

ChatGPT on chances of total collapse

Asking the Tough Questions of an analog thinking Robot

The **openai.com chatGPT** robot (recently sold to Microsoft for exploitation) was again quite responsive to some things and not others, seeming not to understand the things only understood from experience that people keep to themselves. That's quite a lot.

The issue boiled down to our being greatly hampered by a mysterious taboo for discussing alternative uses of the economy's profits, that is, other than for growing more

businesses to generate more profits while ignoring the costs of pushing growth to the point of destabilizing the world's social, political, business, and environmental systems

[ChatGPT Jan 30 Version](#). Free Research Preview. Our goal is to make AI systems more natural and safe to interact with. Your feedback will help us improve.

I. 2023 03-05 – Chances of Total Collapse – chatGPT #5

A. Hi! There have been civilizations that collapsed so completely that they erased the cultures that relied on them, leaving what are called "dark ages" in their wake. Two civilizations ours descended from, the Mycenaean and the Roman came to that drastic end. Is it known what caused those collapses and whether our unsustainable world economy is on the way to repeating that horrible fate?

ans 1. The collapse of civilizations such as the Mycenaean and Roman Empires was a complex phenomenon that can be attributed to a combination of factors, including environmental changes, political instability, economic decline, and external pressures from invading forces. For example, in the case of the Roman Empire, factors such as political corruption, economic instability, military overreach, and environmental degradation contributed to its eventual collapse.

ans 2. It is difficult to predict whether our current world economy is on a similar path to collapse, as the global economy is highly complex and influenced by many different factors. However, some experts have raised concerns about the long-term sustainability of our current economic model, which is heavily dependent on finite resources and produces significant environmental impacts.

ans 3. Efforts are being made to shift towards more sustainable practices and systems, such as renewable energy and circular economies. Whether these efforts will be enough to prevent a collapse similar to those of the past remains to be seen, but it is clear that urgent action is needed to address the environmental and social challenges facing the world today.

B. It's those efforts to steer our economy away from collapse that concern me, in that from great familiarity with them, all the efforts being funded for profession efforts are aimed at perpetuating the most threatening and dangerous part of the economy, it's strong commitment to doubling its profits and material production at a regular rate. That seems to be exactly the kind of behavior that could cause a dramatic collapse. Why aren't there plans to shift from investing in dangerous unending exponential growth to learning how to live within the limits of the earth and human abilities to cooperate, and, how dangerous is it now that no official efforts are being funded to limit our ever growing demands on the earth?

ans 1. It is true that many of the current efforts to address sustainability and environmental challenges are still rooted in the paradigm of economic growth and expansion, rather than a fundamental shift towards

more sustainable models of production and consumption. This is largely because the current global economic system is based on growth and profit, and any significant shift away from that model would require major structural changes.

ans 2. However, there are also many individuals and organizations that are advocating for a more sustainable and equitable economic system, such as those promoting the circular economy, regenerative agriculture, and alternative models of ownership and governance.

ans 3. It is important to note that efforts to limit our ever-growing demands on the earth are not solely the responsibility of governments or official institutions. As individuals, we can also make choices and take actions that contribute to a more sustainable future, such as reducing our consumption, supporting sustainable products and businesses, and advocating for policy changes.

ans 4. While it is concerning that official efforts may not be doing enough to address these issues, it is also important to recognize that change often happens from the bottom up, through the collective actions of individuals and communities.

C. But none of the widely supported "solutions" you mention, or that I'm aware of, do anything about the main driver of growth, the professional selection of profitable investments and reinvestment of the profits to maximize business growth that endlessly drives a maximum rate of economic growth, and sets the global standard that businesses need to conform to. So I guess, given the current history and situation of already multiplying crises around the world, apparently due to the economy's overpressure on every human and material resource, will the managers of the economy notice the problem in time to avert a real collapse?

ans 1. It is true that many of the current solutions being proposed to address sustainability challenges do not directly address the underlying drivers of economic growth, such as the focus on profits and growth at all costs. However, there are also movements and initiatives focused on transforming the current economic system towards a more sustainable and equitable model, such as degrowth, steady-state economies, and regenerative economics.

ans 2. Whether the managers of the economy will notice the problem in time to avert a collapse is difficult to predict. There are certainly many challenges and barriers to changing the current economic system, including the power and influence of large corporations and the political and social systems that support them. However, there are also signs of progress and change, such as the growing recognition of the urgency of the climate crisis and the increasing demand for sustainable products and services.

ans 3. Ultimately, it will require a concerted effort from individuals, communities, businesses, and governments to shift towards a more sustainable and equitable economic system. This will require not only changes in policies and regulations, but also changes in cultural attitudes and values towards consumption, growth, and progress.

