

MANIFESTO FOR A FULLY DECENTRALIZED SOCIETY

by

A Concerned Human Being

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FOREWORD

The following is a Manifesto to establish, to the greatest extent possible, a Decentralized society. It is impossible to convey the importance of decentralization without an understanding of the problems and threats posed by an overly centralized society where power is allowed to concentrate in the hands of a single individual, or a small group, that is able to bend others to their will with impunity and without limits, or accountability to the masses upon which they inflict their will. While centralized systems may have advantages during periods when a highly capable and benign “boss” uses his power to organise society to everyone’s benefit, centralized societies always suffer from “The Bad Emperor Problem” in that when a bad person seizes the reigns of a high effective control system, millions can find themselves ruined, oppressed, and even tortured and killed discovering, only too late, that the political system they exist in offers them no recourse or ability resist the depraved authoritarian excesses which the bad emperor inflicts upon them.

During periods when “A Good Emperor Reigns”, the citizens may hardly feel the highly centralized underlying framework of their society. The puppet may falsely believe it’s free, and forget it has any strings attached at all, so long as the puppet master leaves them slack. It’s only when the puppet master tightens the strings, that the puppet realises it has no freedom. In this way, it is very easy for society to ignore the slow creep of centralized authority so long as that power is only occasionally exerted and does not interfere with people’s immediate lives in any practical way.

The ultimate purpose of Decentralization is to create structures which enable people to resist the excesses and abuses of centralized power and influence. This is ultimately about making society

possible on a large scale in a way that intrinsically resists centralization and the accumulation of power in the hands of a few unaccountable controllers. The Republican tradition, the separation of powers, and democracy as we know it, were all political projects to create large scale societies, governed by a decentralized authority, which everyone had the ability to influence and control.

In the modern context, the word “Decentralization” is generally used to describe the decentralized storage and distribution of data – particularly in the context of a monetary network, but also in the context of other data, such as communication media, like social media. This is because it is increasingly apparent that the power to control the distribution of information, and the monetary system, is a truly awesome force that can sway elections and, by so doing, hijack the very democratic system that was originally designed to prevent the control of the army/police force etc., from falling into the hands of a single, largely unaccountable cabal. And yet, we have allowed a few largely unaccountable, unelected monopolists to control the flow – and creation – of money and information to a terrifying and nearly all encompassing degree. An increasingly large portion of the world’s supply of money, and all the other information that is used to coordinate society, is stored on centralized computer databases, which a handful of central controllers have near total power to edit, and its dissemination is determined by coded algorithms that, again, only a handful of central controllers can edit.

So, the sharp end of the spear, for the modern decentralization movement, is to decentralize the governing authority of data platforms, by building new platforms based on a decentralized infrastructure. Starting with the global payment network (Bitcoin) and progressing to communication, production, and maybe someday even, core governance competences, such as legislation and defence.

Since a lot of the efforts of those who go to great lengths to construct decentralized networks seem superfluous, unnecessary and incomprehensible without a clear understanding of the imminent problem that the increasing centralization of our society poses, much of this book is written to make the reader acutely aware of the imminent threat that increasing authoritarianism, and control over the information space, poses to our most basic human rights, and even to democracy itself. Indeed, if left unchecked, it will ultimately lead to a society where a small cabal of people can control the rest of us in any way they please. How they will abuse such all-encompassing control will be limited only to their imaginations.

However, in addition to outlining the threat, I also outline **the mechanisms** which the powers that be intend to use to consolidate their power, so that those who are determined to resist them might know where they can most fruitfully focus their efforts.

But raising awareness and outlining the serious nature of a problem will only produce stress, a sense of powerlessness or, even worse, glum acceptance, without clearly laying out a strategy to resist the problem and, by so doing, prevent the emerging totalitarian hell-scape from becoming a reality and instead, create a society that most people can live happily in and be proud members of.

It is important to stress that realising a working decentralized society will be difficult, and will require great effort, persistence in the face of temporary failure, and patience. This is why it is crucial that as we work hard, and struggle to create a future where our descendants can live as free people, rather than slaves on a centrally-controlled grid, that we constantly remind ourselves *why* we are exerting so much effort, and navigating such great difficulties in order to patiently build, brick by brick, an architecture that will enable future generations of people to effectively protect their freedom and retain their innate

human dignity – rather than watch all semblance of rights, autonomy and justice, slowly dissolve into the darkness.

Finally, it's important to state that this manifesto does not aim to altogether do away with centralized societies but rather aims to create fully viable decentralized alternatives, that can exist alongside centralized political systems, while remaining independent of them. By so doing, a truly independent decentralized society can serve as a refuge for the inhabitants of centralized societies which “bad emperors” have hijacked. Furthermore, if members of centralized political systems, run by wicked leaders, have somewhere to flee, then they can starve those corrupted systems of participants and, thereby, weaken them. Centralization has some benefits (so long as the central authority is competent and benign) and most successful societies are a tapestry where pockets of limited centralization (such as private companies) are woven into a decentralized fabric. It is possible that centralized societies that are governed by competent, benign people have advantages which decentralized organizations lack. Indeed, the best of possible worlds may well be one where centralized and decentralized societies coexist together where the strengths of each system compensate for the weaknesses of the other.

Nevertheless, we **cannot** allow a single, inescapable, centralized system to concentrate all power in a single individual, or small unaccountable group. This future must be resisted **at all costs.**

THE ORIGINS OF MODERN FREEDOM AND THE THREAT IT TO ITS FUTURE

For most of the history of civilization, the majority of people who lived and died, within large scale civilized societies at least, were slaves or little more than slaves. Living at the edge of subsistence, treated like cattle, taxed by a small elite of “noble men” and state officials, politically disenfranchised, tortured without trial, routinely beaten, executed on a whim, devoid of rights. The feudal system was a pyramidal system of ownership and exploitation, God owned the king, the king owned the Lords, the Lords owned the knights, the knights owned the commoners, the husband owned his wife, the wife owned her children. Every level of society owed their existence to their owners up the chain, who often considered themselves entitled to end it if they chose to. Power was centralized, the status quo was enforced, and the people struggled to maintain even a minimal undignified existence while suffering many insults and injustices from the central powers, higher up the pyramid, who ruled over them.

Civilizations have emerged from time to time, in localized regions, with systems of government that have succeeded in enfranchising a larger portion of the population and limiting the powers of the leaders at the top. The Athenian democracy and the Roman Republic being the two most notable examples. Neither were perfect, slave classes existed in both Athens and Rome and both were ephemeral, Athens was eventually conquered by Philip of Macedon, while Rome devolved into an increasingly centralized and tyrannical empire – the decline of these Republics remains a chilling reminder, from the pages of history, that increasingly free societies are by no means historically pre-determined.

Perhaps the origins of our modern, comparatively free, society can be traced back to the *Magna Carta Libertatum*. This seminal document established, in England, for the first time clearly in writing, the rights of the church against the king and legal protection of barons against unlawful imprisonment by the king. The *Magna Carta* also marked the convening of the first Parliament in what would later become the United Kingdom. The first Parliament was a far cry from offering democratic

representation to the average Englishman, but it was a step in the right direction which, along with the Magna Carta, established the concept of the Rule of Law: that there were certain limits to what the King was legally entitled to do.

Four centuries later, and two centuries after the invention of the printing press, the English Parliament asserted itself against the king in the English Civil War. The turmoil that followed stimulated intense written exchange and debate among the educated classes on what powers a ruler had the legitimate right to exert over his people, the nature of right and wrong, along with the nature of reality and truth itself. The literature first produced by the English civil war, and the very basic question over how society should be ordered, and how people should live, went on to initiate the age of reason, often referred to as the enlightenment, and the philosophical stance that came to be known as humanism.

Central to the humanist position was a belief in the core truth that each and every individual human life was intrinsically valuable and deserving of dignity. All of enlightenment philosophy and the fundamental human rights we take for granted, which are currently recognised by our international institutions, rest on the foundation of this core conviction.

It is worth questioning whether the increasingly fashionable ideology of transhumanism enhances, or devalues, the innate dignity of human beings and whether it upholds, or undermines, the core humanist values upon which our basic political rights and freedoms depend.

The period in which a few elite philosophers across England and the continent established modern science, debated the nature of right and wrong, and the correct way to govern a society was accompanied by the rapid expansion of European power and the colonization of much of the globe by Europe. Although academics debated the theory of morality and how to structure a legitimate government, the practical reality of how European rulers treated their subjects at home and those conquered abroad was a far cry from such theoretical musings, and many abuses and hypocrisy characterized the political reality of the time, while, even among the countries with parliaments, none yet had universal suffrage.

In 1776, the United States declared its independence from the British Empire. Notably this declaration of independence was not one based on tribal or ethnic divisions, but, rather, on philosophical convictions, based on the ideas of Thomas Paine and John Locke among others, that all men were innately imbued with fundamental and inalienable rights, and were inherently entitled to rebel against any ruler that denied them their rights. The United States emerged victorious from the war as an independent nation whose Constitution and political institutions were engineered, with great thought and deliberation, to limit the concentration and centralization of power into the hands of any one man and to ensure that that the U.S. would never again be ruled over by a tyrannical king. As always, the path from abstract philosophical principles to political reality is long, messy and full of hypocrisy. Slavery remained a part of the U.S. for decades after the declaration of independence and, while suffrage in the U.S. was more widespread than in England, it was still not universal. Nevertheless, the separation of powers enshrined in U.S. institutions was a major advancement in the development of institutions that limited the capacity of a government to oppress its peoples, and the Bill of Rights was a landmark document that enshrined numerous rights, previously abstractly discussed by various philosophers, into tangible rights, enshrined by law, upon which a nation would be governed. Rights such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to peaceably assemble, the right to bear arms, the right to trial by jury, the right against unreasonable searches and seizures. At the time of its writing,

this represented the most comprehensive list of rights that the citizenry of any nation were recognised by law to hold against their government.

