

Technology as a Driving Force, Plus Elon Musk's David Reich and Gad Saad Picks

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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Garry Tan's Substack essay endorsement was the clearest signal today, centered on technology as a driver of history. Elon Musk added a David Reich clip on ancient DNA and violent migration, plus an explicit nod to Gad Saad's forthcoming book on suicidal empathy.

What stood out

The strongest recommendation today was Garry Tan's endorsement of *The Question Concerning Technology: How technology writes philosophy*. He did not just share the link; he explained that the piece validated a view he has held since 19 about technology as a driving force in history [1].

Most compelling recommendation

The Question Concerning Technology: How technology writes philosophy

- **Content type:** Article / Substack essay [2]
- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the provided notes; described by Tan as written by "a philosopher" [1]
- **Link/URL:** <https://yyy3.substack.com/p/the-question-concerning-technology> [2]
- **Who recommended it:** Garry Tan [1]
- **Key takeaway:** Tan said the essay affirmed a line he wrote at 19: "The historical dialectic of Marx itself failed to really recognize technology as a driving force." [1]

- **Why it matters:** This was the clearest, highest-signal recommendation in the set because Tan tied the essay to a long-standing belief of his own and distilled its thesis into a memorable phrase [1]
“Marx saw machines and missed the machine.” [1]

Two other authentic saves

David Reich on how ancient DNA evidence has overturned consensus thinking about how ancient cultures spread

- **Content type:** Podcast/video clip shared on X [3]
- **Author/creator:** Not fully specified in the provided notes; the clip features David Reich and was shared via @dwarkesh_sp [3, 4]
- **Link/URL:** https://x.com/dwarkesh_sp/status/2050651678274433465 [4]
- **Who recommended it:** Elon Musk [4]
- **Key takeaway:** Musk amplified Reich’s claim that ancient DNA evidence has overturned consensus thinking about cultural spread, and he summarized the implication as a story of extreme violence rather than peaceful migration [3, 4]
- **Why it matters:** It matters because Musk shared it specifically as evidence against peaceful accounts of ancient cultural spread [3, 4]
“It wasn’t peaceful, it wasn’t friendly, it wasn’t nice. Some of our archaeologist co-authors were just really distressed.” [3]

Gad Saad’s upcoming book on *suicidal empathy* (exact title not specified in the provided notes)

- **Content type:** Book (upcoming) [5]
- **Author/creator:** Gad Saad [5]
- **Link/URL:** No direct book URL was provided in the cited material
- **Who recommended it:** Elon Musk [5]
- **Key takeaway:** Musk called a linked post “a case study in suicidal empathy” and told readers to read Saad’s upcoming book on the subject [5]
- **Why it matters:** The context was brief, but Musk presented the book’s core concept as immediately applicable to the post he was commenting on [5]

Bottom line

If you save one item from today’s set, save *The Question Concerning Technology*. It had the most specific endorsement, the clearest thesis, and the best explanation of why the recommender thought it mattered [1].

Sources

1. X post by @garrytan
2. X post by @RvelinEdu
3. X post by @dwarkesh_sp
4. X post by @elonmusk
5. X post by @elonmusk