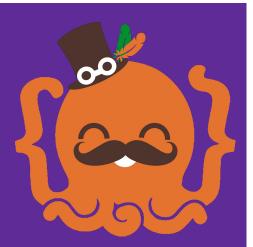
Luddism, LLMs, and you

Joy of Coding, Rotterdam, 21 June 2024

@joeposaurus@chaos.social https://smallsheds.garden



Agenda

Luddism

LLMs (Large Language Models)

You

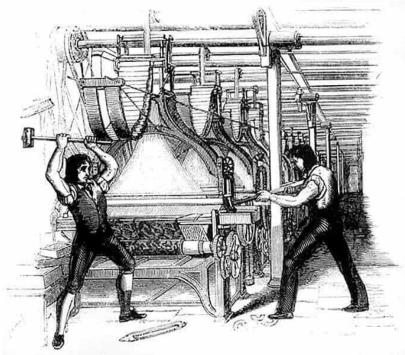
disclaimer

all opinions are my own

Luddism



The Luddites



https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/The-Luddites/

textile workers Northern England peak 1811 - 1813 frame-breakers

Ned Ludd, aka King Ludd, aka General Ludd



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ned_Ludd

he didn't really exist...

from cottage industry...



demanding work

30 hours a week on one's own schedule long weekends

https://www.ludditelink.org.uk/picGallery.php

https://qz.com/968692/luddites-have-been-getting-a-bad-rap-for-200-years-but-turns-out-they-were-right



longer hours

lower wages

worse quality

... to factories

... with child labor



unemployment unskilled labor 14 hours a day 6 days a week

http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/rmhttp/schools/primaryhistory/images/victorian_britain/ children_in_factories/v_children_in_darton.jpg

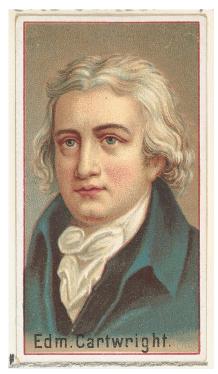
the environmental cost



https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/The-Luddites/

foreboding plumes of smoke and pollution

the original tech bro

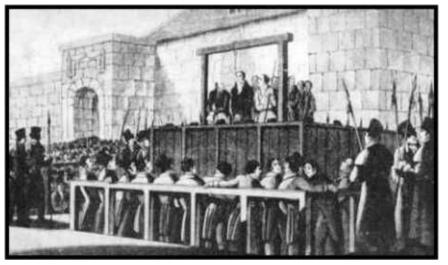


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Cartwright

"I know nothing about weaving, but surely it can be mechanized!" (paraphrased)

- Edmund Cartwright

What did the government do?



http://mirfield-2ndlook.info/Luddites/Luddites_9/luddites_9.html

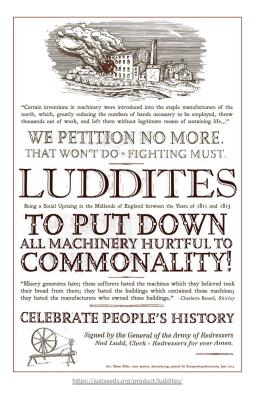
1802, 1803, and 1806: petitions to Parliament

1788: Protection of Stocking Frames, etc. Act

1812: Destruction of Stocking Frames, etc. Act

army deployed domestically (35,000 troops)

How did it end for the Luddites?



1813: mass trial at York14 men executed

delay industrialization

inspiration

What were the Luddites all about?



https://www.ludditelink.org.uk/picGallery.php

collective bargaining by riot not against tech or progress against extractive capitalism

LLMs



LLMs harm people



LLMs are trained on stolen data



LLMs harm the environment



LLMS are tools to sell cloud services. **GPUs**, and stocks



You



LLMs will not replace you, capitalists will.



"Yes, the planet got destroyed. But for a beautiful moment in time we created a lot of value for shareholders."

CartoonStock.com

https://www.insidehook.com/culture/story-tom-toro-new-yorker-climate-cartoon

With LLMs, or with something else.

I won't tell you what to do

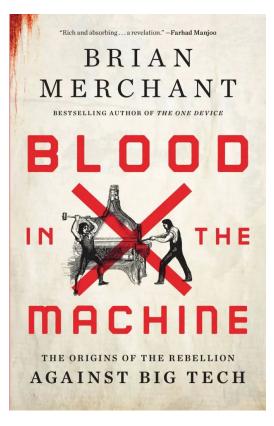


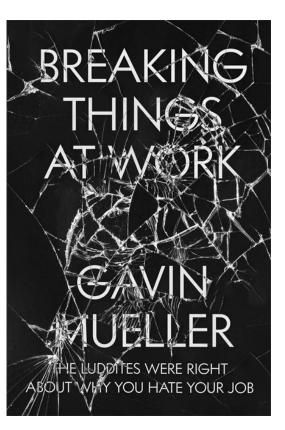
https://chaos.social/@overflo/110374436083481073

I did bring stickers!

Rage Against the Machine Learning

books to read





thank you!

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