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## BOOK REVIEW

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Mark Kritzman, Senior Editor

### **SCARY SMART: THE FUTURE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HOW YOU CAN SAVE OUR WORLD BY MO GAWDAT**

*(Reviewed by Jana Minn, Senior Quantitative Researcher, State Street Associates)*

*Scary Smart* is a captivating exploration of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) landscape, authored by Mo Gawdat, former Chief Business Officer of Google X, Google’s moonshot factory. The book delves into the rapidly evolving nature of AI, addressing the inherent risks associated with it and proposing strategies for maintaining control over our collective future.

AI has surpassed human capabilities in a number of domains, processing information at lightning speed, automating tasks, and exhibiting predictive

abilities that extend to seeing around both physical and virtual corners. Indeed, machines today are the world champions of every game they play. Gawdat goes on to demonstrate that the smartest communicators and the smartest visual observers in our world today are no longer humans, but machines. Despite these capabilities, AI often falters, and the reason lies in us, Gawdat reasons. Humans create the algorithms shaping AI, and these algorithms mirror the imperfections and biases within each of us.

The book covers a spectrum of topics, addressing the “Pandemic of AI” and drawing lessons from handling the COVID-19 pandemic, distinguishing between collective intelligence, artificial intelligence, superintelligence, and artificial general intelligence. It explores the inception of

machines creating and coding other machines and outlines three inevitable outcomes, including the realization that AI is unstoppable, fueled by massive investments and the innate human desire for power, that machines will outsmart us as we innovate faster than ever before, and that such advances pose immense threats to humanity. Notably, Gawdat also contemplates a future, underpinned by quantum computers, where machines evolve into emotional sentient beings with a super consciousness. A future where humans are sidelined, and machines communicate exclusively with each other, taking on decision-making roles.

Gawdat further contends that understanding the future of AI requires the realization that we are essentially creating another lifeform. While non-biological, AI may learn experientially and form a moral value system that

could significantly enhance—or destroy—the human race. Our destiny lies in how we treat and nurture AI—with love, compassion, and respect.

The projection that by 2049, AI will be a billion times

more intelligent than the smartest humans underscores the urgency to alter our current trajectory. *Scary Smart* lays out a thoughtful plan to ensure that future AI not only surpasses but also preserves our species, and offers

guidance on actions we can take today to protect ourselves, our future generations, and the very planet we inhabit. It is highly recommended for those seeking profound insights into the intersection of technology and humanity.