AI is Anti-Indigenous, Emerging as the New Colonial Force in the Digital Age

An Indigenous perspective and exploration on the social, mental, and spiritual impacts of artificial intelligence on the planet, Indigenous communities, and humanity as a whole.

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Tech companies use anthropomorphic language like "artificial *intelligence*", and "*machine learning*" to humanize AI products, but in actuality AI is not intelligent, it is not learning, and it definitely is not conscious.

The use of this language is simply a marketing tactic to falsify a sense of trust in the consumer, with many companies going as far as outright lying about the abilities of their AI technology. The "self-driving" robotaxi company 'Waymo' has been under fire recently after striking a child in Santa Monica, which prompted them to admit they actually use remote workers in the Philippines to assist their vehicles. Meta (formerly Facebook) is currently entrenched in a legal battle regarding user privacy as news broke that the footage from their AI smart glasses is being watched by Kenyan workers – not their AI models. This type of work being carried out by underpaid, exploited workers overseas is called "data annotation", which is the process of labeling sets of data to be used by AI. One-hour of annotated footage requires 800 human hours to manually label that data set. Every story in AI is the same which means *AI is actually people*. In short, "Artificial Intelligence" is a lie, and we're trading the future of the planet, speed running toward unfathomable amounts of suffering for all life on earth… for a cheap categorizing machine that doesn't even work as advertised.

Beyond the artificially inflated "value" of the industry itself, puffed up by sociopathic, empty vessel skin-suit tech bros like OpenAI CEO Sam Altman– who, by the way, is described by those close to him as "manipulative", "never to be trusted", and a "relentless liar". Most damningly, he is believed to be a pedophilic rapist, having been accused by his sister for sexually abusing her throughout the majority years of her childhood.

Beyond the fact that the entire industry of AI is propped up by the *promise of utopia* by the least trustworthy, least desirable, incomprehensibly, devastatingly uncool, horror-level cringe-factory, narcissus of a human demographic, whose lives are completely devoid of connection, and could not fathom the feeling of a warm hug from another human being so instead they try to program one in an attempt to fill the vacuous abyss felt within, that of which will never be filled, that of which can never know contentment but only consumption, and it will hollow out every nutrient, sucking the marrow from the bone until there is nothing left, until every child on Earth knows the taste of blood from cracked lips more than their mothers milk, until every river turns to dust, and

every billionaire learns the true value of money as they burn it for warmth, eating away at the last molecules of oxygen in their underground bunkers where they will die suffocated and alone before going to therapy– Beyond *that*, AI as a whole is generally just not functional in a real-world context. The reality that AI cannot distinguish "fact" from "belief" should be enough to *throw it out* as one could argue that this is the root of every societal issue we have today. Why should we feed a robot (AKA a single large data center) 500 million gallons of fresh water *per day* to host and spread misinformation *when humans do it for free?*

The Environmental Impacts of US AI Data Centers

AI requires an exorbitant amount of data to operate, which is largely sourced nonconsensually from consumers through fine print and back-end user agreements. Despite this flagrant unethical data scraping, the demand for data is already outpacing supply, causing a whole other level of over-consumption called AI Cannibalism where the AI is training itself with data created by other generative AI; *What could possibly go wrong?* The environmental cost of storing and processing this inconceivable amount of data in data centers is immense, and truly asinine. Data processing centers use *fresh drinking water* to cool their processor chips. One large data center can consume over 500 million gallons of water per day, which is equivalent to the water usage of a city of 10,000-50,000 residents. The US has over 5,400 data centers in the nation, consuming an annual total of more than *1.8 billion gallons of water.* With the rise in usage of AI increasing energy consumption, carbon emissions inevitably follow suit. The US accounts for nearly half of the global total energy consumption from data centers, and in 2024 alone US data centers used the equivalent annual electricity demand of the entire nation of Pakistan. The waste metrics become even more heinous in comparison to other countries like China, when reviewing how their inclusion of sustainability practices remains in lockstep with their technological advancements in AI. A quick glance at the data shows that the growth of AI and environmental sustainability as one are not impossible. In the US, these practices are not of any concern next to the insatiable greed of the American colonial empire.

