hour, for any subject, for life.
- **Original books written by Craig Hane**, first for himself and then shared with every Army member, covering the ideas — like the ones in this book — that matter most for living well in the age of AI.

If you want to be on the right side of this divide — not ruled by AI, but working alongside it — this is where that starts.

Join the Triad Math Army. *Learn the tool before the tool learns to leave you behind.*

Visit: TMA.COOL to get a lot of valuable Gifts, and learn all about the Triad Math Army, TMA.