In the 18th century, English and American Quakers began to question the morality of slavery. In 1794, revolutionary France abolished slavery throughout its empire (although Napoleon restored it), the northern U.S. states abolished slavery in 1804, the United Kingdom outlawed the international slave trade in 1807. Britain abolished slavery throughout its empire in 1833 (except in India). French colonies re-abolished slavery in 1848 and the United States fully abolished slavery in 1865. The spread of the British Empire involved much bloodshed and abuse and, indeed, during the 18th century Britain was among the most rapacious, abusive and exploitative organisers of the international slave industry. Nevertheless, once slavery was abolished, the British Empire played an instrumental role in enforcing its abolition across wide swathes of the world.

As the United States spread westwards, underpopulated western territories with extremely high male to female ratios, among their inhabitants, began offering increasingly inclusive voting rights – including to those without property and to women. And while the path to women’s suffrage was as convoluted and piecemeal as the path to ending slavery, by the second decade of the 20th century, women had the right to vote in most of Europe and North America.

The 1930s was characterized by a stark reversal in the hard won liberties, enjoyed by the inhabitants of many nations, who were previously relatively advanced in this regard. The totalitarianism of Hitler, Mussolini and Franco, among others, crushed the institutions of democracy and the culture of free academic discussion, as well as artistic expression, replacing them with a totalitarian, militaristic, expansionistic state where all must submit to the will of the leader and individual life was dispensable and only of value to the extent that it furthered the advancement of the state and the machinations of The Party and its dictator. Artists who produced art and academics with theories that were not to the liking of The Party could find themselves kidnapped by the secret police and imprisoned without trial, or even killed, along with those with disabilities and even entire ethnic groups disliked by The Party.

To onlookers, who inhabited nations where freedoms and human rights were still held in comparatively high regard, the horrors perpetrated by the fascist and communist governments of the 1930s, in what were formerly relatively progressive countries – served as chilling reminders that, even in the 20th century, it was still possible for a gang of criminals to take over even an advanced, relatively progressive European nation and pervert its laws and institutions to facilitate evil atrocities on a massive scale. What was more disturbing still was the observation of how easily a ruthless ruler could harness the very desire of most people to be good, law-abiding citizens and, through perverting the law and the language, even to the point of perverting the public’s understanding of the very word “good”, fascist leaders could persuade millions upon millions of people to tolerate, and even participate in, the most vile and evil acts imaginable.

The horrors of World War 2 caused many to question, even more deeply, under what conditions is a state legitimate, and its laws deserving of respect, and under what conditions should the leaders of nations be considered no more than criminals whose declared “laws” deserve nothing but contempt.

With the defeat of fascism, the freer nations of the world, found that the greater evil of totalitarian fascist and communist regimes, that rendered them illegitimate as governments, uncovered lesser, but nevertheless significant and disturbing, shortcomings and injustices they routinely meted upon their

own citizens and, with the revulsion of fascism still fresh in their mind, in the decades that followed, the leaders of Western nations determined to rectify all of these shortcomings, to the extent that this was possible, in order to secure their own legitimacy to govern their populace and, by so doing, to transform their nations into truly free societies that would one day act as models for all others and, as such, liberate the world and create a lasting and just society that could be enjoyed by all humanity.

Never again, after World War 2, could men be trusted to use “common sense” to reliably discern right from wrong and decide to do what’s right – or even refrain from committing the most vile evils imaginable upon innocent victims which society deemed to be “the enemy.”

With that in mind, the Post World War 2 global order was founded on a series of seminal documents to protect individual freedom and human decency, to act as guides and serve as reminders which future generations could refer back to for decades to come so that they might determine when their governments had strayed from their responsibility to their citizens, had lost their legitimacy to govern, so that their citizens could recognise and determine, the circumstances in which they were not only morally entitled to ignore the edicts of their wicked leaders, but duty bound to do so.

The Nuremberg code, to ensure that so-called physicians and scientists could never again force injury or harm, or force the risk of injury or harm, against the will of patients or subjects in the name of “advancing medical science.”

The Geneva Convention to limit the depraved atrocities that an invading army could brazenly commit in the name of war and expect to get away with.

But, perhaps the greatest seminal document that emerged from those early post-war years, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1948 and today signed by 192 nations, was:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights : A landmark document that set the standard for how a government must treat its people to be considered truly legitimate and entitled to rule over them.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights represents the widest recognition of rights and freedoms that has ever successfully passed through an official political process. Among the rights included in it are Articles such as:

Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person

Article 9: No one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all guarantees necessary for his defence

2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed

Article 12: No one shall be subject to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour or reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property

Article 18: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance

Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an organisation

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public services in his country

3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits

I recommend you read through the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in full, slowly and thoughtfully, and then answer the following questions:

1. **Does your government respect all your rights as guaranteed by this declaration that it signed?**
2. **Are there any rights guaranteed by this declaration that your country once respected a decade ago but no longer respects today?**
3. **Is your government still legitimate?**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was always somewhat aspirational. However, broadly speaking, in the decades that followed, the Post War International Order was divided into The Free World and The Unfree World (much of which lay behind The Iron Curtain). The main distinction between The Free and Unfree World was that the Free World, however imperfectly, took *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* seriously and contained many high ranking politicians, lawyers, judges and non-governmental human rights organizations who tirelessly strove to practically realise the political implementation of this landmark declaration, both in letter and in spirit, as comprehensively as they were capable of doing – while the leaders of The Unfree World, for the most part also nominal signatories of this same declaration, ignored it entirely.

One can always nit-pick, and point out many instances of corruption and minor human rights violations here and there even within countries included in The Free World. Indeed this process of constant nit-picking, and rooting out of corruption, is essential for any free society that intends to protect and increase the Human Rights and freedoms enjoyed by its citizens. But while the constant unearthing of

flaws and shortcomings within the free societies of the post war world is of critical importance, we should never conflate those flaws, even in well-governed democratic societies, with a failure to recognise the degree to which such societies conferred liberty, rights and prosperity to their inhabitants – to an extent that was unprecedented across all of previous human history.

This Post War period was accompanied by tremendous social advancement and prosperity including: the green revolution, minimum wage laws, widely available healthcare, disability benefits, pensions, unemployment insurance all of which, in addition to the rights enjoyed by those fortunate enough to live in democratic societies, made the late 20th and early 21st century perhaps the freest and most prosperous period in all of human history.

The point being, if we lose all this – it's a LONG way down.

Within the past few years, the human rights record of traditionally well-governed democratic countries has dramatically declined. Arguably this deterioration began slowly in the decades following the PATRIOT Act and has drastically fallen off a cliff in the years following the COVID pandemic – to the point where many democracies, that have traditionally respected the rule of law and conducted an orderly political process, flagrantly violated their citizens' rights and, in some instances, such as in Australia, even went as far as to forcibly drag some away to detention camps, without trial by jury, for the purposes of quarantine.

This deterioration of our governments' respect for the rule of law and fundamental human rights has now gone far beyond the odd scandal, instance of corruption, or unfair court ruling, that has always occurred from time to time, even throughout the post war period. The recent decline in democratic governments' respect for the human rights of their citizens is drastic enough to be comparable to the fall of the Roman Republic and the emergence of autocratic Imperial Rome subject only to the fickle will of a single man.

Technology is power and, hence, has a tendency to amplify the influence of human will. Modern literary novels played a significant role in cultivating the values of humanism and a respect and understanding for others in people by helping them see things from the perspective of someone whose situation in life is very different from their own. Art and photography, that poignantly capture deep feelings expressed by others, have a similar effect in arousing humanist sensibilities within the breasts of the general public. The printing press facilitated the newspaper industry, which played a critical role in facilitating meaningful democracy across a large nation through informing potential voters of the important events occurring across the wider nation and the achievements and shortcomings of their politicians – thus enabling voters to make meaningful and informed choices, something that would be impossible without the press.

But George Orwell and Aldous Huxley have each wrote prescient novels in the first half of the 20th century that warn their readers of the potential for technology to also facilitate an almost unimaginable level of intense, all-pervasive oppression and state control. One that would make feudalism seem liberal by comparison – if we allow the course of technological development to fall into the wrong hands. George Orwell's book, *1984*, focusses on the capacity of surveillance technology to enable the system to know what everyone is doing – and even thinking – all of the time. Winston discretely

expresses his hatred for the system and begins to quietly violate its unjust laws, has a forbidden affair with Julia, and plots to bring down *Big Brother* only to find that the thought police were watching and recording his every move for months and knew *everything*. *1984* also explores the danger that the technological capacity to pump out exponentially greater volumes of content poses, and how it could effectively allow a regime to rewrite all of history. In this age of the internet, where most records exist in a permanently editable format, and deep fakes are becoming more convincing all the time, the potential for a centralized controller of information to continuously and comprehensively change the historical record, perhaps with the aid of AI, completely controlling our perception of history and existence in an utterly deceptive manner, is all too plausible.

The subject matter of *Brave New World* is the potential for drugs, psychiatric conditioning, medical and genetic technology to remake humanity, both physiologically and behaviourally, into something very different from the people who exist today. There are 5 castes in *Brave New World* : Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas, and Epsilons. The lower the caste, the shorter and less intelligent the individual. Everyone is conditioned to enjoy fulfilling their role in the social structure, however boring and repetitive that role may be, and each member of the society is so thoroughly conditioned that rebellion, or even non-conformity and disobedience, is unthinkable. While the relative happiness of the inhabitants of *Brave New World* is less disturbing on the surface, compared to the lengthy tortures suffered by the characters in *1984*, consider the possibility of being forced by the powers that be to take drugs – or engage in some kind of genetic therapy – that would turn you into an Epsilon: dramatically lowering both your stature and intelligence. As technology progresses, it will become increasingly possible for us to drastically change both our bodies and our minds. But what if we don't get to make that decision? What if the central controllers of the future are the ones who legally mandate us to transform our bodies, and even our very brains, into new forms of their choosing? Whether through gene therapy, or implanted mechanical or electronic devices? Elon Musk is working on implanting chips directly into people's brains...what if the central controllers of the future pass laws that force us to have chips implanted into our brains? What if we are given no say or choice over what kind of chips we get implanted with or how those chips will influence our actions, emotions and behaviour? At what point can the extreme distortion of one's physical and mental form, through the use of advanced medical technology, be considered tantamount to murder – in the sense that the medical procedure has so changed the patient that nothing of what existed before (either physically or mentally) remains after the procedure? Indeed, as increasingly sophisticated technology is developed to mould and change our behaviour, and even our physiology, could the centralized controllers of that moulding process even succeed in moulding us to the point of making us placidly accept, or even embrace, our own sterilization, or even death – like docile lambs to the slaughter?

