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Ship of Fools

By Dr. Jim Haas

In the fourth century B.C.E., the Greek philosopher Plato wrote *The Republic*, one of the most influential books in world history. Plato explored the conditions likely to lead to effective, efficient government, what he called the Ship of State, for the benefit of the population concerned.

Plato concluded that states should be ruled by philosopher-kings, men who devoted their lives to studying the many functions of government as well as ethics, mathematics, natural sciences, and human nature, until they were experts fit to rule. That was a tall order for anyone, so few were fit.

Athens was a limited democracy in Plato's time, allowing free males to participate directly in making civic decisions, but not women, slaves, foreigners, or minors. Fewer than 30 percent of citizens had a vote. Democracy had some successes but some painful failures, including wartime defeat and the sentencing of Plato's teacher, Socrates, to death by poison for practicing what we call freedom of speech.

Plato criticizes democracy with a parable about a Ship of Fools (illustration from a 1649 edition of *The Republic*), which imagines a vessel whose crew mutinies against their incompetent captain. The untrained crewmen each think they can navigate better than anyone else aboard, and fight among themselves, each man putting his own self-interest above the mission and even the safety of the ship. Fools, indeed.

To Plato, the danger of democracy was in giving power to those who lacked expertise in the many facets of governing and were more interested in personal advantage than in civic welfare. With unqualified—even malicious—people elected to the helm, the ship of state is badly managed, wasting resources and endangering the survival of the state itself. Democracy prioritizes persuasion over wisdom; electoral appeal over hard-earned truths.

Given Plato's conclusions, how is it that the democracy he criticized has become a cherished norm in the U.S. and in countries around the world? It's because modern democracies depend on bureaucracies of unelected civil servants more than on elected officials. Civil servants are hired for their expertise in healthcare, climatology, economics, education, diplomacy, defense, and every other field for which democracies are responsible. These unelected specialists satisfy the need for expertise that was essential to Plato's vision of effective, efficient government.

And Plato didn't foresee that by our time, democracies are educating virtually all young people in history, civics, language and literature, mathematics, the sciences, the arts, and more, thereby laying the intellectual foundation on which universities can train the experts that make democracies work. Of course, this requires that the unelected officials hired *are* experts and that their advice is generally followed by the elected officials to whom they report.

The Trump Administration has fired thousands of experts and is prone to hire unqualified people based on their "loyalty." Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was a TV newsman who clearly knows little about military strategy and tactics and who fired many high-ranking officers and inspectors general. Health and Human Services chief Robert Kennedy, Jr., has no medical training and promotes dangerous falsehoods about public health. Trump sent his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, to negotiate peace in the Middle East despite having no experience or training as a diplomat, and his chief accomplishment seems to have been to acquire billions through his Middle East contacts.



Plato

These and other nonexperts crew our own Ship of Fools. The result of this amateur-hour government is just what Plato had seen in Athens: war gone awry, citizens persecuted for speaking their minds, and rampant corruption. Donald Trump may imagine himself a philosopher-king not needing experts because *he* is the chief expert in all things. If so, he is wrong. Democracy needs the best of the best in public service. Vote!



Stock Market Insights

AI Job Market Outlook: Which Jobs Will AI Actually Take?

Dr. Richard Baker, AIF®, is the CEO and executive wealth advisor at Fervent Wealth Management

"How about we have a chew and talk about it?" My dad was a welder when I was born, but he later started selling Ford trucks to farmers, and that was his opening line. He used to tell me that they paid him to fill out paperwork, but he talked to people for free. AI will take some jobs, but the important jobs where people are needed to talk to others will always be staffed by humans. This week's article looks at the shifting job market as AI competes for jobs.

I recently listened to an interview with Sander van 't Noordende, CEO of Randstad, where he discussed which jobs AI would start taking. AI will disrupt the job market, but some areas more than others. He began by saying there is no evidence that AI is significantly impacting the job market. Even though unemployment is at historically low levels and has been since COVID, the cause isn't AI.

Let's start with the negative: jobs he said will be impacted by AI. Currently, AI innovation is reducing the need for administrative jobs, clerks, accounting clerks, finance clerks, marketing, design, content creation, and customer service in call centers or chat-based work. There are fewer and fewer of these jobs because one employee can now do the work of two or three people using AI systems.

Which jobs are safe? The safest jobs are human-centric roles that require split-second decisions, ethical reasoning, or personal relationships. Examples include doctors, firefighters, paramedics, engineers, business managers, business leaders who negotiate, businesspeople who do sales, and everything in logistics, whether driving the trucks that support e-commerce like Amazon or working in their warehouses. Obviously, the service industry needs people because everyone hates ordering their lunch from a kiosk. Service industry jobs that are safe from AI are cooks, bartenders, hotel staff, nurses, home care aides, physical therapists, counselors, pastors, and mechanics.

Which jobs is AI creating more demand? Strangely enough, software developers and the trades. You might think that because ChatGPT and Claude can do everything, software developers wouldn't be needed. While those AI systems can do most things, they've increased demand for software developers because there's still a lot of automation to do. There is a strong need for more software engineers who can use AI systems to do applications that were out of reach before, but are now possible. There is also a huge need for the commercial construction trades to build and maintain the data centers and other technological buildouts. That requires electricians, linemen, plumbers, maintenance engineers, HVAC technicians, power plant workers, and others to build the buildings that support all this technology.

Bill Gates famously wrote an essay a couple of years ago saying AI will eventually take almost all our jobs within the decade. Noordende doesn't think that will happen for a few reasons, because a job isn't just a task. AI can do tasks, but most jobs are more than tasks; they involve interacting with customers and convincing customers to move in a certain direction. AI can do tasks, but it can't move organizations forward. People will always be needed, and the jobs with the most people interaction are the safest.

