
America's Path to Resurgence — If We Let It

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The objections are real: copyright disputes, fake content, low-quality “slop,” hallucinations. But the AI job panic is probably overblown, at least in the simplistic “AI will replace everyone” version. AI is still unreliable, still needs human judgment, and still fails badly without capable users guiding it. The people supposedly most at risk—software engineers—are also among the most aggressive adopters of AI, because they understand both its power and its limits. That is not the behavior of a workforce being replaced. It is the behavior of one learning to wield a powerful, if fallible, tool. ^[1]

The backlash against data centers is even more revealing. America says it wants manufacturing jobs back, but factories are noisy, energy-hungry, water-intensive, polluting, and dangerous. Data centers have costs too—power, water, noise—but nothing compared to heavy manufacturing. Would you rather your children work on an assembly line or in a data center? The answer is obvious. No one wants to be sweating in a factory as endless, mind-numbing widgets roll by for 8 hours.

America worries that students are using AI to cheat; China worries that students may fall behind if they do not use enough AI. ^[2] America litigates, protests, delays, and moralizes; China builds, mandates, subsidizes, and scales. That does not mean America should ignore AI's problems, but it does mean we need to stop treating every objection as a veto. AI is not just another app—it is strategic infrastructure. ^[3] If I were China, I would be working hard on a PsyOp to build anti-AI sentiment—convince Americans that the technology most likely to restore our economic dominance is actually something to fear. ^[4]

NOTES & SOURCES

[1]

Pragmatic Engineer — AI Tooling for Software Engineers in 2026. ~95% of surveyed engineers use AI tools at least weekly. https://lnkd.in/gz_ntanN

[2]

Global Times — China's 2025 guidelines making AI education mandatory across primary and secondary schools (at least eight hours yearly, from age six). <https://lnkd.in/gJ-25zs7>

[3]

Council on Foreign Relations — AI compute treated as a critical strategic asset and maximizing U.S. AI leadership as a vital national interest. <https://lnkd.in/gq5ibH8Z>

[4]

Stimson Center, citing the 2025 Edelman Trust Barometer — 72% of people in China trust AI vs. 32% in the U.S. https://lnkd.in/g6_KV4Gt