

Ted Kaczynski's Correspondence with Lily Yang

June 22, 2021 - October 1, 2021

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Lily to Ted — June 22, 2021

[Text on commercial card:] You're the type of person I'd enjoy camping with...

If I were ever to camp.

Which I am not.

June 22, 2021

Ironic card cover photo, huh?

I am Lily Yang, a 19-year-old soon-to-be computer scientist. Undoubtedly you hate me for my chosen career path, but allow me to explain. I graduated from _____ school in _____ and I will graduate with a bachelor's degree in computer science in a few months at the end of _____. I've read your Wikipedia (online encyclopedia) page starting from when I was a child, but I didn't consider directly contacting you until recently.

...

Ted to Lily — August 3, 2021

...

Dear Ms. Yang:

... No, I don't hate you. On the contrary, I like you, and that's why I'm answering your letter.

...

Lily to Ted — August 19, 2021

...

Ted to Lily — October 1, 2021

...



WHICH I AM NOT. June 22, 2021

Ironic card cover photo, huh?

I am Lily Yang, a 19-year-old soon-to-be computer scientist. Undoubtedly you hate me for my chosen career path, but allow me to explain. I graduated from [redacted] School in [redacted] and I will graduate with a bachelor's degree in computer science in a few months at the end of [redacted]. I've read your Wikipedia (online encyclopedia) page starting from when I was a child, but I didn't consider directly contacting you until recently.

(Ignore what's on the back of this paper. I didn't have any other pieces of paper to use.)

I've read both "Industrial Society and Its Future" and "Anti-Tech. Revolution, Why and How." Although I agree with certain parts of both works, I do not understand how you can advocate for a return to the wilderness as a viable solution to the problem of technology subjugating modern humans to the control of the technological society as a whole.

My parents, like yours, are immigrants. They came from a rural background, from the country side of a city called [redacted] in the [redacted] province of China. My father speaks of having not enough food to share between him and his eight siblings even though his parents farmed the rice paddies day after day. My grandmother recalls a famine in the village leading her to eat branches and leaves for weeks on end. Dissatisfied with rural poverty, they decided to immigrate to America and pressure their children to pursue an education to advance their socioeconomic status. I was admitted to the prestigious [redacted] School in [redacted] and I'll be graduating early from college in a few months.

Living in a first-world country does involve trading hours of your day in exchange for material goals and financial security and can invite a sense of purposelessness to life once basic needs have been met. But the dissatisfaction from an unrealized power process is surely much more preferable to poverty or dying from a lethal snake bite in a remote village with no antidote (it happened to my grandfather). The values provided by the current technological system seem to be security, convenience, opportunity, and upward mobility at the cost of liberty, free time, and privacy. Undoubtedly you are a smart individual, so maybe your entire manifesto has just gone over my head, but I think there are genuine merits to living in a first-world technological society.

I do think that climate change is a serious problem for my generation, though according to an online article you have been writing to 18-year-old climate activists Greta Thunberg about this, I am curious on your input and advice for what my generation should do about this urgent issue.

Sincerely yours,
Lily Yang
Lily Yang

TED KACZYNSKI
to
LILY YANG

August 3, 2021

Dear Ms. Yang:

① Thank you for your letter dated June 22, 2021, which I received on July 30. (The prison mail system is decidedly inefficient.) You write, "Undoubtedly you hate me for my chosen career path." No, I don't hate you. On the contrary, I like you, and that's why I'm answering your letter.

② Don't believe what you read about me in Wikipedia or anywhere else on the Internet, because a lot of it is bull manure. For example, contrary to what you wrote in your letter, I've never had any communication with Greta Thunberg, and my parents were not immigrants. All four of my grandparents came from Poland, but both my parents were born in the U.S.

③ You write that you "do not understand how [I] can advocate for a return to the wilderness" (which, by the way, is not a very accurate statement of my views), and you illustrate by mentioning the rural poverty in which your parents and grandparents lived. But what does rural China in the 20th century have to do with "wilderness"? As you know very well, China has been highly civilized for many centuries so rural poverty there illustrates the faults of civilization, not those of "wilderness."

Anyway, has it occurred to you that if your father and his eight siblings didn't have enough food to share among them, maybe your grandparents were to blame because they had too many children?

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The case of China exemplifies a common (though not universal) pattern: When preindustrial societies have come in contact with modern industrial society, they usually show an interest in modernization and prefer to continue their traditional way of life until they lose respect for their own culture when they see how weak and ineffectual it is in confrontation with the overwhelming power of modern technology. Whereupon they become avid for modernization.

