



Superagency:

What Could Possibly Go Right with Our AI Future
Reid Hoffman and Greg Beato

Publisher: Authors Equity

28. Januar 2025

ISBN-10 : 889331010H

ISBN-13 979-8893310108:

Reid Hoffman founded the career network LinkedIn and successfully took it public in 2011. He built PayPal with Peter Thiel and most recently launched AI companies such as OpenAI and Infection.

Human agency

Human agency is the capacity to make choices, act independently, and exert influence over one's life. It compels us to form intentions, set goals, and take actions to achieve those outcomes, endowing life with purpose and meaning. [1]

One fundamental message of Reid Hoffman's *Superagency: What Could Possibly Go Right With Our AI Future* is, that every new technology we've invented—from language, to books, to the mobile phone—has defined, redefined, deepened, and expanded what it means to be human. The “AI revolution” – if it “goes right”- will augment human agency to Super agency.

The book Superagency challenges conventional fears, inviting us to view the future through a lens of opportunity, rather than fear. It's a call to action – to embrace AI with excitement and actively shape a world where human ingenuity and the power of AI combine to create something extraordinary.

Superagency argues that AI has enormous potential to *amplify human agency* rather than replace or diminish it. Reid Hoffman and co-author Beato make the case that while there are understandable fears about AI — loss of jobs, misuse, inequality, etc. — we should focus more on *what could go right* if we design, deploy, and regulate AI wisely. The book is a call to be *AI-curious* rather than fearful, to participate in shaping AI so that it elevates individuals and society.

Here are some examples and illustrations Hoffman uses to show how AI / new tech can increase human agency, or how past tech revolutions help us understand the present.

- *Car analogy*: Hoffman compares AI's potential to the historical shift brought by automobiles. Early on people feared cars (safety, disruption), but over time, cars greatly increased human mobility. More subtle: when others can travel, a doctor can come to you. These network effects amplify agency collectively. [2]
- *Medical / scientific research*: For example, accelerating discovery of drugs (cancer treatments, etc.) by combining AI with existing scientific knowledge. AI tools could massively speed up hypothesis generation, screening molecules, modeling side-effects. [3]
- *AI agents in daily life*: He envisions agents (software agents) that help you manage tasks: optimizing home's energy consumption, assisting in education, helping you navigate complex systems — freeing up mental space or time for things you value. [4]
- *LinkedIn*: Customers developed trust in the platform and have a much greater overview of open suitable: “they want to find you, rather you have to find them”.

Global Landscape. The democratization of computing power has expanded AI development beyond the U.S. and China. A global landscape requires countries to prioritize AI development to maintain their influence and competitiveness. [2]

Converting Data to Knowledge. By distributing intelligence broadly and empowering people with AI tools, we can convert Big Data into Big Knowledge, achieving a new Light Ages of data-driven clarity and growth. [2]

But Reid Hofmann does not spare criticism, as negative example of “common goods” distribution, he uses the *PC and Information* technology revolution at the end of the last century; the per-capita G.D.P. in the United States has almost doubled since 1980, while the median household income has lagged far behind. That period covers the information-technology revolution. This means that the economic value created by the personal computer and the Internet industry has mostly served to increase the wealth of the top one percent of the top one percent, instead of raising the standard of living for U.S. citizens as a whole.

Summary

In his book "Superagency," Reid Hoffman and Greg Beato make a passionate plea to view LLM-AI as a technological revolution that will change all of our lives for the better. He supports his thesis with extensive insider knowledge , examples and numerous statistical surveys from various sources. He goes back to the First Industrial Revolution and analyzes the benefits and disadvantages of the ensuing developments, but also doesn't ignore the negative capitalistic developments of the 1980s

Reid Hoffman believes that innovation and safety are not opposing forces, but rather synergistic ones: giving millions of people hands-on access to AI, through the process of iterative deployment, is both a productive and a safe way to make AI more capable and more inclusive, and enables the fair distribution of common goods.

His thesis of a global human superagency would be plausible if there were a global common consensus and concerted efforts to seize this opportunity for humanity.

However, considering the global political, economic, and ecological situation in the year 2025, skepticism is warranted.

References:

- [1] <https://sobrief.com/books/superagency>
- [2] [The Washington Post](#)
- [3] [The Washington Post](#)
- [4] [TIME](#)