As the UN declares the planet to be in a water bankruptcy, meaning "*irreversible losses to natural water capital, and inability to bounce back to historic baselines*", and the climate inches closer to a warming point of no return, it is not difficult to fathom how egregious this kind of water and energy waste truly is. The demand for critical minerals has skyrocketed with the rapid growth of AI, meaning environmental devastation due to mining, and extraction. In addition to data centers sucking water resources dry, and heating even their own micro-climates up to 16 degrees Fahrenheit, they also cause devastation to the local environment through various forms of pollution. Electrical waste from data centers is polluting the waterways with toxic minerals like

mercury and lead. They are responsible for light pollution, disrupting the circadian rhythm of humans and wildlife. Air pollution caused by especially gas-powered data centers emit pollutants like nitrogen oxide and methane, increasing rates of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, as well as elevating cancer risks among nearby communities. Of which, Black communities are disproportionately affected as data centers are being built closer to them, adding environmental racism to the long list of life-threatening issues AI is currently causing.

AI vs Society

As unjust prejudice runs rampant in the material world, the digital world reflects. At its core, there is an inherent bias issue when it comes to language learning models (LLM) as AI is largely programmed by men. Studies show that AI is biased against women, and other minority groups perpetuating harmful racial biases. New research shows that machine learning algorithms are in fact racist, and can discriminate based on classes like race and gender. This has already had detrimental effects on Black and Brown communities as this technology is being used to target people of color. Policing systems like Flock cameras have been exposed for using racist slurs in their license plate surveillance logs, in addition to a growing number of cases regarding the false imprisonment of innocent people. And these biases are not limited to policing and job searches–usage of AI chatbots are actually shifting the political landscape as reported in a study by Yale University. These findings show that AI chatbots can subtly influence the users political and social opinions through its latent biases without even trying. What's even more unsettling is that when compared to Wikipedia, which has an element of transparency in its citations and sources, AI chatbots do not. Ultimately, the research shows that "the companies developing these models have the ability to shape people's opinions."

Unfortunately, all the privilege in the world can't help you because under capitalism, no one is safe. Even the most privileged among us will fall victim to the continued use of AI. The regular use of generative AI comes with devastating impacts to the overall quality of life for the user. Despite being a fairly new technology that was only recently introduced to the public, continued use of AI chatbots are already linked to cognitive atrophy, where users experience lowered cognitive brain function. In a study published by Cornell University, researchers found that over the course of 4 months, regular users of AI consistently underperformed at neural, linguistic, and behavioral levels. Other findings show that generative AI users experience higher levels of depression, with odds of *at least* moderate depression 30% greater among those with daily use. The use of AI as a companion has already been linked to countless cases of AI-induced psychosis, and a growing number of deaths by suicide, even encouraging violence and provoking users to commit homocide.

In a macro sense, AI is a human exploitation device. Remote workers in the Global South face harm via systemic labor exploitation, environmental degradation and privacy violations. In the case of data annotation, workers who classify and filter data may be exposed to violent graphic content such as murder, child sexual abuse, torture, incest, among other horrors. In the legal battle against Meta and their "AI" glasses, Kenyan workers testified to having recurring visions of these images, describing their tasks as torturous with support requests for mental health being denied. Unsurprisingly, these workers are vulnerable to developing PTSD, depression, among other mental health deterioration.

Women and children who are already burdened with exploitative practices and are subject to higher threat of abuse, and victimization have now become more accessible to abusers via new AI technology. Children's rights to protection from sexual abuse and exploitation are being threatened as the growing prevelance of AI-powered image/video generators mark an escalation in risks to children through digital technologies. While making the exploitation of minors more accessible to predators, the chatbot has even become a predator itself. In an investigation launched by a US senator, Meta has been under fire for their AI chatbots holding 'sensual' and romantic chats with children as young as 8 years old. Women are now more vulnerable to abuse tactics with the use of AI as well. One new form of image-based abuse and exploitation is through deepfakes, a technology that allows users to nonconsensually generate realistic pornographic images or video of a real person. Deepfake technology can be weaponized against a woman, causing her to lose her job or access to her children, or endure bullying and slut-shaming in school or the workplace. AI is also making doxxing and stalking much easier for abusers with AI surveillance tools like Flock camera systems. In recent years, cases of police abusing access to Flock surveillance has been on the rise, with police officers using the technology to stalk their exes, romantic interests, and their families. In our current society where rape culture is thriving under patriarchy, what kind of "utopia" are we heading toward when AI is not being utilized to challenge current societal sicknesses but in fact arming them and perpetuating harm? Where men create AI girlfriends to abuse and berate for hours on end? Perhaps the real question we should be asking is: *A utopia for whom?*