How much inconvenience would you put yourself through, how much effort would you go to, to prevent a social system arising where a small elite could, with the press of a button, stop anyone from broadcasting their thoughts, stop anyone they wish from travelling or leaving the country, from using their self-driving car, household appliances, and even stop anyone they wish from exchanging money for services and hence acquiring even the most basic resources necessary for life? What if the controllers of this society were all too ready to change someone's centrally stored personal records – and make their life hell – in the event that they: Watched the wrong content on the internet, associated with the wrong people, voiced the wrong opinions online, failed to pay their taxes in full and on time, failed to take their state-mandated psychotropic medication, gene therapy or attend a government mandated hypnosis or re-education session promptly when instructed, failed to show up at their state-

mandated surgery appointment to have mandatory government implants inserted into their body, or brain... and many other possible reasons.

Would you do everything you could to resist a control system like this from developing? Or would you keep your head down and stay out of trouble instead? Just don't say anything that will get you into trouble and you'll be fine, just don't watch anything that will get you into trouble and you'll be fine. Sure the government are requiring police and military personnel to have microchips inserted into their brains, but if you don't want to have a microchip put in your head, just don't get a job with the police, or the military, and I guess there was that one case of police brutality and the state approved news channels I'm allowed to watch (i.e. those that raise rather than lower my social credit score) are telling me that microchipping all policemen will reduce instances of brutality, so I guess it all makes sense.

...and then microchipping everyone's brain becomes universally mandatory... and then the microchipped police show up at your door and inform you that you've missed your mandatory microchip-implant appointment and escort you to the government's brain implantation facility...and then, after they deal with you, they forcefully insert microchips into your child's brain as well...

Does this dystopian speculation all sound too outlandish?

Imagine someone from the year 2022 could travel back in time and tell someone living in the year 2000 how, in 22 years, your phone would record your conversations, even when turned off, and send them to private companies and government intelligence departments; governments and companies would collect massive amounts of your personal information of all kinds; the inhabitants of democratic societies would be forbidden from leaving the country; people would be forbidden from leaving their houses; law-abiding Australians would be corralled into government-run quarantine camps; experimental vaccines would become mandatory for work less than 12 months after first being delivered to the general public and 24 months after being first developed in a laboratory; that Canadians would have their personal bank accounts frozen by the government for attending a peaceful assembly in Ottawa to voice their grievances over draconian mandates...and the sad thing is I could keep going on (forced business closures etc.,)...would all this seem shocking and outlandish to someone living in the year 2000?

If the extent to which things have become authoritarian today would seem incredibly outlandish and, frankly, kooky to someone living just 20 years ago, then it's entirely possible that, if we let things keep going in their current direction, the future world in another 20 years will seem equally unbelievable authoritarian and, frankly, completely bizarre and horrifying, to our current sensibilities.

I wish to make clear that the above speculations about mandatory microchips, mandatory medication, hypnosis sessions etc., are nothing more than that: speculations. However, it's clear that the central authorities of the world have actively pushed, and are always actively pushing, to expand the extent to which the government can monitor you and edit your personal records at will – in ways that can dramatically impact your quality of life. No fly lists are a matter of fact and people can be placed on one without any court ruling but merely as an arbitrary decision made behind the opaque closed doors of government agencies. An increasing number of regulations, pertaining to social media, are being passed that will allow central controllers, operating within government agencies, to pressurize social media companies to cancel the accounts of any broadcaster or content producer they see fit, again arbitrarily and without trial by jury. Central bank digital currencies are coming – and once they arrive,

it appears that it may become very easy for central controllers to edit, or suspend, your bank balance without any court ruling. Most shockingly, during the pandemic, governments have recently set a whole slew of dangerous legal precedents exerting far-reaching authorities that violated a wide range of rights which we once believed were sacred. Finally, the internet of things will certainly create an infrastructure that will enable central controllers to mess with the personal household appliances of those they view as dissidents in potentially very creepy ways – whether they will actually choose to make use of the internet of things in this way is, as yet, undetermined.

The purpose of speculating over mandatory brain implants is to point out that, once the centralized power achieve the ability control and edit the important personal records possessed by millions of people in the wider population simply by running an app, or pushing a single button, this will enable them to intensely coerce millions of people to do whatever they want. Indeed, if they take a gradualistic approach in using the emerging control infrastructure to pressurize the population, the final state of society and the depths of humiliation, slavery and control which they could ultimate reduce the masses to is practically unlimited.

When you're on a continuous sliding scale towards incrementally increasing government authoritarianism and tyranny, it's difficult to know where to draw the line and what to do. In this manifesto for a decentralized society, I will argue that numerous red lines have **already been crossed** over the past 2 years and I will try to lay out a sensible strategy to understand, and push back, against the rising tide of tyranny that threatens to engulf us all.

But to truly understand the severity of the crisis befalling our political system, and threatening our rights and freedoms, we first need to understand the important structural features of post World War 2 democratic societies.

THE POST WORLD WAR II DEMOCRATIC ORDER

While the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* contains many articles, it is worth considering what **critical, core features** of modern post war democracies are supposed to ensure that one person, or an unaccountable cabal of a few individuals, never gains the ability to arbitrarily exert power upon the population and that the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the population, including those of minorities, remain protected, to a tolerable extent, both by and from the police.

The adherence of governments to the principle of protecting and respecting their citizen's human rights has greatly deteriorated. However, we must clearly understand how our existing institutions are supposed to function to protect critical things like human rights, and how these democratic institutions are supposed to be designed to prevent themselves from degenerating into tyrannies, in order to determine whether this latest rise in authoritarianism, and rolling back of our rights, is merely a temporary setback that will self-correct in due course, or whether the very institutional framework, carefully designed to protect our rights, and prevent unaccountable tyrannies for arising, is irreparably broken – in which case, modern democracies, like the ancient democracies which preceded them, may be about to collapse into a permanent state of tyranny.

At the top level, modern governments have an operating core of:

1. Written laws that protect people's rights and critical democratic processes, which are hard to alter
2. Institutions to enforce those laws and verify political processes are implemented correctly in practice
3. Procedures and laws that allow the wider public to supervise institutions to ensure they work, and, in the event that political institutions cease to serve the interests of the wider public, ensure that the wider public has options at its disposal to correct the error and restore functionality to the nation's institutions

Many tyrannical dictatorships, which torture and arbitrarily imprison their citizens, have laws that look good on paper. But because they lack a robust institutional process to verify and ensure that the law, as codified on paper, is implemented in practice, the reality of such countries are still often hellish for those who fall out of favour with the ruling powers, with torture and slavery abounding (Zimbabwe, after all, has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

The following is a longer, more specific, list of critical laws, features, and institutional norms of free and democratic societies:

- A Constitution guaranteeing the core rights fundamental to protecting people, as well as the democratic process itself, which also sets out clear protocols for passing new laws into force and clear electoral procedures which leave no room for ambiguity over who has won any given election – and who has lost
- A government assembly, or multiple assemblies, that consist of democratically elected representatives, which meet to pass the laws for the country using protocols clearly laid out in the constitution
- Rule of Law – where everyone, irrespective of status or background, is subject to the same laws
- A court system, where judges are either elected, directly appointed by elected representatives, or appointed by someone, or some committee who are themselves appointed by elected representatives, etc.,
- A police force whose chief constables are directly elected or are directly or indirectly appointed by elected officials
- The requirement for any significant mandatory detention to be the result of a guilty verdict in court
- The presumption of innocence until guilt is proven and announced by a judge or jury in court
- The availability of a legal representative who is knowledgeable in the law, and in the rights possessed by all citizens according to the law, to represent, advise and provide defence in court for those accused of serious crimes who may face severe penalties under the law
- The language of laws must not be so vague that anyone can be considered to have broken them – laws should not be worded so vaguely that everyone, no matter what they do, has arguably broken them, as this would enable the police to severely penalize whoever they want at their discretion
- No arbitrary seizure of property by government officials outside of tax codes established by law or fines that can either be challenged in court or follow a guilty verdict in court

- No interference by any arm of government, or public office, outside of a court ruling, with the ability of citizens to go about their lives with the same liberty as that enjoyed by their fellow citizens
- A free press
- A transparent and open political process for making decisions and passing new laws that significantly affect the public, which is available for both the press, and the general public, to scrutinize if they are so inclined
- Sufficient protection for freedom of speech to protect the ability of citizens, and politicians, to freely and openly discuss the problems faced by individuals and various segments of society in addition to institutional failure – or misconduct occurring within the institutions of government or other institutions, including private ones, irrespective of how wealthy, powerful or influential they may be
- Frequent elections with universal suffrage at a national level, and a sufficiently wide suffrage at a local level, to ensure that everyone who is affected by the decisions and rulings of a given elected official has a chance to vote for that official, or, alternatively, vote them out if they prefer.
- A fair and accurate system for tallying up the votes
- No coercion applied to the citizenry during an election to vote one way or another (this can be secured through a secret ballot)
- Freedom of the people to peacefully assemble in public places and demonstrate to voice their grievances against the government
- Freedom of peaceful association
- A commitment from the majority of voters to prioritize the integrity of the political decision-making process ahead of any specific political decisions and to vote out politicians that violate the constitutional process, or other processes prescribed by law, to arrive at political decisions...irrespective of whether or not said voter agrees with the outcomes of those decisions. Voters can certainly have preferences for particular outcomes, and sway the process towards attaining those outcomes, using whatever mechanisms they are legitimately entitled to use, but the integrity of the political process itself must always take priority and the public must always be ready to overwhelmingly vote out any politician that abuses or ignores the process, with indisputable and overwhelming numbers
- A commitment by a sufficient number of voters to remain well-informed about matters affected by politics to constitute a large enough segment – even if they remain a marginal minority – to sway the results of an election. If large numbers of the ill-informed population choose to abstain from voting, then a smaller number of well-informed voters will be sufficient to ensure the system continues to function properly. Politicians like high voter turnout in elections for the sake of vanity, but generally it is better when those who wish to vote make an effort to become at least slightly knowledgeable on the matter over which they are voting. There is no great advantage to pressurizing someone to vote on a matter they have no opinion on.
- A commitment, by the majority of voters, to protect human rights and basic freedoms and to overwhelmingly vote out any politician that implements any politically-motivated penalties to citizens – irrespective of whether they find political convictions of those that are unlawfully penalized, utterly repugnant.
- A commitment to respect the basic human rights of professional politicians to peacefully go about their lives, so long as those same politician abide by the democratic process and respect the human rights of the public, and neither to attack their person, nor accost their private

residence, or harass their families...irrespective of whether they find the political position which they are promoting utterly repugnant.