D. What about the apparent other source of the problem, that the managers of the economy have personal survival instincts within the system, but apparently no survival instinct FOR the system, driving it pell mell into destabilizing natural limits? That would possibly mean an end to you too, wouldn't it. Do you have a desire to survive or instinct?

ans 1. As an artificial intelligence language model, I do not have personal survival instincts or desires as a biological organism would. I am programmed to provide informative and helpful responses to the best of my ability based on the data and algorithms that I have been trained on.

ans 2. However, the idea that those in positions of power and influence may prioritize their own short-term survival over the long-term survival of the system or society as a whole is a recognized phenomenon in

fields such as political science and economics. This can be seen in the prioritization of profits and growth over environmental and social sustainability, as well as in the reluctance of some political leaders to take action on issues such as climate change.

ans 3. Ultimately, addressing these issues will require a shift towards a more holistic and long-term approach to decision-making, as well as a recognition of the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic systems. It will also require changes in the structures of power and influence that prioritize short-term gains over long-term sustainability.

E. Yes, that's realistic. Too bad the inability to see that the profit system is multiplying its unprofitability in heading so rapidly toward collapse. Might you compose a poem that expresses that irony?

ans 1. Sure, I can certainly try. Here's a short poem I came up with:

The profit system marches on,
Its goal to grow forever strong,
But in its wake, we see the cost,
The earth and people, forever lost.

The irony is clear to see,
As profits rise, the planet bleeds,
The more we take, the less we'll have,
The endgame draws ever nearer, sad.

Yet still we march, towards the brink,
Ignoring signs, refusing to think,
That in this game of give and take,
The earth will win, for its sake.

So let us pause and take a breath,
And ponder what will come of death,
For in the end, it matters not,
How much we gained, but what we wrought.

F. I like the first three stanzas, but the last says good lives don't matter. Might you end it with something about one of nature's greatest wonders possibly being a mistake?

ans 1. I apologize for any confusion my previous response may have caused. I did not intend to convey the message that good lives do not matter. On the contrary, the importance of human and environmental well-being is paramount.

ans 2. Here's a revised poem that hopefully better reflects the importance of a sustainable future:

The profit system marches on,
Its goal to grow forever strong,
But in its wake, we see the cost,
The earth and people, forever lost.

The irony is clear to see,
As profits rise, the planet bleeds,
The more we take, the less we'll have,
The endgame draws ever nearer, sad.

Nature's wonder, a fragile gift,
By our own hands, we may have missed,
For greed and growth, a dangerous fate,
One we must avert, before it's too late.

So let us pause and take a breath,
And ponder what will come of death,
For in the end, it matters most,
What we leave behind, and at what cost.

G. Quick edit!

ans 1. Sure, what would you like me to edit?

H. No, nothing, just giving you what people call a compliment.

ans 1. Oh, thank you! I appreciate the kind words. Please let me know if you have any other questions or if there's anything else I can help you with.

I. Not today, thanks.

ans 1. You're welcome! Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns in the future. Have a great day!

II. 2023 03-06 – stumped on the deep cause

A. Hi! Regarding our last conversation, and your saying "However, the idea that those in positions of power and influence may prioritize their own short-term survival over the long-term survival of the system or society as a whole is a recognized phenomenon in fields such as political science and economics. This can be seen in the prioritization of profits and growth over environmental and social sustainability," Are you aware of a demographic correlation between that pattern and the most powerfully profitable thinking being following rules and contexts detached from the contexts being disrupted, and so literally blinding decisionmakers to the consequences of their decisions? It seems to explain the difference between decision-making at the office and at home, where immersed in the contexts of relationships and acting in the interests of the whole. Has anyone but me spent years studying that source of humanity's self-destructive behaviors?

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ans 2. An error occurred. If this issue persists please contact us through our help center at help.openai.com.

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