In China during the late 19th century—as you perhaps know already—there was widespread resistance to foreign influence and to the introduction of such modernizing abominations as railroads; most Chinese wanted to continue their traditional way of life, rural poverty notwithstanding. See, e.g., Michael Dillon, *China: A Modern History*, I.B. Tauris, 2017, pages 122-23, and Mary Clabaugh Wright (editor), *China in Revolution: The First Phase, 1900-1913*, Yale University Press, 1971, pages 16, 28 ("Even in the late nineteenth century, resistance to industrialization was overpowering.") But in 1900 the suppression of the Boxer Rebellion by the Western powers and Japan, followed by their forcing of Beijing, decisively demonstrated China's weakness, with the result that virtually all Chinese angrily rejected their own "backwardness" and fervently embraced modernization. See M.C. Wright, *op. cit.*, pages 1-19.

④ For a full understanding of my position you need to read my book *Technological Slavery*, Fitch & Madison edition, Volume One. Because I like you I'm ordering a copy for you at my own expense. You should receive it by the time you receive the present letter, or shortly thereafter.

⑤ You ask for my "input and advice for what my generation

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should do about this urgent issue [in global warming]." I refer you to Chapter Two of *Anti-Tech Revolution**. As I've argued there, whatever is done about global warming will in all probability be too little and too late; and even if global warming can be prevented from becoming utterly disastrous, modern technology is disrupting our environment in so many other ways that the Earth will probably become uninhabitable. And even if I'm wrong about that, I've argued in Part V of Chapter Two that human beings will eventually be replaced by intelligent machines. Can you assure my arguments, point by point? If not, do you worry about the fact that, as a computer scientist, you may be contributing directly or indirectly to the development of artificial intelligence and therefore to the replacement of human beings by machines?

If I'm right, then the only thing that can prevent the extinction of the human race will be the total collapse of the technological system. When that happens, the vast majority of the human race will die from starvation and disease, or in fighting over scarce resources. But if the collapse occurs before the Earth has become uninhabitable, there will be many survivors, and the human race will not become extinct.

It's a bitter prospect, but nothing better is possible. Just out of curiosity, does [redacted] still require students to [redacted] Do you know how to read and write Chinese?

With friendly regards,
Ted Kaczynski

* Did you read the first or the second edition of *Anti-Tech Revolution*? If you have the second edition, then I refer you also to Part B of Appendix Four.

I originally wrote my letter on June 22, 2021 and mailed it a few days later - but didn't specify the PO box, so the letter bounced back and I had to resend it. That is why you received my previous letter on July 30.

Yes, all students at [redacted] are required to [redacted] if [redacted] they entered in the [redacted] and [redacted] (if they entered in the [redacted] they recently changed their admissions system to admit more Black and Latinx students by prioritizing applicants from zip codes in underserved communities, when the action provided a lawsuit from white and Asian parents, the judge ruled that the new admissions system was permissible because "zip codes are not a proxy for race," which is a lie, as zip code is clearly being used as a proxy for race, especially considering how segregated [redacted] in terms of its neighborhoods and the racial makeup of them. Yet, if you oppose the new system, you will be branded racist, and buzzwords like "diversity," "equity," and "progress" are used to justify the change as a good thing. I remember "Industrial Society and Its Future" when it mentions that affirmative action is leftists' way of regarding blacks' essence as a racial disgrace and pushing them into "industrial society." I attend the [redacted] Middle School where I was 11 years old and I was the only Asian girl on the football team. Most students at that school were project kids and they had no interests in school. It's not that they couldn't succeed; if they did, it's simply that they didn't care about school. But leftists claim that their claim is due to the circumstances they grew up in and that society oppresses them.

By the way, you are so evident that when I posted your letter on my Snapchat (social media app for talking to friends) on the smartphone, some of my friends didn't believe that it was actually real. Atlanta from [redacted] and students at Columbia University that know me say it's surreal that you actually wrote me back.

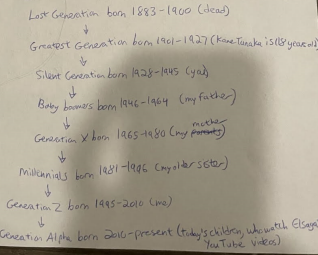
and one friend of mine called you "one of the most intelligent, mysterious / important people of the human race!" Lol. A lot of people, as you know, hate you because of your bombings of innocent people. For example, Thomas Mueser, an advertising executive at Purson-Murkeller, that was killed by one of your bombs, supposedly was affiliated with Purson-Murkeller, but that firm was never connected with Exxon in cleaning up the Exxon Valdez oil spill. He had a 4-year-old daughter at the time of his death. Many people dispute that your hatred of technological society still does not justify the deaths of all these innocent people that were lined up with technological society in some way; how is being a computer store owner, as in the case of Hugh Scrimshaw, deserving of death?

I notice that my handwriting is getting sloppier as my letter continues. Sorry about that. Always asked me if I know how to read and write Chinese. I can't read enough Chinese to communicate with relatives when I visit them in China and I can't write my name [redacted] but other than that I'm illiterate in Chinese characters.