As you can see from this list, it is no simple matter to create a well-functioning democratic nation with a population that numbers in the millions, with adequate safeguards in place to protect the rights of all of its inhabitants, including minorities, while providing everyone with the opportunity to participate in the governance of the nation, but where the nation won't fall apart if most people are disinterested in most governmental proceedings (which they inevitably are). However, one of the most difficult challenges, faced by modern democracies, is to ensure that the interaction between the population and highly experienced experts is balanced so as to enable the experts to enact the will of the people, and prevent the people, as a result of their lack of experience and knowledge, from initiating a chain of events whose results they may sorely regret, without creating a situation where those same experts essentially run the whole show, completely ignore the people's will, and coordinate society only to the benefit of the coordinating technicians themselves, to the cost of everyone else, in a totally unaccountable manner.

...Indeed the complexity of institutions required to achieve this feat is probably why it took 5,000 years, since the date of the earliest civilization, for modern democracies to develop – and also why the more ancient systems, that were developed from time to time to limit the concentration of power in the hands of a few, for the most part, eventually failed and collapsed into simpler more despotic political arrangements: at least for civilizations whose population size exceeded the Dunbar number...

“The price of freedom is eternal vigilance” – Thomas Jefferson

To make sense of this snowstorm of bullet points, we can functionally analyse the various features of modern democracies in the following way. To meaningfully function as they are supposed to, modern large democracies must:

1. Contain laws that protect the rights of the people to criticise their rulers, and institutions that are supposed to enforce the law in an equitable, fair and unbiased manner. Usually at least three separate institutions are required to apprehend potential lawbreakers in the most civil manner that is feasible, accurately determine if the apprehended individual broke the law and apply the prescribed punishment to that individual. Critically, the law must be enforced evenly, irrespective of the political loyalties of the person in question.
2. Contain procedures deliberately designed to *slow down* the process of institutional change (reform, adaptation, etc.,) to ensure that the voting public has time to become aware, mobilise and intervene in the event that direction of change should threaten their rights, unacceptably harm a section of the voting public, or undermine the democratic system itself, and the accountability of those running the system, to the general public
3. Ensure that decision-making processes and procedures are sufficiently transparent such that completely unaffiliated members of the public (in practice mainly obsessive policy-nerds, such as activist groups and journalists) can inspect all political proceedings, with enough time prior to their final implementation, to warn the public and mobilize a general public response in the event that the outcome of their successful implementation should threaten the public's rights, freedoms or interests
4. Support a healthy ecosystem of politically unaffiliated translators, (political activist groups, journalists, etc.,) that are deeply familiar with how the political process should work and have a

talent for identifying institutional failures and alerting the public of them as well as clearly explaining the various current political issues to them

5. An educated public for which a critical number, sufficient to swing an election, has a healthy concern for preserving a just society where the rights of citizen are protected as well as the right to freely conduct democratic debate and discussion and is willing to read from a range of news sources and critically compare and consider them and participate in political discussions with their peers.
6. A range of voting procedures that enables to general public to put in place representative champions with the required skill, integrity and understanding to protect their rights and reform institutions that are failing...or are out of control
7. Protection of the right to peacefully assemble. It is critical to enable a highly aggrieved minority to have the option to voice their grave objections to any particular laws or failures of the government to address their basic needs in a manner that can be heard by both the general public and their political representatives.

No self-contained institution, or group of institutions, can be designed to permanently stop itself from developing into an enclosed oligarchical elite, utterly unaccountable to the wider public, whose sole priority is to benefit its own members. The function of the many different institutions of governance is to slow down this inevitable process in order to give the wider population enough time to detect it, intervene, and correct it. This correction usually involves the public electing some suitable champion reformer to reform various incestuous self-serving institutions and ensure they get back on track, and, instead of serving their own members, get back to serving the public through properly performing the roles for which they were originally designed. The other problem that can develop within any one public or private institution, whose purpose is to promote a particular good, is that it may become excessively powerful and begin to mono-maniacally promote the specific narrow good that it was designed to promote in a manner that is blind to all the trade-offs and costs that could dramatically damaged other, highly important, public goods that exist outside of its purview. In which case, the voting public must elect a champion reformer to cut that institution back down to size.

A public response, across the general population (including the ability of the public to sensibly evaluate the qualifications, capability and integrity of suitable potential reformers), takes time to mobilise. So it's critically important that the process for institutional evolution and adaptation is sufficiently long to give the public sufficient time to mobilize and intervene, in the event that the proposed evolution should undermine their rights, as opposed to enhance and protect them.

So the eternal vigilance of the public is required in a democracy to prevent the institutions, which govern democracies, from slowly merging into a single, self-serving, tyrannical oligarchy, manned by an utterly unaccountable technocratic elite that acts in a manner completely at odds with the interests of wider population and conducts itself with fearful ruthlessness. But this vigilance is easier said than done, as the experts inside the various institutions of governance have a high degree familiarity with crafting legislation and implementing policies, while the general population often have no idea what's going on. Even if policy discussions and alterations to the decision-making framework of the institutions of governance are conducted completely in the open, and on record, most people won't understand the technicalities discussed by policymakers and politicians, or the material ramifications of modifying the political decision-making process, and whether they will serve their interests, or undermine them – protect their rights, or compromise them.

Realistically, the wider population has no hope of defending itself against self-serving politicians, and other government officials, who are experts that are deeply familiar with the complicated processes that produce political decisions, without the aid of **the free press**.

The press alerts the population to many things they may find interesting such as celebrity gossip, sporting events, hot women, and horrific crimes. However, the critical function, which the free press must perform to protect the rights of the people, and maintain a well-function democratic system, is to scrutinize:

- Technical policymaking discussions
- Modifications to political institutions
- Procedural irregularities within the bureaucracy
- Procedural irregularities within law enforcement
- Corrupt activities by politicians and other public servants
- Human rights violations committed by the enforcement system (especially those condoned by the political system)
- Political, and other, biases in the enforcement systems

The press must identify developments in these critical areas that are sufficiently serious, and urgently need to be communicated to the voting public, and have a talent for explaining to the public, in plain English, the concerning development in question and why this development should concern them.

The press can then alert the public about what's going on, explain the changes to the decision-making process, or the passing of a new policy into law, as clearly as possible to members of the public who might be affected by it, as well as what the potential ramifications of this policy change (or modification) might be. A truly dedicated core cadre of policy-nerds is needed in the press, to constant scrutinize the technical political process, identify any procedural irregularities within the bureaucracy (most voters don't know what the regular procedure is and so are incapable of identifying subtle irregularities without the press), as well as crooked dealings of politicians, public workers, institutional failure, etc., and quickly alert the public of important developments they need to know about. Without these specialists in both politics, general fact-checking, and public communication, it would simply be impossible to prevent modern democracies from transforming into the most hierarchical and oppressive forms of oligarchy imaginable.

The problem of placing such a heavy reliance on the institution of the press is that the press itself can be co-opted into the middle or upper middle tiers of the oligarchy. Indeed any oligarchy that wishes to pursue its agenda unimpeded (irrespective of its affect on the citizenry) would have a very strong interest in co-opting the institution of the press, and ensuring that it doesn't deliver messages to the wider population that might rouse the rabble in a manner that could cause them to successfully interfere with the elite's machinations...and indeed there is clearly a very cosy relationship between the heads of many media organizations with both politicians and businessmen which indicates that much of the press has, indeed, already become co-opted into the broader oligarchy.

This is where the importance of a **free** press comes in. If a free press exists, then any inhabitant of a country is free to become a journalist, write and publish news content and start a newspaper, blog, youtube channel, or other any news service, irrespective of any particular institutional affiliation or

licensing system. If there is constant emergence of new outlets, and unaffiliated journalists, then it becomes impossible for the oligarchy to co-opt all journalists and producers of political content and – hence – there will always be a few policy-nerds out there who are willing, and able, to deliver to the public any political developments that it urgently needs to know.

The assortment of content producers and promoters that is, often disparagingly, referred to as “The Alternative Media”, is, in fact, the free press. A many-headed hydra of news and analysis too diverse to be squelched by any oligarchy, except through the most tyrannical means imaginable. However, the institution (or perhaps we should say the social convention) of the free press introduces its own challenges. Small start up news sites often have to justify their existence by claiming the “mainstream media” is a biased purveyor of deliberately deceptive propaganda. After all, why would anyone think that a handful of poorly-funded people in a start-up new site would be more capable of delivering the truth compared to thousands of professional journalists in a well-organised, well-funded, well-connected, well-established news channel or newspaper – unless the well established news provider was delivering deliberately deceptive and biased propaganda? While there may indeed be some instances where a co-opted mainstream media does indeed pump out deliberately biased propaganda, it is also worth keeping in mind that the alternative media is under constant existential pressure to emphasize this, and even exaggerate its extent somewhat. Furthermore, the many different alternative media outlets are under intense competition with both each other and the mainstream media for the public’s attention. This can pressurize some outlets to dial up the sensationalism to ridiculous extremes in order to get those views – even to the point of completely departing from reality and deceiving the public outright.

The reality of the free press is a messy one, where no single entity can ever be trusted to reliably purvey the truth. However, without a free press, there is simply no way to prevent a press heavily licensed and regulated by the various official governing institutions from ultimately morphing into nothing more than a propaganda outlet for the government and other people with influence and power.

There is no way to use force to suppress the spread of “misinformation”, without introducing the far greater danger of allowing the official institution tasked with censoring misinformation from turning into a ministry of propaganda with the power to issue edicts forcing the media to propagandize the public with biased information and even, misinformation.

