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Everyone says China is behind on AI and robotics.

The truth?

China already automated its factories, and kept the humans.

While America outsourced competence, China scaled it.

Read this and seeth:



**The only way some manufacturing jobs will return stateside is if AI-em...**

Now is the time to go all-in on AI-enabled robotics and automation.

<https://fortune.com/2025/04/16/ai-robots-manufacturing-jobs-tariffs/>

American pundits act like China's still stuck in sweatshop mode. Meanwhile, Foxconn deploys 100,000+ industrial robots, and BYD makes EVs in plants that look like Kubrick sets. China didn't skip labor. It upgraded it. 1/9

China built 70% of the world's industrial robots last year. But they didn't stop there. They built vocational schools. Retrained workers. Integrated AI into production lines. You don't hear about it because it worked. 2/9

China's model isn't replacing humans with machines. It's creating hybrid factories where workers collaborate with automation. Human judgment, machine precision. America never had a plan that grown-up. 3/9

A kid in Suzhou is debugging machine vision on a robotic arm. A kid in Ohio is posting mental breakdowns on TikTok and getting ghosted by Indeed. That's not a tech gap. That's a civilizational choice. 4/9

While Silicon Valley was chasing crypto scams and dopamine apps, China was building semiconductor fabs, EV supply chains, and AI logistics. They're not waiting for the singularity. They're building the world that runs it. 5/9

American CEOs pray AI will let them skip the hard stuff — education, training, human capital. China did the hard stuff first. That's why they don't need to talk about "reshoring." They never let go. 6/9

In China, AI is infrastructure. In the US, it's a hallucinating chatbot with a billion-dollar valuation. One system builds national capacity. The other builds hype cycles and layoffs. 7/9

America imagines AI will save it from its people. China uses AI to empower its people. One is buying time. The other is buying dominance. The scoreboard is starting to show it. 8/9

The future isn't man vs machine. It's nation vs nation.

And only one of them trained both its robots and its citizens to win.

Spoiler: it's not the one with Fortune magazine. 9/9

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