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Jobs for Thee but not for Me, Robots Do the Heavy Lifting

In the endless rows of production lines, human labor once dominated and filled the seats, working countless hours next to a conveyor belt and ensuring only the best products of pristine quality made their way to the consumers. The older generations most likely have experience in this line of work, in a post-war booming economy. Nowadays, the workers are disappearing and being replaced by steel-plating machinery and heavy-lifting cranes. Despite technology marching on without a sign of stopping, many debate over the increasing use of robotics in manufacturing industries over human labor. However, due to low efficiency, declining birth rates and subpar working conditions, the robots replacing humans do more good than harm in this battle for supremacy.

In Mainland China, efficiency is key. People are getting better education and millions live in cities with renowned universities, a far cry from those who worked tirelessly in factories 50 years ago. As achievements and hierarchy are deeply ingrained in Chinese culture, parents who were once workers expect their children to succeed and bring glory to their families. Thus, the newer generations are not those who produce cheap goods and work on production lines. Instead, they develop the technology necessary to push production even further. Youngsters fresh out of college are likely going to look for a job in IT or R&D, playing a role in the development of robots that automate the production process. With the chain of conveyor belts being supplied by robots, the procedures needed to complete a product are faster than ever before. Robots lift giant lumps of materials at a time, compared to us only having two tiny limbs. Robots move at speeds that even the eight-time Olympic gold medalist and sprinter Usain Bolt can't hope to ever achieve. With these levels of efficiency that humans simply aren't physically capable of, in a world that values time and resources, it's simply incomparable. The aforementioned newer generations have also come into play, a more efficient use of human labor can help the country flourish under increasing numbers of specialists and experts in different fields. On the production lines and in the offices, efficiency is key. Since we need intelligent humans at the office, it's up to the robots to fill the production lines.

After the bubble burst 3 decades ago, Japan's stagnant economy has led to the rise of corporate giants known as the Keiretsu, companies that dominate the Land of the Rising Sun in every field and profession you can imagine. Yet, the birth of these business conglomerates is ironic considering actual births are only dropping lower. The fertility rate being lower than 1 per woman means that no one is there to join the ranks of Mitsubishi, Sumitomo, and Mitsui. However, the production lines are instead filled to the brim with robots. In a nation where the population is rapidly aging, the humans are all working as administrators or salarymen, leaving no manpower for manual labor. As Japan is also known for its high-quality products, the "Made in Japan" label is being safeguarded by automation. Dustless chambers and high-tech machinery leave no room for the errors that we as humans are prone to making. No longer do we need specialists to train interns and rookies on the job, the robots are programmed to do their work flawlessly. Every man counts in a nation that is projected to have a population of 1 singular person by the year 2800 given current birth rates, Japan is not wasting its valuable manpower on something as trivial as producing mass goods. Beyond Japan's borders, billions of lives are at stake since many nations including China and India have all had their fertility rates drop below the replacement level, their populations dwindling until there is no one left to document this issue any further. In light of this, robots are our only solution to this impending crisis.

Criticisms of robotic labor are surfacing in the face of mass unemployment and vanishing job positions, stating that risking the use of new technologies that haven't matured may bring dire consequences. However, human labor brings risks that outweigh any brought by untested technology. Workplace safety is highly valued by labor unions and factory workers. In the Military-Industrial Complex where explosives and chemicals are always present, even skilled workers can get into trouble. Before the pandemic, the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov suffered multiple fires which collapsed cranes and wounded numerous maintenance personnel, while the American amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard caught fire and injured several personnel. The shipbuilding industry constructs engineering marvels that break world records, yet the scale of such industries brings massive concerns. Falling debris and collapses can injure and kill a large number of innocent workers. In this age of drones and advanced optics, dangerous workplace

conditions should be supported by such autonomous robots. By supplanting humans with drones, we won't lose our jobs but become drone operators instead. Human lives should never be taken lightly, especially when they are working tirelessly to make a living. Although OSHA violations are often joked about, the threat to workplace safety is very real, and drones can help us remove precarious conditions like large seagoing vessels, nuclear reactors and construction sites. We humans should always come first no matter what, making our replacement by robots a foregone conclusion.

Robots are our tools in the face of higher demands of efficiency, declining birth rates and dangerous workplace conditions. Humans are getting more educated and don't deserve to work in factories with repetitive jobs. Our intelligence is better used in academic and technological fields, while robots can do the heavy lifting instead. Thus, the benefits that robots bring in replacing human labor outweighs the disadvantages. Technology is only getting better day by day, and we can be the ones to harvest the advantages.