If those tasked with censoring misinformation start spreading misinformation themselves – then who will censor the censors?

So the advantages of the free press far outweigh its disadvantages and the only way to address misinformation, without ultimately creating a centralized ministry of propaganda, is to invest heavily into teaching critical thinking – and recognising misinformation – to children while they are in school. Ultimately the best mix is a well-funded, well-resourced, well-established media that reliably informs the public of political issues, especially human rights issues, and issues that are critical to the integrity of the nation’s democracy, that are relevant to their voting decisions **combined** with a free press – a chaotic ecosystem of independent policy wonks and content creators (including wack-jobs) that is constantly ready to critique the larger media establishment for biased propagandizing and the deliberate omission of important facts or even deception. The role of the free press (or alternative press) is to serve as a gadfly on the back of the mainstream media constantly goading them to stay honest and to up the quality of their journalism.

The free press remains a critical social convention essential to protecting democracies.

However, the ultimate burden of protecting any democracy, along with the rights it guarantees for its citizens, rests with the voting public.

The institutional framework can slow down the process of corruption to the rule of law, the erosion of civil rights and the excessive consolidation of power.

The press can alert the public of corruption to the rule of law, the erosion of civil rights and the excessive consolidation of power.

But unless the public **stops** voting in candidates who contribute to the rot and **starts** actively voting for candidates that can reverse the rot, then the corruption will continue to run its course. All democracies will eventually fail unless a vigilant population is willing to expend constant effort to keep them alive.

However, when it comes to the public's effort to protect democracy, quality is often more important than quantity. And, indeed, intense efforts, by a fraction of the public, to realise their political will at the expense of everything else can, and sometimes do, destroy democracies. So, to preserve democratic rights and freedoms, it is critical that the public direct their efforts to protecting key elements of the democratic system and take care not to damage them in a mad dash to realise their political will.

It is important to maintain a sense of proportion when it comes to participating in the democratic process. **The most critically important function of voting is for the citizenry to protect their rights, both in the short term, by ensuring that politicians don't pass laws that enable the police and courts to blatantly violate them, and do an end-run around due process, and in the long run, by ensuring that the voting public does not allow itself to become so alienated from the political process that the public has no future ability to intervene at some later point when politicians may decide to pass laws which violate or compromise their fundamental rights.** Preventing a 5% tax-hike here, introducing or preventing the introduction of a welfare program there, securing a beneficial trade deal with country X, boosting GBP by 1%, all these issues are trivially unimportant *compared to the central importance of ensuring that the police, on the one hand, never knock on your door, or the doors of your children to drag them off to be tortured and then sent to a concentration camp...*

...and that the mob, on the other hand, never drags you out to be publicly mutilated and hung...

While the voting public may have many diverse views on the minutiae of how a country may be run. There needs to be a solid consensus among an overwhelming majority of voters:

1. To never elect a politician into office that would allow law enforcement to arbitrarily detain anyone without trial, or to physically assault law abiding citizens as they peacefully go about their lives
2. To never elect, and immediately vote out, any politician who violates people's right to peaceably assemble or any other rights either guaranteed in the constitution or which the country has otherwise committed to (such as by signing the universal declaration of human rights)

3. To never elect a politician to office who restricts the people's ability to consensually communicate between themselves in whatever way they see fit – or to restrict, or unduly regulate the free press... except, perhaps, in extreme cases where a particular press establishment deliberately deceives the public and causes great harm in the process
4. To never elect a politician to office who penalizes and imprisons his political adversaries
5. To immediately vote a politician out of office that violates the established procedures for passing laws into force as laid out in the nation's Constitution – or who passes laws that violate the constitution. In other words, to immediately vote a politician out of office that passes legislation illegally
6. To conduct themselves peacefully and civilly and respect the rights of every other citizen which inhabits the country – including their political adversaries
7. To only demonstrate their grievances in lawful demonstrations conducted in public spaces and not to personally attack, or otherwise violate the rights, or threaten the personal safety, of professional politicians. To respect the human rights of professional politicians as they would respect the human rights of any other member of the voting public, even if they abhor their political stance – so long as said politicians conduct themselves legally and are not working to undermine the democratic system or threaten the fundamental rights of the population
8. To legally pursue, and campaign for, various political causes which they may feel to be important, but to never become so obsessed with any secondary, comparatively trivial, political cause, to the point of being willing to damage the underlying institution of democracy or to violate the rights of other human beings for the sake of realising some political agenda or another

In other words, voting is firstly a mechanism for enabling the population to defend their core rights, and defend the integrity of the democratic process itself (which is critical in maintaining their future ability to defend their core rights) and, secondly a mechanism to enable them to peacefully express, and have a fair chance of realising, any political will which they may hold.

The reason why it is critically important to ensure there is no political bias in how the state punishes people is that, in a nation with millions of people, the personal benefit that any one person will reap for voting for his or her own interest, or a cause they believe in, will be miniscule. As such, even a relatively small personal cost for voting in a particular way could potentially be very effective in incentivizing people to vote one way or another. For this reason, it is critical that there be a severe taboo against incentivising people to vote one way or another – something that a secret ballot is helpful in achieving.

The same thing applies for political discussions, which don't yield any direct benefit to the people discussing the matter (when compared to discussing subjects like lucrative jobs, promising investments, personal health, special deals on merchandise, etc.) and, as such, punishing people for discussing certain topics can also strongly influence the information people are exposed to, which can in turn influence their voting decisions. In some ways, educating people that the function of voting is primarily to protect their rights and ensure the integrity of the democratic process, could be regarded as an important positive kind of influence. But while exposing the public to positive information about their responsibility as voters is important, it is equally important not to make any mutually consensual discussion involving the exchange of information and opinions taboo, as a critical function of voting is to correct institutional failure and to identify the improper use of influence by powerful members of society seeking to undermine the public interest...and since powerful members of society will always

tend to use their influence to shut down discussion of their flaws, crimes and sinister machinations, the only way to protect people's ability to discuss these important things – and thereby correct any institutional failure that may be occurring within a society – is with blanket laws that strongly protect free speech to the widest extent possible...even if such laws create their own, somewhat distasteful, lesser problems.

The protection afforded to peaceful assembly has a critical function in protecting the rights of minorities, thereby curbing the tyranny of the majority. The key aspect of peaceful assembly is that it involves a significant time cost. When people assemble to voice their grievances, they are not earning money, they are not spending time with their families, they are not doing a whole range of things they could otherwise be doing if they got back to their lives. It also often costs a good deal of time and money to travel to the site of the demonstration. So, in order for people to bother demonstrating on an issue, they need to feel **really strongly** about that issue. This is the core purpose of a demonstration, to demonstrate beyond any doubt, that a given issue is something you care deeply about. Anyone can use strong language, but taking time out of your life to demonstrate shows, beyond any doubt, that the issue in question is something you feel very strongly about.

It is critical to remember that neither the founders of USA, nor the writers of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ever intended to set up a governance system to optimally realise the will of the majority (after all, Hitler was legitimately elected into office). Rather, the function of the modern democratic framework is to be a system where everyone has a say, and everyone's rights are respected. The main purpose of elections, in addition to peaceful assembly, and of national constitutions is to protect this balance, to prevent society from descending into tyranny and prevent the horrors of World War 2 from ever repeating. So the purpose of freedom of assembly is not merely to facilitate the will of the majority, but also to facilitate the will of the minority.

The end result of assemblies and demonstrations should be a nuanced one. While the majority should not be allowed to trample on the sensibilities, and certainly not the rights, of minorities, minorities of fanatics should also not be allowed to set the agenda for the entire country – especially if this agenda is objectionable to the majority. But, hopefully, if all parties show some consideration for each others' needs and perspectives, then creative political solutions, which can satisfactorily accommodate everyone, can be found.

There is a significant and valid question as to what extent demonstrations should be allowed to strategically organise themselves to disrupt things like the transport network, for example, as opposed to just demonstrating one's grievances.

But at a minimum demonstrators should have the right:

1. To demonstrate in a prominent public place, or places, ideally close to legislative centres
2. For an indefinite amount of time (the time aspect being critical to demonstrate the depth of grievance), so long as they don't interfere with the running of the city, or its various networks, or prevent the inhabitants of that city from going about their daily lives – how loud demonstrators have a right to indefinitely be is also an open question

But should protesters ever go beyond mere peaceful demonstrations and begin to deliberately disrupt the running of the country and even resort to property damage and violence?

All violence can ultimately be used to serve the ends of tyranny as easily as it can be used to serve the ends of liberty, and a violent revolution will always have the potential to end with the armed revolutionaries brutally crushing all opposition and violating far more rights than they protect. For this reason, it is vital that people pursue all the legitimate avenues which they have at their disposal (of which there are many in well functioning democracies) to address their grievances, and protect their rights along with the integrity of the political system, before they resort to breaking the law, and going beyond mere peaceful demonstrations.

But what if the system has become too broken to be corrected through the use of legitimate channels? What if freedom of speech has been suppressed to the point where it is no longer possible to even make the population aware of the threat to their rights, let alone mobilize them? What if the elections have become rigged to the point where no amount of voting can bring a suitable reformer into office with the will to fix the nation's failing institutions?

Revolution is a dangerous game to play, as determining the facts of the matter with respect to complex political processes is difficult. Many of the Capitol Rioters, for example, genuinely believed they were defending democracy and that the election was rigged – and yet, if we take the view that the election was not rigged, then storming the capitol to overturn the result of a legitimate election is profoundly undemocratic, and undermines, rather than protects, this important institution. And yet, it is difficult to say that a population should under no circumstance resort to the extremes which the Capitol Rioters resorted to. During the Euromaiden Uprising in 2014, the (protestors? rioters?) engaged in activities that, if anything, were more extreme than what occurred in the 2021 Capitol riots, and, just as in the Capitols riots, government buildings were occupied during Euromaiden, and yet we consider this to be justified.

John McCain even travelled to Ukraine and gave a speech of encouragement to the EuroMaiden rioters right in the middle of the turmoil. I wonder how the Western press would have responded if Dmitri Medvedev travelled to Washington in the middle of the Capitol riots and gave a speech that voiced support for the rioters?

