

Mingong Manifesto: Why the Future of Mankind is not in the City but out in the Sticks

Theory #1: increasing automation and computerization, in particular the recent development in AI research and application will lead within the next two decades to a total collapse of our labor markets, in particular the tertiary sector. In 30 years from now, we will live in societies where most menial and skilled work is executed by robots and algorithms and people are either without job or self-employed.ⁱ

Theory #2: The ongoing Chinese robot revolution will play a prominent role in this development, because China will be for the first time in the industrial revolution's history pitcher instead of catcher. The Chinese industrial robot revolution will catalyze and exponentially accelerate the AI revolution.ⁱⁱ

Theory #3: a collapse of labor markets can only be resolved by a new redistribution of wealth and the gradual agreement on a new social contract. This new social contract will have a guaranteed basic income as its central pillar.ⁱⁱⁱ

Theory #4: assuming that regional, national and global elites agree to cede relevant power and finance a basic income for the sake of peace and progress, humanity will for the first time ever be confronted in its entirety with yet another new challenge, which until recently did only exist for a few wealthy individuals and for which our educational systems do not prepare: defining individual and organizational purpose beyond biological and economic needs.^{iv}

Theory #5: German sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies used the terms *Gemeinschaft* and *Gesellschaft* to refer to the distinction between societies organized on the basis of kinship and tradition, on the one hand, and by specialization and self-interest, on the other. As modern societies become more urban and industrial, the former is replaced by the latter. French sociologist Emile Durkheim believed that solidarity was the normal condition of society, and even though he recognized the turmoil associated with industrialization, he considered conflict abnormal or pathological.^v

Theory #6: Evolution designed man to live in communities of up to 150 persons, not in societies of several million.^{vi} Evolution designed man to feel good about being responsible for the entire value chain of a product. The industrial revolution led to massive urbanization and the destruction of communities; it catalyzed the division of labor and reduced people to alienated automatons, who are less or not at all committed to the production process, the organization and even society at large. This was an important development to arrive at where we are now. But things have changed and human misery must not be prolonged.^{vii}

Theory #7: With the collapse of secondary and tertiary labor markets in the due course of cybernation, the agricultural sector will turn again - as during the pre-industrial era - into a major area of occupation for mankind. People will form local communities in the countryside to grow their own food supported by a basic income and a mostly automated manufacturing and service industry.

Theory #8: In both urban and rural areas social cohesion and solidarity will be re-established by the formation of occupational groups. These groups consist mostly of artisans and craftsmen, which will revive the medieval notion of the golden handicraft.^{viii} Occupational groups will also function as social organizations; since they are based on the similarity of labor, Durkheim thought that individuals within them would naturally have shared interests and a sense of collective identity. Flowing from this, they could organize leisure activities and other social interactions, giving individuals a sense of belonging in the ways that primary affiliations, such as kin and religion used to.^{ix}

ⁱ See in particular Martin Ford: [The Rise of the Robots – Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future](#)

ⁱⁱ See in particular NDRC: [机器人产业发展规划（2016-2020年）发布](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ Switzerland put the unconditional guaranteed basic income as the planet's first country to a referendum on June 5, 2016. Detailed information about the socio-economic implications can be found on the [website](#) of the organizers.

^{iv} Compare ongoing HR development and management discussions about employee motivation, e.g. [How Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Influences Employee Engagement](#)

^v see Prof. Timothy Shortell, Department of Sociology, Brooklyn College, CUNY: [Division of Labor & Social Integration](#)

^{vi} see [Sapiens: A History of Humankind](#) by Yuval N. Harari

^{vii} see behavioral economist Dan Ariely on [TED](#)

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vii Medieval Continental European, in particular German craftsmanship was dubbed as *Goldenes Handwerk*. Then because of the protection which the guilds provided, now because modern psychology has shown that craftsmanship is a sure vehicle into the flow state of mind.

vii see Prof. Timothy Shortell, Department of Sociology, Brooklyn College, CUNY: [Division of Labor & Social Integration](#)

