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# Longshoremen's Battle Against Automation Faces a Future Dominated by AI

## Description

The recent strike by dockworkers in the United States represents the latest manifestation of opposition to automation in defense of employment opportunities. This labor action, which has the potential to disrupt supply chains across the East and Gulf coasts, has prompted concerns among retailers regarding potential product shortages and dissatisfied customers. While strikes are intended to create such disruptions, the longshoremen's union has put forth a rather audacious demand in addition to seeking higher wages. As reported by the respected publication, the New York Post, the union is insisting on a "complete prohibition on automation" at cargo ports, a move that could have a staggering impact estimated at \$5 billion per day by J.P. Morgan.

The International Longshoremen's Association, representing a workforce of 85,000 in the U.S. and thousands more globally, is advocating for the ban on all forms of automation within cargo port operations. This prohibition would encompass diverse equipment such as cranes, gates, and the handling of shipping containers, requiring manual intervention even in the face of increasingly sophisticated technological solutions. While this demand seeks to ensure job security for manual laborers, there are concerns regarding the safety and efficiency of human-operated machinery in an industry plagued by a regular occurrence of accidents and disruptions.

Despite the evident risks posed by human error in port operations, the automation of such processes holds the potential for significant cost savings and operational efficiency. Advanced technologies, such as AI-powered robotic vehicles and automated cranes, can ensure seamless cargo handling and tracking, reducing the potential for errors and accidents. This ongoing debate regarding job protection in the face of automation mirrors broader discussions surrounding the impact of AI on various industries, underscoring the complexity of balancing technological advancement with workforce stability. As the push for automation intensifies across different sectors, including the realm of cargo transport, the resilience of manual workers in resisting automation may face mounting challenges in the foreseeable future.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Manifestation** /,mæɪnɪfɛ'steɪʃən/ (noun): An event action or object that clearly shows or embodies something.
2. **Prohibition** /,prəʊhɪ'bɪʃən/ (noun): A decree that forbids something.
3. **Audacious** /ɔ:'deɪʃəs/ (adjective): Showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks.
4. **Efficiency** /ɪ'fɪʃənsi/ (noun): The ability to accomplish something with the least waste of time and effort.
5. **Diverse** /dɪ'vɜrs/ (adjective): Showing a great deal of variety; very different.
6. **Intensifies** /ɪn'tɛn.sɪ.faɪz/ (verb): To become greater in strength or magnitude.



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## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What is the primary reason for the recent strike by dockworkers in the United States?  
Option: Seeking higher wages  
Option: Opposition to automation  
Option: Improving safety measures  
Option: Promoting new technology adoption
2. How much is the estimated impact per day of the complete prohibition on automation at cargo ports?  
Option: \$1 billion  
Option: \$3 billion  
Option: \$5 billion  
Option: \$7 billion
3. Which organization is advocating for a ban on all forms of automation within cargo port operations?  
Option: International Longshoremen's Association  
Option: United Auto Workers  
Option: Teamsters Union  
Option: American Federation of Labor
4. What is one potential advantage of automating port operations mentioned in the text?  
Option: Increased job opportunities  
Option: Enhanced safety and efficiency  
Option: Higher labor costs  
Option: Decreased productivity
5. Which advanced technologies are highlighted as potential solutions for cargo handling in the text?  
Option: Manual labor only  
Option: Traditional machinery  
Option: AI-powered robotic vehicles and automated cranes  
Option: No technology needed
6. What is the primary concern regarding job protection in the face of automation?  
Option: Decreased operational efficiency  
Option: Decreased labor costs



Option: Balance between technological advancement and workforce stability

Option: Increased job opportunities

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Opposition to automation 2. \$5 billion 3. International Longshoremen's Association  
4. Enhanced safety and efficiency 5. AI-powered robotic vehicles and automated cranes 6. Balance between technological advancement and workforce stability

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. Which word means famous and respected within a particular sphere or profession?

Option: Eminent

Option: Dynamics

Option: Distinction

Option: Ascend

2. Which word describes the ability to accomplish a task with minimal wasted resources?

Option: Gravitas

Option: Reinstatement

Option: Efficiency

Option: Devastation

3. What term refers to the process of flooding or overwhelming something with an abundance of liquid?

Option: Casualties

Option: Inundation

Option: Fostering

Option: Efficacy

4. Which word means the power or strength of something?

Option: Plenitude

Option: Potency

Option: Programmatic

Option: Aftermath

5. What term describes a group consisting of different elements or types?

Option: Casualties

Option: Landfall



- Option: Diverse
- Option: Elimination

6. Which word means showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks?

- Option: Acumen
- Option: Audacious
- Option: Restoration
- Option: Intensifies

7. What term describes the process of making something accessible to everyone?

- Option: Optimization
- Option: Engagement
- Option: Prohibition
- Option: Democratizing

8. Which term means to arrange or direct the elements of a situation to produce a desired effect?

- Option: Orchestrated
- Option: Programmatic
- Option: Fostering
- Option: Gravitas

9. Which word refers to an event action or object that clearly shows a particular abstract idea or quality?

- Option: Manifestation
- Option: Optimization
- Option: Eminent
- Option: Conduit

10. Which word describes the act of participating or becoming involved in an activity or organization?

- Option: Efficacy
- Option: Engagement
- Option: Landfall
- Option: Dichotomy

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the action of forbidding something especially by law.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the storm caused widespread destruction in the coastal region.
13. Her business \_\_\_\_\_ allowed her to make successful strategic decisions.



14. The market offers a \_\_\_\_\_ of options to cater to various consumer needs.
15. The medicine has been tested for its \_\_\_\_\_ in treating the common cold.
16. The hurricane made \_\_\_\_\_ on the east coast causing significant damage.
17. The artist focused on the \_\_\_\_\_ of ancient artifacts found in the ruins.
18. The market is filled with a \_\_\_\_\_ of new technological gadgets.
19. The climbers began to \_\_\_\_\_ the steep mountain in the early morning.
20. The community came together to help rebuild after the devastating \_\_\_\_\_ of the tornado.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The competition becomes fiercer as the rivalry between the two teams .
22. The environmental policies had a significant on reducing carbon emissions.
23. The leader's speech was delivered with authority and that commanded respect.
24. The internet serves as a vital for the exchange of information worldwide.
25. The political debate revealed a clear between the two opposing viewpoints.
26. The educational program focuses on creativity and innovation in students.
27. The company implemented new strategies for cost and efficiency.
28. The battle resulted in numerous among the soldiers on both sides.
29. The community came together to rebuild in the of the natural disaster.
30. The volcanic eruption caused widespread to the surrounding area.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Eminent 2. Efficiency 3. Inundation 4. Potency 5. Diverse 6. Audacious 7. Democratizing  
8. Orchestrated



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9. Manifestation 10. Engagement

**Gap-Fill:** 11. Prohibition 12. intensity 13. acumen 14. plenitude 15. efficacy 16. landfall 17. restoration  
18. plethora 19. ascend 20. aftermath

**Matching sentence:** 1. Intensifies 2. Impact 3. Gravitas 4. Conduit 5. Dichotomy 6. Fostering 7. Optimization  
8. Casualties 9. Aftermath 10. Devastation

## CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

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### Author

aimeeyoung99

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