

My best guess as to what lies ahead for Australia and the world over the next 10-15 years.

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For what it is worth, this is my impression of what is ahead for us over the next 10 and 15 years. In short, I see massive rapid change over the next 10-15 years, more change than we have seen over the last 70 years. This is being driven by economic, technological and geopolitical forces - all bringing major change.

So what changes do I see?

- Democracy is dying - and that we would probably be in autocracies by 20 years - and a global autocracy by 40 years (and BTW if USA does not fix its democracy [post-Trump] over the next couple of years, USA is likely to have a "Hitler" autocrat within 10 years. Trump has shown the path for an autocrat-minded leader to break the normal checks and balances in the US political system - just as Hitler did in Germany in the early 1930s)
- that China's economic system is massively outcompeting western democracies. Key parts of this are:-
 - Chinese leadership being far more highly trained and educated than western leaders. eg to be on the Chinese politburo, you pretty much need to have a PhD, and have proven that you could successfully run a major Chinese State Owned Enterprise.
 - In contrast, Western governments are run by comparative uneducated amateurs - who pursue short-term self-interest goals.
 - That the Chinese communist party have over-arching controls over the major Chinese private companies to ensure that they play within China's long-term collective strategy - effectively running China as "China Inc"
 - Hence China collectively is pursuing a very intelligent, a very clear long-term vision for China. Western democracies have no vision for the future - and the economic visions that exist, tend to be driven by 3-5 year election cycles
 - One of the outcomes of this is much faster economic growth in China over the next 10 and 20 years versus the West.
 - That China's form of capitalism (within the private enterprise part of the Chinese economy is far more capitalistic and entrepreneurial than in the West.
- China's economic success over the next 10 and 20 years is just part of a massive transition of global economic power from the West to the East.
 - The era of Western economic dominance is over
 - The global economic power structure is reverting to something much closer to what it looked like in 1400 - before the industrial revolution etc catapulted Europe (and later its siblings like USA) into global economic dominance - but the technology edge of Europe (and the West more broadly), is now rapidly dissipating.
- The massive private debts in at least the Anglosphere (eg in USA, UK, Australia, Canada) eg primarily mortgage debt in Australia and Canada AND corporate debt in the USA (but also household debt secondarily) would likely lead to a major economic crisis in most (possibly all) of those countries over the next 5 years somewhere, quite possibly economic depression.
- US dollar crashing over the next 10-years - as part of Western capitalism failing.
 - Part of this is caused by the massive money printing in the USA (much larger than any other major country) - this is massively debasing the US\$. This is also leading to truly massive US government debt - particularly when unfunded liabilities are considered. Long-term history suggests that at some point, this leads to loss of faith in the US\$ as a store of value - and the failure of the US\$.
 - Other western currencies where there is extreme debt, may well also experience failures of their fiat money.
- Technological change.

- Over the next 10 years, technology will change our societies far more than most people can imagine.
 - Part of why most people cannot imagine (or envision) the amount of change ahead is because technology is advancing exponentially - something that human brains are not well equipped for.
 - One of the people that best can give you a sense of how much technology will change our society over the next 10 years is Tony Seba. Tony covers this more towards the back end of his presentations. eg in this presentation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duWFnukFJhQ> from the 59 minute mark - for the remaining 12 minutes.
 - This will lead to massive change - massive societal disruption - including massive reshaping of our cities.
- By approximately 15 years time, artificial intelligence (and the related robotics) will have advanced so far that AI with computing and robotics will be smarter and more capable than any humans. And from that point AI and computing/robotics etc just gets more and more capable, more and more intelligent than humans - evolving at some point to super-intelligence. eg <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superintelligence>
 - One ramification is massive long-term unemployment.
 - Imagine 70% of adults of working age being permanently unemployed.
 - By the time we reach this scenario, the financial structure of our society as we know it, will have failed. And I think this (societal failure) happens within 15 years.
 - Implications:
 - Those in charge of this AI/robotic/etc technology will be extremely powerful in our society
 - Those without work will be disempowered.
 - I feel that the most "natural" result of this scenario is autocracy - and the "natural" controllers of the autocracy would be the owners of the AI/robotics/etc technology
 - In due course, those in control of the globally best AI/robotics/etc technology would control a global autocracy. So I think we get there by 2060 at latest - quite probably much sooner.
 - AND, I have no reason to believe that the autocrats in charge, would be beneficial dictators.

So there is my very brief braindump of my vision of the quite-likely future over the next 15 years

I know a lot of the above thoughts, comments and observations will not be comfortable to many. And I am acutely aware that all this very rapid change will not be comfortable for most of us.