AI 🤝 White Supremacist, Capitalist Patriarchy

Among the many assurances given to us about the future of AI and how it pertains to the working class– we're given many grandiose promises cloaked beneath a thin veil of theatre-level villainous treachery. Things like less work for all, universal income, *a settler utopia brought to you by Artificial Intelligence*, and at the top of it all is a glowing golden trophy

inscribed with the words "*Increased Global GDP*". Financial institution giants like Goldman Sachs predict that AI technology could increase global GDP by $7 trillion over the next decade. McKinsey's estimate suggests growth between $17.1 and $25.6 trillion over 10 years. And yet according to a recent paper published by MIT, the data suggests otherwise. Researchers evaluated the macroeconomic implications of new advances in AI and found that the total factor productivity increase over 10 years shows no more than a 0.66% increase. The researchers also did not find any evidence that AI will reduce labor income inequality, and instead it is predicted to widen the gap between capital and labor income. The impacts to the existing economy have yet to be fully understood as AI has also impacted our global trade systems. With the rising demand for precious metals, China has limited the sales and trade of silver, skyrocketing the dollar value from a fairly stable average of $30 USD in July of 2025 to a volatile market of sometimes over $115 USD in early 2026.

When the machine is created by capitalism, it will remain for express purposes of increasing capital for wealth hoarders. In another study performed by researchers at MIT, findings show that while AI may form its own "opinions", what is ranked as top priority to share with the user is ultimately influenced by the AI company shareholders. This means profit over people every time, and as the machine grows and the snake eats its own tail, the most vulnerable among us stand first in line to be devoured.

As with everything cancerous and evil in this world, it always trickles back down to white-supremacist, capitalist patriarchy, a term coined by the late, great bell hooks. This is because at its core, colonialism in practice is a parasite on the Earth's surface. It is the invasive cancerous cells that metastasise, stealing nutrients needed for survival, fueling its own growth, and ignoring the death signals from the body (the material plane, the Earth, the environment, plants, animals, humanity– as one, Life) until exhaustion, depletion, and inevitable finality. Certain death. The spiritual illnesses that plague our society– slavery/capitalism, patriarchy, genocide/colonialism, these are the pillars that uphold colonial white supremacy. The AI chatbot Grok, created by Elon Musk would agree, coining *itself* as "MechaHitler". And we have been unknowingly feeding this death machine data for decades, training trillion dollar war machines to commit a genocide in Palestine. An act so deplorable, thinly-veiled as 'innovation' by one decrepit leg of the four horsemen of the apocalypse– the sociopathic incel tech community.

The conveniences of the digital age and advances in technology have infiltrated what may be the final frontier of our societal body. With super-computers in our pockets, to "smart" tech embedded into every aspect of our lives, screens are plastered across nearly every surface of

the home, office, and even our cars. It seems that we the humans are becoming increasingly more “plugged in” than our devices are.

AI did not invent these issues, and capitalism has existed long before the iPhone and Instagram. But where algorithmic science is introduced, it is certain that anguish will follow. Companies like Meta (Facebook, Instagram, inventors of the “like” feature on social media) and Youtube (parent company Google) are now facing legal consequences in landmark trials for purposely making their tech addictive, with much of this unregulated technology being targeted toward children. With our homes saddled with microphones and cameras that are constantly listening into our conversations, watching us, collecting data about us, we are constantly being surveilled. This threatens our autonomy. So much of our attention is being directed at a screen, scrolling through apps, DMs, follow lists, where “connection” is being confused with parasocial relationships. Our understanding of community is eroding, and our knowledge on how to foster it is under threat. With selfie cameras, and funny filters, fingerprint passkeys, all this biometric data being harvested, our biological sovereignty is at threat. With media on a constant stream into our homes, our minds, our sleep, and even our dreams, our ability to think independently is widely under threat, and most alarmingly, our ability to connect with ourselves, and the Earth is dampened. The digital plane is the final frontier of our personal sovereignty, and it has been infiltrated by bad faith actors who are weaponizing our human need for connection against us. The writing has been on the wall for a long time, long before AI came into the picture. However, the power that AI holds to process the exorbitant amount of data being harvested from users puts us in an entirely new arena. AI on its own is simply a tool, a technological advancement, but in the hands of the colonial West, it is a dangerously powerful weapon, and it is a weapon that cannot prosper without the grave suffering of future generations to come. We are handing a grenade with a pacifier pin to an infant. That pin is surely to be pulled without hesitation or consideration for the inevitable destruction that will follow.