...So there must be some circumstances when the people are allowed to break the law on mass in defence of their rights...

...I suppose it ultimately comes down to a matter of individual conscience to decide when that threshold has been crossed, and the government has become too broken to legitimately reform and too tyrannical to tolerate...

Once we are aware of how modern freedom emerged and how modern democratic institutions *should* function to protect our rights and freedoms, we are ready to accurately assess the damage to our rights and institutions which has occurred over the past few years, as well as our chance of ultimately recovering from the damage... or not as the case may be.

THE SLIDE TOWARDS TYRANNY

When I was younger, back in the 1990s and early 2000s, we were taught about the universal declaration of human rights, the history of freedom and the American War of Independence, along with the declaration of independence and the bill of rights, and the various struggles for national independence, particularly in Ireland and India, as well as the horrors of totalitarianism in Nazi Germany, Communist Russia, China and communist Eastern Germany. I watched films about totalitarianism such as *1984* and *The Lives of Others* and felt grateful to be living in a democracy that respected the rights of its citizens and where people could vote, say what they wished, and criticise the government without any fear of losing their life or freedom. I felt deeply sorry for the misery and constant fear of being targeted by the state, which the inhabitants of authoritarian dictatorships lived under, unable to speak their mind, forced to say “thank you” to their oppressors under pain of death, all while constantly being spied on by a state which listened into even their most private conversations – and I hoped that some day, the inhabitants of such nations would free themselves from the yoke of their oppression, revolt against their evil leaders and establish free and open democratic societies where everyone’s rights were respected, where free public debate and intellectual discussions abounded, and where society could progress forward for the benefit of all.

It is sometimes important to remember how things were to serve as a benchmark for how things currently are. How we used to believe that freedom of speech was right. How we used to believe that infringing the privacy of another person was wrong. Today, if you talk about things like freedom of speech, or show concern for the state and private companies, especially finance companies, monitoring your every move, action, and transaction, some people will start to suspect you of being one of those “fringe libertarians”, yet just twenty years ago, none of these concerns would be considered particularly libertarian – *every* inhabitant, across the board, of any democratic society used to consider things like freedom of speech, and the right to privacy, to be simply a matter of common sense.

It is truly depressing that an entire generation of children have now grown up who have never known a society in which they were not simultaneously under constant intense surveillance by the state, large corporations, and even by their peers – and, consequently, many take totalitarian surveillance of all their personal details for granted as a fact of life which could never be otherwise.

When we think of evil, oppressive, totalitarian regimes, we think of regimes with the following characteristics:

- Oppressive regimes bug and monitor their subjects, and listen in on their private affairs and conversations, constantly seek to root out dissidents who call for political reforms that run counter to the state’s ideology, watching them like a hawk, always standing ready to arrest them – or make them disappear if need be
- Oppressive regimes cultivate a wide network of informants to report on anyone who breaks the law, voices disapproval against the regime, or any other anti-government sentiment, or fails to conform with the thoughts or the lifestyle which the totalitarian ideology enforces upon its people.

- Oppressive regimes control what people see in minute detail and ban all books disapproved of by the regime, or radio stations or internet websites that broadcast unapproved content. Oppressive regimes are careful to make sure that their subjects' minds are not "polluted" with "dangerous foreign ideas or thoughts"
- Oppressive regimes detain people without trial – sometimes in massive concentration camps
- Oppressive regimes heavily censor the speech of their subjects and ensure that no one voices any views or opinions that run counter to the state ideology or expresses anything other than love and admiration for the leader. The penalties for speech-crimes are never clear, as those who disapprove of the enforced totalitarian ideology will quickly adjust what they say so as not to overtly criticise the state – and, hence, avoid getting sent to the Gulag. So, dissidents develop a code for communicating wrong-thought to each other, subtly through insinuation, without saying anything too overtly pernicious. This leads to a cat-and-mouse game between the dissidents and the censors, with the censors constantly looking for "dog whistles" or subtle insinuations of wrong thought, which eventually leads to a situation where even the slightest whiff of dissent, the slightest lack of enthusiasm, or failure to constantly express undying loyalty and love for the leader (Heil Hitler as a form of greeting for example) and the ideology over, and over, and over, again very loudly can result in someone falling under the suspicion of the regime – which can lead them to disappear.
- There is no protection under law in oppressive regimes. If the state wants you to disappear – you disappear and get tortured, imprisoned or even killed
- Oppressive regimes have no such thing as secure property, the state may seize any possession, any time. Those in the favour of the state, who work hard, may gradually be allowed to accumulate a fortune over the decades. But should a wealthy individual ever fall out of favour from the ruling regime, or associate with the wrong person, the regime can seize every penny that wealthy individual may have accumulated over the course of his entire life, the very day after he falls out of favour
- Oppressive regimes punish, not only dissidents, but those who associate with dissidents – and even those who fail to condemn them. Failing to condemn, call out, or report all who fail to rigidly adhere to the regime's ideology can arouse as much suspicion as failing to adhere to the ideology itself.
- Oppressive regimes harness mob violence, from time to time, as a means of eliminating large swathes of their political adversaries (Mao's cultural revolution, Hitler's anti-semitic mobs), as a means of both distancing the leader from the crime, and as means of getting unsalaried thugs to do their dirty work on a scale that would otherwise be very costly for salaried state employees to carry out
- Because dissidents find creative ways to subtly insinuate thoughts that would get them arrested if expressed overtly, anything out of the ordinary is suspect. This means that any kind of unusual artistic expression, or expression of any kind of creativity whatsoever, that deviates, even slightly, from expressing intense admiration for the leader, any form of self-expression that does not overtly conform to the ideology is automatically viewed with a leary suspicion by the authorities even if the creator had no intention whatsoever of fomenting dissent
- Any kind of excessive success, fame or influence that anyone accomplishes in life, outside of the core party, apparatus will tend to arouse suspicion and hostility from the regime – especially if the famous individual in question does not embrace The Party's ideology
- Oppressive regimes not only imprison, kill and torture dissidents themselves, they also imprison kill and torture those who associate with dissidents and those who associate with those who

associate with dissidents even if such people are far more law-biding and loyal to the regime than their associates, the association alone might be enough to seal their fate

- Oppressive regimes tend to have closed borders and forbid their citizens from leaving except among the upper, politically connected classes for specific, permitted reasons and for a limited period of time
- Oppressive regimes have strict restrictions on moving capital out of the country
- Often things as simple as quitting your job, choosing where to live, or even choosing who to marry are denied to the subjects of a totalitarian regime. Their entire life is prescribed in detail by The Party. The subjects of an oppressive regime may have no opportunity to further themselves or advance in any way. Totalitarian regimes insist that *even the smallest personal details* of people's lives must conform to their political agenda – for a totalitarian, “the personal” does not exist
- Oppressive regimes are often determined to hide the misery, fear, demoralization and poverty from visitors and are careful to ensure that visitors only see the good parts of the country with smiley happy people praising the regime. For this reason, visitors to totalitarian regimes are usually accompanied by a state chaperon who serves as a guide, shows the tourists the grand buildings, the wealthy part of town and the sites that the regime wishes to show off while preventing tourist from seeing The Regime's dark underbelly, the misery, the poverty, the torture.

Once a people allow themselves to sink into the depths of oppression, enforced by a totalitarian elite, it is extremely hard to climb back up and become a freer society once more. This is because totalitarian regimes work intensely hard to make sure their subjects are:

1. Disarmed
2. Disorganised
3. Uninformed
4. Silenced
5. Demoralized

When it comes to organising collective resistance, information is the equivalent of sight and an uninformed, unarmed and silenced group of people resisting against a government's organised army is like a blindfolded, unarmed man trying to kill a fully-sighted soldier armed with a machine gun.

Once the people let the state collectively “put the cuffs on them” it is much harder to later take those cuffs off than to resist getting cuffed in the first place.

And this is exactly why *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* was written. It is there to serve as a benchmark of clear standards which the citizens of any nations can use to determine whether their nation has lost its legitimacy to govern over them and is sliding towards totalitarianism – so that they might resist the onset of tyranny... while they still can.

The Western nations, who were traditionally considered members of the free world, do not **yet** tick most of the boxes which characterize the very worst totalitarian regimes. However, governments, of even these supposedly democratic societies, have recently violated a long list of human rights laid out by the Universal Declaration. This is deeply troubling.

Let us begin with the No Fly List, initially created by George W Bush. Anyone can secretly be put on the No Fly List, in the complete absence of any court proceeding. Once on the No Fly List, no airline across the whole of the U.S.A. will allow you to fly. This violates **Article 27(1)** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees everyone the the right to freely share in the benefits of scientific advancement.

Secondly, let us observe the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult for U.S. citizens to renounce their nationality. Renouncing U.S. citizenship involves lengthy paperwork, interviews and money. Denying someone the right to change their nationality violates **Article 15(2)** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, while the U.S. does have a process for renouncing citizenship, one could not deny that a process that was infinitely lengthy, costly, and impossible to complete successfully would be equivalent to denying someone their right to change their nationality, so at some threshold of difficulty one can say that, even if renouncing citizenship is theoretically possible, a nation that forces you to go through an unreasonably lengthy and torturous process to accomplish this is still in violation of **Article 15(2)** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

For a long time now, in many countries that have a large homeless population, it is possible to purchase a modest plot of affordable land in the countryside, but if you try to build a house, a representative of the local planning authority might pay a visit to you, inform you you are breaking the law and order you to stop. This violates **Article 25(1)** which guarantees people The Right to Housing. Somebody has to build a house and thus, the right to housing cannot include the right to have someone else build you a house without violating Article 4 of the declaration of Human Rights which bans slavery. But, at the very least, Article 25(1) must at least guarantee the right of citizens to build a adequate housing for themselves without the interference of government officials (such as a planning authority, for instance). As a result of unnecessary, extensive overly complex planning laws, which violate **Article 25(1)** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Britain and in many other developed countries, some people are homeless and many others are stuck renting in inadequate conditions – their lives stuck in a perpetual limbo, unable to start a family (Which article 16(3) guarantees is entitled to the protection of the state)

And much as the The No Fly List has exponentially expanded from hundreds of people, at its inception, to tens of thousands today. So too has the number of children who are forcibly taken from their parents by government social workers. Obviously, in cases of serious abuse, this is justified. But at what point is the state gratuitously breaking up the family for ideological reasons? At what point does alienating children from their parents do more harm than good? At what point do social workers cross that threshold and violate **Article 16(3)** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the right of families to the protection of the State? How about the point at which the government takes children from parents who won't go along with gender transitions? Because this is something the U.K. government has started doing.