One of my best friends owns a manufacturing company. He tells me that the safest jobs at his company are those where people use AI every day to become more efficient. He believes those people will continue to become more proficient with AI and more valuable to him. I continually tell my team and my kids the same thing: lean into AI at every chance you get and become so familiar with it that it feels like a third hand. It isn't going away, so we need to learn to not just live with it but thrive with it.

I lost my dad two years ago this week, and I miss him. I thought about how, at our firm's recent open house and ribbon cutting, he would have set up shop in the lobby and had a grand old time talking with everyone. He was the most "peopley" guy I knew. He could put people at ease in the first few seconds and be their friend in a minute. AI will never do that.

Miss you, Dad.

Richard

www.FerventWM.com

This article was written by humans for humans because AI doesn't have this quality of sarcasm.

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KCKFD Administers Whole Blood to Trauma Patient for the First Time

KANSAS CITY, KS - The Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department (KCKFD) reached a significant milestone on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, when firefighter-paramedics administered whole blood to a critically injured trauma patient for the first time since launching the department's Whole Blood Program just a few months ago.

At approximately 11:32 a.m., KCKFD was dispatched to a rollover crash involving a large tree-trimming utility truck near Interstate 635 and State Avenue.

Upon arrival, firefighters found two individuals trapped inside the vehicle. Due to the severity of the crash and the complexity of the rescue, crews conducted an extended extrication operation using specialized hydraulic rescue equipment, commonly known as the "Jaws of Life," to free both victims.

During the rescue, firefighter-paramedics identified a 23-year-old male patient with life-threatening injuries who required immediate blood

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Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

Ukrainian Spice Cookies

This week's tasty treat is a recipe that originated in Ukraine. These are rolled cookies cut into shapes, perfect for Halloween or Christmas. They're nicely spiced and a snap to make. Please try!

Ingredients:
3 cups flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 large eggs
1 cup light brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 to 3 tablespoons milk
Glaze:
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 teaspoon salt
5 to 6 tablespoons water, as needed
Topping
1/4 cup sugar
1 cup pecan halves (optional)
Directions:

Heat oven to 350°F. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper. Sift together flour, spices, salt and baking soda in a large bowl. Beat brown sugar, eggs and vanilla until thick and fluffy. Add flour mixture, 1/2 cup at a time. Add milk, 1 tablespoon at a time, until dough comes together. Dust the counter with flour and roll dough to 1/4-inch thickness. Cut with star, moon, Halloween or Christmas cookie cutters. Place cookies 1 inch apart on prepared sheets. Bake about 10 minutes, until golden. Do not overbake. Cool on wire racks.

For glaze, stir powdered sugar with about half the water. Mix in vanilla and salt, then add remaining water, 1 tablespoon at a time, until glaze is loose enough to coat cookies. Coat each cooled cookie with glaze. Add a pecan half in the center, if desired, and sprinkle with sugar. Set aside until glaze dries.

Use the spices your family likes. If you don't have all of them, use what you have, but keep the cinnamon! A teaspoon of cardamom is also good. Gluten-free flour may be substituted if needed.

Store in an airtight container. These cookies are delicious with coffee or milk. Pack a few for a family member or neighbor who lives alone. They'll be happy to be remembered. Enjoy!



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KCKFD...

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transfusion. While the patient remained trapped inside the vehicle, paramedics administered two units of whole blood intravenously. A third unit was administered during transport to a local Level I trauma center.

In total, the patient received approximately 1,500 milliliters (1.5 liters) of whole blood before arriving at the hospital. Both individuals involved in the crash were transported emergently to a local Level I trauma center with life-threatening injuries.

The 23-year-old patient who received whole blood remains hospitalized and is receiving ongoing medical care.

A Partnership Focused on Saving Lives

This incident marks KCKFD's first field administration of whole blood and demonstrates the lifesaving potential of providing advanced trauma care directly at the scene of an emergency. Rather than waiting until a critically injured patient arrives at the hospital, KCKFD firefighter-paramedics can now begin blood transfusions while rescue operations and transportation are still underway. The KCKFD's Whole Blood Program is made possible through a collaborative partnership between the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City, and The University of Kansas Health System.

Through this partnership, Community Blood Center collects blood from local donors. It supplies it to The University of Kansas Health System, which provides whole blood to KCKFD for emergency field use. This coordinated effort helps ensure donated blood stays available in the community and reaches critically injured patients when every minute matters. Successfully administering whole blood in the field also underscores the importance of community blood donation. Blood donated by residents can help save the life of a neighbor, friend, or family member experiencing a traumatic injury in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

University of Saint Mary celebrates first graduating class at military correctional facility

By John Shultz, Vice President for Marketing

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — The University of Saint Mary celebrated graduation ceremonies in September at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks and the Joint Regional Correctional Facility at Fort Leavenworth.

The ceremony at the Joint Regional Correctional Facility marked its first graduating class. Students there earned associate degrees in business administration, while students at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks earned bachelor's degrees in business administration with an emphasis in management.

The university's Prison Education Program offers in-person college instruction taught by university faculty, giving incarcerated service members opportunities to pursue academic and professional goals.

"Rooted in USM's Catholic mission and its commitment to human dignity, the Prison Education Program recognizes that access to education can foster intellectual development, personal responsibility, and hope for the future," said program director Dr. Michelle Workman.

"For the University of Saint Mary, each graduation represents more than a degree earned. It represents the power of education to create opportunity, recognize human potential, and open doors to the future."

The program has expanded in recent years to provide degree opportunities at federal, state and military correctional facilities. The University of Saint Mary, founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, offers programs at its Leavenworth campus, its Johnson County location and online.

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