

Solution 4. The worst solution possible Universal Basic Income

If the only means of obtaining income from the arrival of automation is government extracting taxes and stunting the Free Market Economy to pay a Universal Basic Income then the outlook is bleak.

It would exceed our worst dystopian nightmares.

Universal Basic Income (UBI) regime resembles the slave empire of Rome. Public provision of bread and circuses, well crusts and reality TV. The difference is that in the Roman Empire the state did not tax the population for the public bread and circuses. The emperor supplied bread and circus animals from his own resources outside the economy of the City of Rome

The prospect of a large number of idle able bodied people with subsistence incomes dependent on “passive welfare” is a spectre that should haunt us. Those marooned in state dependency relying solely on a Universal Basic Income would have their living standards decided by their ability to lobby politicians.

They would be locked in permanent dependency. Recipients would resist tooth and nail at the ballot box any threat of removal. It would therefore be impossible to remove. It would be there forever.

It would be like the present “passive welfare” payments paid to the able bodied with the same catastrophic effects. The expansion of “passive welfare” to more able bodied people would have the same destructive effects it has in Baltimore, Outback Australia, the Banlieu’s of Paris, Glasgow and Detroit.

A regime based providing a Universal Basic Income would expand the State and make politicians more powerful. It would mean higher taxes on enterprises and those who remained in the work force. That would harm the Free Market Economy which generates all prosperity.

In effect the wealth from the increase in productivity brought about by automation and robotics would be confiscated by politicians to buy votes.

Using the state as a means of alleviating, mediating, managing the adjustment from the “hands on” provision of goods and services to automated provision would be a disaster as large in scale as Socialism.

The solution to the advance of robots and automation emphatically does not lie with more dependency and State management of the “problem.”

We must not under any circumstances be driven into destructive strategies to handle the advent of Automation and Robotics by progressive post modern theorists who would scare us to make themselves more powerful. Especially not to be peremptorily scared into a solution that would drain the Free Market Economy of the funds, people it needs to adapt and create the new services and industries which will effect the transition.