Then there was the PATRIOT Act, and the revelations of Edward Snowden along with an increasing public awareness that in addition to the government, private companies were harvesting, storing and selling vast, VAST swathes of private information. Including phone camera data that can be used to see inside someone's personal family affairs at home. All this blatantly violates **Article 12** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence. Not only are governments routinely violating

Article 12 by failing to protect our right to privacy from companies that routinely violate it, but many state intelligence agencies are complicit and are directly involved with the arbitrary, indiscriminate mass harvesting of records of correspondence between their citizens, and even pass laws forcing companies to share people's private data with them.

Then came COVID.

We had lockdowns of varying strictness that drastically limited people's ability to leave their house, in most countries this was arguably a form of involuntary mass detention (which violates **Article 9** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and in countries with strict lock downs, like in Melbourne, this was indisputably a form of involuntary mass detention, as well as **Article 13(1)** which guarantees peoples the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Lockdowns also violate of the **Article 27(1)** of the Declaration which guarantees people the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community and also **Article 20(1)** that guarantees people the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association – the number of peaceful assemblies that were broken up by the police during the COVID period is now too numerous to count. Indeed, lockdowns even violated **Article 18** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance – and yet, during the lockdown period, many religious ceremonies were forcibly shut down by law enforcement. While mandatory business closures violate **Article 23(1)** of the Universal Declaration which guarantees that everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and protection against unemployment. Many nations closed their borders and forbid their citizens to leave, this violates **Article 13(2)** which guarantees that everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. Even after indiscriminate border closures were lifted, the right to travel, often both within a country and outside of countries depended on vaccination status.

Once upon a time if you were thinking about moving to an unfamiliar country but were a little unsure about whether the government of that country respected the freedom of its citizens, you might ask a local inhabitant:

“What human rights has your government violated?”

Today, a more suitable question might be:

“What human rights hasn't your government violated?”

I mean.... are there any rights left *at all* that *any* government still respects?

Keep in mind that the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* was intended to serve as a benchmark for political legitimacy, that was crafted after World War 2 to serve as a standard to help the citizens of a country determine whether their government was entitled to rule over them, whether they were morally obliged to obey a country's laws or whether their government was an illegitimate tyranny, in which case the citizens would have no moral obligation to obey any laws their government passed and, perhaps even, a moral obligation to resist.

Still think your government has a legitimate right to rule over you?

Of course, arguably there was a health emergency occurring at the time. COVID killed somewhere between 6 million and 15 million people, and injured far more with long COVID. So, perhaps, in the name of protecting human life, the temporary suspension of a long list of rights may have been justified.

The only problem with this position is that, at least with the benefit of hindsight, with the exception of Australia and New Zealand, a comparison of COVID deaths between most countries that implemented lockdowns, and those that didn't, indicate that, in fact, lockdowns had a negligible effect on reducing deaths (*A Literature Review and Meta-Analysis of the Effects of Lockdowns on COVID-19 Mortality*, Jonas Herbys, Lars Jonung, Steve H. Hanke).

But even if we take the charitable view that, at the time, the governments of the world had no way of knowing that wiping their arse with the entire *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, and flushing it down the toilet, would hardly end up saving any lives at all, it is still necessary to survey, and take stock of, the devastation that the government response to the COVID pandemic and to 9/11 have inflicted upon our Human Rights with a near exhaustive list of damaging precedents and violations and **ensure we NEVER get used to these serious violations and allow them to become normalized.**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a useful benchmark to help a citizenry avoid the boiling frog effect and recognise the slow (or not so slow) encroachment of tyranny. But it's worth paying especially intense attention to attempts by the government to "put the cuffs on" their citizenry and make it almost impossible for them to rebel or resist in the future. This is mostly accomplished by rigorously controlling the information (or misinformation a.k.a. state propaganda) that each citizen is exposed to.

Every nation, no matter how free, imposes severe punishments on extremely severe crimes, **so if a nation can make an innocent person appear guilty of a serious crime in the eyes of others then it can justify oppressing any one, to any degree, at any time.** Desperate times call for desperate measures, and if the government can control people's perception of reality, through the use of all-encompassing state propaganda, then it can persuade people that "the situation calls for" anything they want to do and impose the most demeaning oppressive laws imaginable on their citizens and convince their citizens to willingly acquiesce to their own oppression and enslavement because "the situation called for it."

This is why any attempt by the government to control the information space, and the sense-making process of their citizenry, through restricting their freedom of speech and their freedom to broadcast and listen to any content they see fit IS A GIANT RED FLAG that the onset of the most severe tyranny imaginable is fast approaching.

Censorship and state propaganda is how governments puts the blindfold over their people's eyes to hide their future crimes.

It's worth taking serious stock of what transpired with the COVID vaccines – the dangerous precedents set by this issue cannot be ignored. The introduction of COVID vaccines simultaneously involved:

1. A departure from the normal approval procedures and standards usually followed by health regulators to verify the safety and efficacy of vaccines. COVID vaccines relied on a rushed EUA (Emergency Use Authorization) for approval with a much lower burden of proof for safety and efficacy compared to normal approval procedures required for the acceptance of drugs and medications
2. The systematic silencing of all public debate on the safety and efficacy of COVID vaccines. This includes the silencing and character assassination of highly experienced and highly qualified physicians and researchers who expressed evidence-based concerns about the risk of vaccination as well as the possibility that other treatment options for COVID could offer a safer path towards minimizing the harm from COVID-19. Health professionals who questioned whether mass vaccination would minimize harm to the health of the general public risked their careers by doing so.
3. A series of laws mandating vaccination requirements as a condition for work, participation in all manner of public life, as well as for travel. With Austria even going as far as to introduce mandatory blanket fines on any citizen that chose not to get vaccinated

If we take the most charitable view possible, and give the governments the most credit we can possibly give them due to this unprecedented public health emergency – it might be possible to justify two out of the above three actions. If the vaccine went through the thorough standard screening process for drugs and therapeutics *maybe* it would be possible to justify dismissing concerns by a few doctors as unjustified and over-cautious, given the threat from the disease, and to pressurize the public to take a vaccine that was thoroughly vetted by existing, proven regulatory procedures (although, even then it would only be appropriate to apply such curbs on freedom to the high risk group). Similarly, *if* after a rushed process and extensive, open debate among everyone with relevant expertise, a broad expert consensus emerged that in spite of a rushed emergency use authorization, which bypasses many of the usual rigorous checks, the vaccine was, nevertheless, (as concluded by anyone with expertise in the issue) safe and effective, then it *might* also be reasonable to pressurize the uneducated public to get vaccinated (or at least those in the high risk group) even against their better judgement.

Even in the absence of the normal rigorous screening procedure, and even in the absence of a broad expert consensus on the safety of the vaccine, given the immediate public health threat COVID poses, and the difficulty of using preventative social distancing measures to avoid an airborne pathogen in the long term, it might still have been reasonable to say: “There’s some promising evidence that this vaccine may reduce your chance of catching COVID, or getting hospitalized by COVID, and although some medical experts still have questions over the risks of the vaccine and the length of the protection, if you’re concerned about catching COVID, you’re welcome to get vaccinated, if you wish.”

But **no one** who takes human rights seriously, and thinks about the matter carefully, could possibly justify pressurizing members of the public to take a vaccine, contrary to their own personal judgement, that has went through an unprecedentedly rushed approval process while simultaneously suppressing open public debate around its safety and efficacy among health experts in the relevant fields.

Before the age of the internet, the old broadcasting companies had limited air time and so it was fundamentally impossible to give public airtime to everyone who wanted it. Not giving some people air time was an unavoidable forced move and it was reasonable to give broadcasting companies discretionary choice over who to air and who not to air on their television and radio stations. Even in this age of the internet, there is a similar zero-sum game when it comes to deciding which content to

rank highly and promote and similarly reasonable grounds to give the owners of platforms discretionary choice over who to promote and who not to promote, with the exception of ultra-specific search results. But cancelling an account, or taking down a piece of content can no longer be viewed as something that an internet platform has to do to make way for higher priority content. There is no other way to look at the decision of an internet platform to take down a piece of content, or to cancel someone's account, other than a deliberate, unnecessary and conscious attempt to suppress that content or to deliberately inhibit that person from communicating to others. Thanks to scientific advancement, it is now possible for everyone to affordably broadcast their opinions and content. Therefore moves to deliberately prevent some people from doing so violates **Article 27(1)** of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

Accurately distinguishing truths from falsehoods requires perfect knowledge – which no one has. The only way we have ever historically succeeded in determining the truth of any matter has been through lengthy and careful evidence-based experimentation, measurement, analysis and deliberation between experts who compare various different, clearly formulated, credible hypotheses with all the available evidence they have collectively gleaned. Experts can be considered experts either by virtue of their qualifications or by virtue of having devoted an enormous amount of time and effort into having carefully studied and considered a given matter intensely and in detail. Topics of novel research can take years, sometimes even decades, to settle to a satisfactory degree of accuracy and occasionally even get re-opened decades after a matter is considered to be closed.

In a perfect world, every competing hypothesis should be carefully considered and thoroughly disproved before dismissing. In the real world however, given the considerable length of time and top-tier expertise required to thoroughly disprove a matter, there is a pragmatic requirement to rapidly dismiss and quickly “bat away” the tsunami of bullshit coming from all corners by people with no track record of successfully conducting research on the matter in question and often riddled with ideological bias, flawed reasoning and lack of evidence. For this reason, a publisher, who sees a non-expert publishing and disseminating statements presented as facts or knowledge which run counter to the views of every serious expert in the field, might safely conclude that said non-expert is spreading falsehoods, and, in the event that such falsehoods may encourage people to engage in harmful behaviour, may conclude there is a reasonable case for denying the public access to said content.