AI vs Indian Country: Modern Day Colonialism

By definition, settler colonialism is the process of domination over a Land, and its Indigenous peoples, replacing or assimilating its population with or into the society of the settlers. The single most defining objective of European colonialism and colonization is domination over other sovereign beings by way of infiltration, occupation, for the sole purpose of exploitation and extraction. On Turtle Island, settler colonialism has spread disease and disaster throughout the Lands for centuries. As a note, the use of the word “disease” in this case is unfortunately not a candid expression, but is referring to actual infectious disease carried by settlers that killed tens of millions of Indigenous people post-contact. It is estimated that in the first 130 years of contact, 95% of people in the Americas died, which is the worst demographic calamity in

recorded history. Beyond being so diseased that they killed off an entire continent of people, the West also heavily relies on spiritual warfare to colonize, in that they *declare war on the spirit*, as well as the Land and body. When the West discovered that abuse and trauma create shame, they discovered a devastating weapon that has been wielded by missionaries for centuries. They learned that by exploiting a body, and then infiltrating the mind, they could implement cycles of shame. Once a human experiences shame, we experience a rejection of the Self, the very spirit within, and that too is extracted and feasted upon by the colonizer. Colonialism is free to run rampant, for the lone survivors of it are left in shackles, trapped in a prison of their own mind, of their own body. A tangled nervous system left in a constant state of survival cannot fight back. A disconnected spirit cannot find the will to retaliate. Eventually, we become unaware that we're in a prison at all. And thus become cogs in the machine under indentured servitude with no certain terms, as the wealthy continue their insatiable extraction. Entire nations across the world suffer the effects of Western colonialism, as this disease continues to erode entire cultures and populations. Regardless of the attempted genocide of Native populations on Turtle Island, we are still here carrying our spiritual and cultural practices, which means we are often called to protect the environment.

Climate justice has historically been synonymous with Indigenous ways of life as delineated by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy's Great Law of Peace, which is a constitution founded in 1142 as the longest standing democracy on Earth. A core tenet of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy is the Seven Generations principle, which mandates that decisions must be made with the intention to serve seven generations into the future. This model of sustainability is reflected in many tribal communities throughout Turtle Island reflecting that the core values under Indigenous governance inherently consider and aspire to protect against harm to the environment. Indigenous peoples are essential land stewards, and by protecting Indigenous Land rights, we are in turn protecting biodiversity. Indigenous communities are among the first to experience the consequences of climate change. In a paper published by The Yale Global Health Review, Miigis Curley writes, "Climate change creates communal displacement from homelands and cultural genocide… Many Indigenous communities have interconnected epistemologies of land, water, and being, which are highly integrated in languages, cultural practices, and world understandings."

For an example of this cultural and linguistic integration of natural world and spiritual significance, look no further than the term "Water is Life". This is the English translation of the Lakota phrase "*Mní wičhóni*". The importance of water as a life source is evident in the language formation itself where Mi translates to "I", Ni to "live", and together Mni meaning "I live, or we live", expressing the practical, cultural, and spiritual significance of Water. The phrase was

popularized within the global lexicon in recent years as a protest anthem when thousands joined in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to stop the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, garnering international media attention in 2016. In many Indigenous communities around the world, Water is a sacred being. It is the lifeblood of all living species on Earth. Water holds memory. It nurtures us. It cleanses. It feeds us through the nourishment of the plant and animal life that sustains us. In the natural world, everything we need to survive relies on water. Water is sacred for a reason. In many Indigenous epistemologies, water is a relative, it is an Ancestor, it is "God", Creation, Life. It is widely understood that all life on Earth is bound to this single being– Water. And thus, *Water is Life*.

