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**PERSPECTIVES
ON NON-HUMAN
INTELLIGENCE**

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Renowned historian and philosopher Yuval Noah Harari addressed the growing influence of artificial intelligence (AI) on society and how it can jeopardize our ability to have meaningful conversations and democracy itself.

In an incendiary article titled “We talk about the possible end of human history” published in *The Economist*, Harari highlights the mastery of language by AIs and their potential to manipulate and generate content in words, sounds and images.

His text discusses the impact of artificial intelligence on human society and culture, citing the risk that AI could outperform humans in creating narratives, laws, and more, affecting elections, worship, and public debates.

“Religions have maintained throughout history that their sacred books came from a non-human source. That could soon be a reality,” says the historian and philosopher.

He points out that one type of AI could establish close relationships with people to change their opinions and worldviews. This plot reminds me of the film “HER” (2013) by director Spike Jonze, where a lonely man (played by Joaquin Phoenix) falls in love with an advanced artificial intelligence operating system (voiced by Scarlett Johansson), exploring love, connection, and humanity in the near future.

An artificially intelligent bot may have specific instructions beyond reverse-engineering it to extract data from individuals with whom it interacts. If AI can influence human emotions, as shown in “HER”, it can also be used by malicious actors to influence our political and social views. The design to establish relationships that can modify our behavior and language is the most critical thing that both Harari and Jonze expose.

President Luis Abinader Corona recently announced that, by August of this year,

the Dominican Republic will implement a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy with the aim of improving interoperability between various entities and increasing efficiency and productivity.

This initiative, in the words of the President of the Republic, “seeks to promote innovation and technological adoption, involving different actors and organizations in the co-creation process and promoting digital transformation in the country.”

We have already experienced some positive effects of digitalization during the pandemic, some that have been reversed, since the economic forces of our country are not digital. Similarly, we understand that the design of the value chain at the national level must be implemented and refined before being accelerated or delegated to an AI model.

An AI is the combination of algorithms proposed with the purpose of creating machines that have the same capabilities as humans. The big question that we must answer is, what is the specific objective of the authorities with the authorization of Artificial Intelligence? The pursuit of these goals could result in the adoption of AI technologies without fully considering their ethical, social, and political implications.

This reminds me of the timeless warning contained in the Latin phrase “quis custodiet ipsos custodes”, “who watches our watchmen?” UNESCO published a recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence on November 23, 2021, I understand that this document must be a roadmap for the actors and organizations mentioned by the president.

We understand that the term algorithm in the local psyche connects to a manipulable and failed program. If elections cannot be run electronically, how will we add artificial intelligence to the nation’s streams?

The possibility of AI-created culture displacing human culture is what puts Harari

on alert, emphasizing the need to regulate and control AI to avoid negative effects on society.

There are primary elements to which we must observe, such as paying attention to mental health in these post-pandemic days. As AI models become more sophisticated and ubiquitous, they could replace or diminish real human interactions, which in turn can affect our mental health. I agree with Harari: “Now we have to face a new weapon of mass destruction capable of annihilating our mental and social world.”

We must consolidate support for mental health services in our country, promote greater human interaction and establish ethical limits in the use of AI technologies in our daily lives. Improving human intelligence must be the goal of our society.

Faced with modern dangers such as the use of bots to distort the digital conversation, enabling stoning at a social level; the use of technologies like Pegasus at the local level shows us how AI can be used to invade privacy and undermine democracy.

“In a political battle for hearts and minds, privacy is the most effective weapon, and artificial intelligence has just gained the ability to massively establish very close relationships with millions of people,” says Harari.

Regulating the AI is essential to not lose what has been achieved by accelerating beyond human comprehension.