"Should We Fear Artificial Intelligence?"

After watching some videos on the topic I grew increasingly interested in artificial intelligence. What I find particularly compelling is the question on how dangerous AI is and what measures should be taken to ensure the best possible future humanity can achieve. For there is no doubt that this is the future and that we are getting there more and more rapidly.

It should be noted first of all that artificial intelligence has become a daily part of our lives even today. Things like Google Voice Search, Siri, Amazon's Alexa and others are regularly used by people on a day-to-day basis. Video game AI has been here for decades and is particularly impressive in games such as Middle-Earth: Shadow of War where enemies and allies each have their own history and personality, with the player character's interactions with them affecting them in different ways. Currently there are many different robots being developed, a more famous one being Honda's ASIMO, a humanoid robot rather capable of communicating with humans and doing different tasks such as grabbing coffee. Self-learning AI is being developed by many people and everybody can see how artificial intelligence can analyze images. The technology is developing at rapid rates and it is quite extraordinary how far we have gotten so far.

However things are not so simple. Lots of people have spoken about the development of such advanced technologies, including Stephen Hawking and Elon Musk, two of the world's most intelligent people. They note how much caution should be taken with the advancing progress in AI. Musk co-founded the company OpenAI to promote the advancement of friendly AI. I strongly approve of this idea, as he has done so to regulate the technology before it is too late.

My opinion mostly lies with the previously mentioned regulation idea. There have been far too many examples in history where a new promising innovation was abused and used for selfish reasons – atomic energy and dynamite for example. But the thing about artificial intelligence is that it is not just up to humans what the consequences of such an innovation will be. AI can theoretically become smarter than humans and that could pose great dangers to the world. And we cannot just stop its development either, for there will be those who decide to endeavour in this area. Countries could decide to use the knowledge for military purposes. That being said, I believe that we need to explore futuristic technologies because that is how we evolve. Stopping the development of AI is frankly senseless – it can help the world in many, many ways. But we have to be extremely cautious, or it could be deadly to the human race as a whole.

Artificial intelligence is a topic that more people need to talk about. We may think it's something centuries away, but really, we are getting closer and closer to that point. Ignoring it will inevitably lead to terrible consequences once we reach the point of no return. I firmly think that the answer is to embrace the future – carefully.