

Book Review
More Everything Forever: AI Overlords, Space Empires, and Silicon Valley's Crusade to Control the Fate of Humanity
The Politics Behind Silicon Valley's Future

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Abstract

More Everything Forever: AI Overlords, Space Empires, and Silicon Valley's Crusade to Control the Fate of Humanity by science writer Adam Becker examines a set of themes, namely, artificial intelligence, expanding into space, extending human life, and utopianism through technology. Rather than just assessing how well or poorly certain visions of the future align with current realities, Becker examines the historical and contemporary ideologies and interest groups in society that have contributed to making such visions appealing. The reviewers believe that Becker's most significant contributions lie in showing that what may seem like purely futuristic (and therefore presumably neutral) technologies are indeed a form of political narrative about who gets to determine resource allocation, create definitions for "progress", and choose which potential futures get funded. While Becker does present a compelling critique of the notion that all socially acceptable technological possibilities will always result in some form of societal progress, Becker's aggressive approach at times creates the impression that he is describing his subjects as monolithic entities rather than complex ones.

Keywords: artificial intelligence; technological utopianism; Silicon Valley; longtermism; AI governance; technology and society

More Everything Forever by Adam Becker is an analysis of a number of technological and ideological developments which together contribute to the ways in which people today imagine their futures. These include artificial intelligence (AI), expanding into space, extending human longevity, believing that technological advancements will lead to utopia, and longtermism, the view that our actions today should be influenced by what we want for humanity thousands of years from now. Rather than considering whether these potential futures will be technologically possible, Becker's primary focus is on why certain people and organizations advocating for these futures consider them desirable and how this advocacy shapes current choices. By demonstrating how the

cultural values of Silicon Valley shape the direction of technological development and its connection to politics, investments, and debates over AI, Becker encourages readers to reflect on what lies at the foundation of declarations that one or another technological future is either unavoidable or inherently positive. Therefore, while this book may be of interest to individuals who read books about technology, it will also likely appeal to individuals concerned with government, institutional decision-making processes, and the distribution of power.

Becker develops this line of thinking through a sequence of arguments that begins with effective altruism and longtermism, followed by an examination of artificial intelligence, as well as the idea of settling space and extending human life. He explores in detail how the notion of benefiting generations far in advance can create new ethics that make remote futures immediately relevant. He also follows those ideas through to their implications for debates on intelligent machines and expanding human life and society beyond our planet. Across these topics, Becker's repeated concern is not simply whether some or most of these technologies will ever exist, but how speculative claims acquire scientific legitimacy and social and institutional authority and begin to influence decisions made by technology leaders. (Becker, 2025)

Becker's treatment of longtermism, the idea that there is significant ethical weight in considering the interests and well-being of generations to come, is an important theme throughout his work. It is also, within the broader landscape that Becker considers, not a synonym for technological optimism, AI development, expanding into outer space, or extending human life. While these perspectives may sometimes converge, each has its own underlying premises and rationales. That is why it is important to understand how these various movements relate to one another and how they should be assessed individually. (Matravers et al., 2023).

However, a weakness in Becker's journalistic approach to exploring the emergence and evolution of new cultural worldviews also follows from that method. The rhetorical style employed throughout much of the book is intentionally incisive, and Becker sometimes appears to reach conclusions before fully weighing competing explanations. For example, in his treatment of Gerard K. O'Neill's space-colony proposals and Jeff Bezos's contemporary ambitions, Becker uses the continuity between them to sharpen his critique of Silicon Valley futurism. That connection is useful, but the presentation can also make distinct historical and institutional positions appear more uniform than they are. Readers who disagree with Becker's values and priorities may therefore view portions of his descriptions as prosecutorial rather than analytical. Becker is most effective when he permits the underlying arguments to speak before evaluating them, because readers can then assess his assertions on their independent merits. By contrast, the analysis is less persuasive when Becker appears to reach moral judgments before establishing analytical distinctions. (Becker, 2025)

In his work on the relationship between space settlements and technological expansion, Becker illustrates the continued importance of the idea of technological expansion through Gerard K. O'Neill's early plans for human colonies in space and Jeff Bezos's current interest in large-scale human settlements in space. He uses this commonality to show how a technologically oriented vision has persisted over time. However, this does not mean that everyone who has pursued this vision has had the same motivation or political intent. While both O'Neill and Bezos have expressed an interest in increasing the scope of humanity's presence beyond Earth, their approaches emerged

from different historical contexts. Therefore, when Becker critiques Bezos's contemporary views of Silicon Valley futurism, he makes a strong connection but sometimes downplays the distinctions between the two men's ideas and institutions. (Becker, 2025)

For instance, expanding human presence off Earth could be motivated by the need for scientific discovery, the desire for long-term sustainability, opportunities for business development, or a belief that humans are progressing. These motivations do not necessarily lead to the same political implications. People may also hold similar views regarding AI for different reasons. For example, someone might view AI positively because of its potential to provide assistive technology, while another person might believe it will be instrumental in creating an automated world in which machine intelligence ultimately shapes humanity's future. Becker's overall thesis is still valuable in pointing out the power behind these visions, but his argument would have been more persuasive had he drawn clearer distinctions between those who pursue technological advancement for different purposes and with different commitments.

Becker's analysis also suggests a practical need for institutional decision-makers to examine claims of technological necessity before determining organizational priorities. Universities, policymakers, and technology companies should ask what evidence supports a proposed technological future; whose interests are advanced by treating that future as unstoppable; what risks are accepted by treating it as necessary; and which alternative approaches are not being considered. These questions become especially important when expectations of technological benefits begin to influence investment, curricula, labor-force decisions, and regulatory environments. (Lazcoz & de Hert, 2023).

Ultimately, Becker's most compelling argument is that technological futures are formed through the interaction of history, values, institutions, and concentration of power rather than being determined solely by what is technologically feasible. His historical and political analysis therefore provides an excellent starting point for examining assumptions that might otherwise become embedded in institutional decision-making. However, the reviewers' concern regarding differentiation remains important: the numerous social movements described in this book cannot always be treated as one collective intellectual or political entity. This work will be especially beneficial to readers in technology policy, higher education, governance, and related fields who wish to evaluate the assumptions behind claims about technology. At the same time, it may be less useful to readers seeking a more detailed discussion of each social movement mentioned in Becker's work.

More Everything Forever raises a question whose resolution will be critical for debates over AI governance: when influential individuals describe a future option as inevitable, is this a prediction or a plan?

The reviewers interpret these statements as more than neutral forecasts, though not necessarily as fully formulated plans. As influential organizations invest money, credibility, and policy attention in a desired technological future, a forecast can begin to function as a plan by shaping what is built, what risks are accepted, and what alternatives appear unrealistic. Becker most effectively demonstrates the political nature of technological forecasting; however, his broader argument would have been strengthened by drawing clearer distinctions between the different movements and motivations he discusses.

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