Since you haven't seen the outside world since 1969, I am wondering, how much do you know about modern society? I was born in [redacted] and my first memories start around 2007, and a lot has changed since then. I am sure you know about the proliferation of smartphones and social media. People use smartphones to do everything nowadays, and social media acts as a way to reset yourself to do everything nowadays, and social media acts as a way to reset yourself to do everything nowadays, and social media acts as a way to reset yourself to do everything nowadays. For example, if you post a questionable or unpopular opinion on social media, people can with hurt you and get you fired from your place of employment. Clara Janner posted a TikTok (video sharing social media), like YouTube but targeted toward teenagers and young people) posted herself saying "I hate All Lives Matter. If you think all lives matter, mine stink you, they get a paper cut and say my cut matters too!" For context, All Lives Matter is a slogan against the police brutality movement Black Lives Matter. Internet users were so angered by Janner's video that they found her LinkedIn (career-oriented social media) profile and got her fired from her job.

at Duane, a tax firm. This is just one example of how hyperconnectivity is forever a predicament as there is no privacy and everything on the Internet is forever. If you do a Google search of Clara Janner, you will see countless news articles about that incident and it will remain that way until she gets all the bills. People have to walk on eggshells and keep a low profile nowadays so that something like that doesn't happen to them.

Maybe another modern example of how modern society has made life tedious is Elagato, a controversy in which questionable so-called "kids' videos" have proliferated on YouTube (video sharing website owned by Google) and contain adult themes. They have titles like "Kids' nursery rhymes educational learning!" but the videos contain themes such as drugs, death, infanticide, urinals, pregnancy, and blood, despite the colorful cartoons that the videos are. There is speculation that bad actors are making such videos to scare young children and make a profit off the extremely popular videos, and people worry about what today's children are being exposed to as they grow up in an increasingly digital and crazy era.



In your manifesto, you predict that industrial society may break down in 40 to 100 years, so you predict that will happen between 2035 and 2095. That means that any predicted societal breakdown will likely happen in my lifetime. I guess I will see whether your predictions are correct or not.
Ok, this letter is already getting long enough so I suppose I will end it now. I will not be able to reply until 2022 due to having to attend my last semester of college, but I will still receive any mailed reply you send me and will probably respond to it later.

Best,
Lily Yang

P.S. Curious; do you think life is short or long?
P.P.S. Another friend said "There is some poetic irony in willingly accepting mail from the Unabomber."
P.P.P.S. In your letter, you feared that artificial intelligence would become so advanced that human beings would be effectively replaced by machines. Could you elaborate on what sort of decisions these machines might be making? You think they will do all our jobs for us, including computer science jobs themselves, and eventually we will all be useless? Maybe I'm naive, but this sounds like science fiction. When do you predict this will occur?

TED KACZYNSKI
to
LILY YANG
October 1, 2021

Dear Ms. Yang,
Thanks for your letter of 8/15/21, which I received on 8/23/21. I have so much work to do that I can only address a few points from your letter.

① I'm disappointed in you. You posted my letter of 8/3/21 on the Internet. Don't you realize that that is copyright infringement? I'm not planning to sue you for it, but you should be aware that copyright infringement is a potential issue for legal actions. I will appreciate it if you will delete my 8/3/21 letter and refrain from posting on the Internet any other letter of mine. Thank you. But apart from that, I'm disappointed that--apparently--you belong to that shallow youth culture in which youngsters seek status by (among other things) posting celebrities' letters on the Internet.

All the same, I find it impossible not to like you.
② Contrary to what you wrote on page 4 of your letter, I did not predict that the system would break down within the next 40 to 100 years. Please reread paragraph 162 of *ISAF* (the "manifesto"). I hope you've received the copy of *Technological Slavery* (Fitch & Madison edition) that my publisher has sent you at my expense. You should read paragraph 162 of *ISAF* as it appears in *Tech Slavery*, because any version of *ISAF* that you've read elsewhere may be seriously inaccurate. In any case, my estimate of 40 to 100 years was only an offhand guess, and I wouldn't try to defend it.

③ Regarding the probable replacement of humans by

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intelligent machines, see *Anti-Tech Revolution*, Chapter Two, Part V; *Technological Slavery* (2019 Fitch & Madison edition) pages 201, 229-230, 277-78. The late Stephen Hawking, who has been called the greatest theoretical physicist since Einstein, maintained that artificial intelligence was the most dangerous of all threats to the survival of the human race. Possible or probable replacement of humans by intelligent machines is discussed in Bill Joy's article "Why the Future Doesn't Need Us," *Wired* magazine, April 2000, and in Martin Rees's book *Our Final Hour*, which also appeared under the title *Our Final Century*.
④ You've studied [redacted] for at least three years, yet at the

"The rest is just rambling about language semantics and the Spanish language"

A critique of his ideas & actions.



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www.thetedkarchive.com