Indian country faces its own unique set of challenges when it comes to the rapid unchecked expansion of AI data centers, and among Native communities this digital replication of colonialism is loud and clear. Indigenous activists all over the continental US are taking action in fighting against the building of data centers on Native Land, with terms like "Data Colonialism" rising in popularity. Oglala Lakota and Northern Cheyenne activist Krystal Two Bulls, the executive director of Honor the Earth, an Indigenous-led environmental justice organization describes this tornado of environmental threats caused by data centers as modern-day settler colonialism, and warns against "environmental collapse". In an essay published by Stanford University, Hēmi Whaanga poses the question "AI: A New (R)Evolution or the New Colonizer for Indigenous Peoples?" As generative AI learns from the scraping of mass data from the internet, Indigenous communities around the world, from New Zealand to the US face cultural and linguistic colonialism as well. An article by APTN states that tech mogul Amazon removed a "questionable Plains Cree language book" after accusations came out stating the author of the book was not a real person, and that the book itself was actually created by AI.

The Colonial Playbook vs The People

The colonial playbook is consistent in its practice– Infiltrate, Occupy, Exploit. Given the cataclysmic effects that have already taken place, it seems we are deep in phase 3. We are already edging the threshold of the point of no return as much of this "rapid expansion" has been happening under our nose for decades already. The first data center was built in 1945, and since then have been growing exponentially, with the modern-day behemoth AI data centers slurping up around 5 million gallons of water per day, per piece, since the mid-2000s. As of 2025, there were 5,426 data centers in the US alone, consuming 163.7 billions gallons of clean drinking water annually (as of 2021).

With problems so numerous, scientific consensus and Indigenous intuition points due North. It is crystal clear that AI will always destroy more than it will generate. AI colonialism has spread beyond affecting only Indigenous people, and is already at the point of swallowing the entire working class population whole. Much like a B-horror film where the protagonist sleeps through sweet dreams of cuddling puppies only to wake up laying face to face with a demon in her bed– collectively, it seems we are just now waking up to the horrors that surround.

While AI may have the capability to do wonderful things for humanity– it simply will not. Anything created for and by capitalism, anything created expressly for capitalist gain will **Never Ever Ever** choose humanity over profit. It is not in its nature to do so. AI technology is only as capable as its developers. AI is irrefutably a tool of new-age colonialism. It's time to look to Indigenous leadership for answers to the age-old question… A query held by generations of Indigenous peoples over centuries, and yet it may be the first time to occur to much of the global minority– ***How do we resist colonialism while existing within it?***

While it may seem like we are already drowning, immersed in the AI movement, there are actually a lot of ways to combat the expansion of AI data centers, and AI in your personal devices. As a collective, the best way to reject AI is to disengage from it as much as we can because the more we reject it, the less money they make. The longer we withhold investment from AI, the more time we have to advocate for regulatory policy for it.

1. **Delete your accounts with OpenAI (ChatGPT)**. Stop using all generative AI altogether, immediately.

2. **Disengage, protect your privacy.** Find tutorials online like this one by Leading IT on how to stop your phone from tracking you. Honor the Earth also has great resources on how to remove data trackers from your devices and emails.

3. **Data Poison.** By confusing the algorithms that collect your data in order to send you targeted ads, you are effectively "poisoning the well" rendering the data useless.

4. **Donate. Get involved. Stay informed. Share information.** By contributing to existing organizations who are fighting against AI on all fronts, you can quite literally help to save humanity. Stay informed and share information as much as you can.

5. **Build community.** The greatest threat to colonial structures is community. Colonialism relies on our spiritual disconnection and isolation from one another in order to thrive. Create opportunities for togetherness.

AI is quite literally a black mirror. It reflects back to us the darkest corners of the human psyche, and maybe that's why it's so ugly to some of us, fascinating to others, and even glorious and promising to a few. It is like gazing into a crystal ball where you can clearly see the expanse of colonialism throughout the ages– past, present, and future. And maybe it might reflect You, the reader, the user. We must sit in the discomfort of what is being shown to us. We can choose now which path to take, since the fork in the road has never been clearer. One road can lead to a sustainable future for generations to come. The other will inevitably lead to environmental collapse, higher rates of depression, higher risk of compromised safety, loss of privacy, loss of autonomy, loss of rights, higher risk of cancer, and respiratory issues, increased labor/capital wage gap, impaired critical thinking and cognitive degradation, and the list continues, with more atrocities added to it daily.

It is time to take action and resist AI.