But there is simply no way for a non-expert (such as a publisher or moderator) to dismiss the opinions of a qualified expert, speaking on any field of research that they are qualified to discuss, as falsehoods.

Even the most qualified experts can, and frequently are, wrong. And anyone is entitled to disagree with anyone else, regardless of their expertise. But there is a difference between disagreeing with something as a matter of opinion and dismissing something as a matter of fact. Dismissing and suppressing the informed opinions or views of a suitably qualified expert of tolerable repute is never justified – not even by other experts (and, in all honesty, experts can be as unreasonable and dogmatic as anyone else). There may be some extreme cases where a suitably qualified expert might justifiably be dismissed as rogue perhaps if said expert, in spite their qualification from an educational institution, has a criminal record of fraud or perhaps can be shown to be in the pay of a hostile foreign intelligence agency, but other than these extreme cases there should be no further circumstances where the carefully considered views of qualified experts can legitimately be dismissed as “misinformation.” Such views could always be wrong, of course, but, since determining whether something is wrong or not (or partially right and

partially wrong) is a complex matter, they still merit publication, at least in the parts of the internet where unedited content can normally be published and shared.

Furthermore, we can also confidently assert that a head count of expert opinion is also an ineffective way to ascertain the truth, as the history of science and academia is **rife** with cases where a few experts believed that one hypothesis was correct and the overwhelming majority of experts disagreed and it turned out that the overwhelming majority of experts were the ones who were wrong: The Heliocentric model of the Solar system, natural selection, and relativity being three examples. Even the idea that mankind could ever achieve heavier than air flight was once ridiculed by a large number of experts. For this reason, it is essential that all the views and analyses of evidence, conducted by experts in the relevant field, be added to the public record – irrespective of what the majority of experts think.

Human beings have been disagreeing with each other since the dawn of time, and frequently one group of people are sure that another group is absolutely wrong with the other group equally convinced that the first group is absolutely wrong. With that in mind if, when people say, “we have to eliminate misinformation from the internet” they mean by “misinformation” “every statement I’m sure is wrong” then this concept of “misinformation” is guaranteed to do more harm than good and will only invite accusations followed by counter accusation. The only sensible definition of “misinformation” is something that can safely be dismissed, where there is no possibility that it could possibly be true, or even a grey area between truth and falsehood. Thus, at the very least, “misinformation” can either be one of two things:

1. A deliberate attempt to intentionally deceive
2. Statements presented as truth that require high level of expertise to ascertain made by people with no relevant expertise at all on which practically all suitably qualified experts disagree

Modern social media platforms sit in a grey area between communication networks, like telephones, and publishing and broadcasting services. However, given that uploading and sharing content on social media can be done at practically zero marginal cost (in fact it costs far more for social media companies to remove specific content than to leave it up) I think it’s fair to say that, in the absence of clear proof that a given item of content, shared on social media, is false and liable to cause harm, that the right to share content on social media platforms is protected by article 19 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights which asserts that *Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this freedom includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through **any media** and regardless of frontiers.* And, given that high ranking government representative, Jen Psaki has freely admitted in a press conference that the U.S. government has a list of 12 individuals responsible for spreading vaccine misinformation which it has passed to social media companies with the “advice” that they censor them, it is clear that social media companies sometimes function as an arm of state censorship, so even if the “private communication companies can censor whoever they want at their discretion without violating article 19” argument holds (**which it doesn’t**) social media censorship is clearly sometimes conducted in league with the state.

Legitimate sovereign nations are responsible for protecting law-biding citizens from physical assault by other citizens in addition to not instructing the police to directly harm their citizens (other than to the minimum extent necessary to enforce the law). So, although private companies have not signed the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, legitimate sovereign governments have a responsibility to

reasonably protect the rights of their citizens' to *seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers* from being impinged by private companies, as surely as they are also responsible for not impinging that right themselves by writing unjust laws which suppress free speech.

If twitter employees armed themselves with machine guns and went around the place intimidating and injuring republican voters, could the democrats reasonably say: "They're a private company, and because of this, they can do what they want!"

???????

If the entire enterprise of Walmart decided not to sell food to anyone who admitted to having voted Republican, or having campaigned on behalf of a Republican politician, could the democrats reasonably say: "They're a private company, and because of this, they can do what they want!"

???????

If not, then in what world is it acceptable for the state to allow private companies to injure people's ability and right to communicate with one another?

Robert W Malone MD was among the first people to work on mRNA technology and his name can be found on multiple patents relating to this technology. He has been directly involved in vaccine research and has also been involved in the development of approximately forty phase 1 clinical trials, twenty phase 2 clinical trials and five phase 3 clinical trials. He has personally caught COVID, got vaccinated against COVID, and suffered significant side effects as a result of getting vaccinated. All this essentially means that his expertise pertaining to the field of mRNA COVID vaccine safety and efficacy is about as relevant to the subject matter as anyone else alive on the planet and that **no one** has the legitimate authority to dismiss his views and suppress or wipe them from the public record. Experts can always be wrong, and Robert Malone might be as wrong as any other expert on matters relating to COVID vaccines, but his expertise is sufficiently significant, and his career's work sufficient serious, that there **is no excuse whatsoever to suppress his views on COVID vaccines from the public record.**

On the 29th December 2021, twitter permanently suspended Robert Malone from its platform. Just a week later, on the 5th January 2022, LinkedIn, a supposedly unrelated platform, followed suit and cancelled Robert Malone's account.

This clearly violates **Article 19** of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which asserts that ***Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers*** (note that nothing in article 19 makes any mention of an exception for censorship of material by private companies). And preventing political authorities from censoring the spread of information and ideas by academics, that run counter to their ideology and political agenda, is **EXACTLY** what the writers of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* were trying to guard against.

Suppressing and censoring experts, who express opinions in fields relevant to important public policy decisions, especially ones that pertain to important public health outcomes and issues used to justify violating human rights, combined with the non-stop airing of experts who express contrary opinions, constitutes unacceptable interference with the scientific process itself. And undermines the freedom of the press and the formation of an unbiased, informed citizenry with rounded education on important political issues, something that is vital for democracies to meaningfully function.

On the 8th December 2020 Ron Johnson, a senator who was democratically elected by the people of Wisconsin to represent them in the U.S. Senate, invited a number of Doctors with experience in successfully treating COVID patients to give testimony on treatments that they used and found to be successful in the hope that official treatment guidelines for COVID could be improved and lives correspondingly saved. One such doctor that was called before the U.S. Senate to give testimony was Dr. Pierre Kory, an experienced Physician with both an M.D. and M.P.A. qualification, 12 years of experience treating patients, recipient of 29 awards, first author of 9 medical papers and co-author of 50 medical papers. On 2nd February 2021 YouTube censored Testimony from that official hearing in the U.S. Senate that occurred on 8th December. In doing so, YouTube blatantly and inexcusably violated **Article 19** of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* for a **duly elected U.S. Senator**.

Every platform, that can feature content at zero cost has a **duty** to leave up all official government proceedings that occur within democratic societies. As voters have a **right** to be informed of all official proceedings that occur within their country. **When a platform deliberately removes content relating to the official public proceedings that occur within a democratic nation, that platform is intentionally working to undermine the democratic system of that nation – THIS IS A RED LINE!!!!**

At the very least, duly elected government representatives, and those standing for election, should be immune from internet platforms' terms of service and should be entitled to use ANY platform to share ANY information that laws of the land permit them to share with the platform's audience.

There have been 88 published, peer reviewed studies on Ivermectin. Most of them conclude that Ivermectin is a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19. While there are some null results, practically no papers conclude that the doses of Ivermectin given to trial participants harms people. And yet content creators are afraid to even *mention* Ivermectin for fear of getting censored. This is a MASSIVE violation of **Article 19** *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. It takes a long time to settle any science, and the mixture of null results for Ivermectin and one or two completely fraudulent papers does create some doubt over its efficacy, but with 88 peer reviewed papers that mostly say its efficacious, there is no room for classifying content presenting Ivermectin as a safe and promising treatment for COVID as "misinformation."

Remdesivir, on the other hand, failed two clinical trials and a Lancet Study of Remdesivir (*Remdesivir in adults with severe COVID-19: A randomized, double-blind placebo-controlled, multicentre trial, Wang Y. et al. 2020, The Lancet*) showed no statistically significant improvement in the condition of COVID patients given Remdesivir. Government researchers on a subsequent third clinical trial for Remdesivir changed the metric in the middle of clinical trial. This is a big no-no, as it leads to the possibility of cherry picking endpoints to ones that show efficacy which vastly reduces the statistical significance of any result. In the middle of Remdesivir's trial, Fauci redefined the endpoint as "time to

recovery” and then redefined “recovery” to include patients that remained hospitalized and still required oxygen at home, and then, after showing the time to “recovery” in the Remdesivir group vs the control group was 4 days shorter (11 vs 15), immediately terminated the trial prematurely by breaking the double blind and declared Remdesivir an approved effective drug for treating COVID.

And yet, despite this meagre evidence for the efficacy of Remdesivir, Youtube videos that state Remdesivir is an effective treatment stay up, while YouTube videos that even *suggest* that Ivermectin (a drug with 88 published peer reviewed studies that mostly support its efficacy) might be a promising treatment for COVID-19, are frequently taken down and demonetized.

In January, DrBeen released a YouTube video entitled *Doctors Under Pressure For Ivermectin Prescriptions (More Letters)* where he showcases two letters sent by medical insurance providers to Doctors who serve patients on their plans. In one letter, an insurance provider threatens to report doctors to their Fraud and Abuse department and to the National Practitioner Data bank in the event that they continue to prescribe Ivermectin to their patients. These kinds of threats sent by letter to Doctors, and other healthcare practitioners all over the country, is clear evidence that any consensus among the majority of health experts that Ivermectin is not an effective treatment for COVID, has not necessarily been arrived at merely through objective consideration and discussion between experts on the evidence for and against Ivermectin, but rather may well have been strongly influenced by the fact that any Doctor who endorses Ivermectin risks their *entire career*.

Every patient is different. Some patients are allergic to specific treatments, and when this proves to be the case, a doctor must sometimes use their extensive professional experience to explore numerous possible, sometime unconventional off-label, medications in the search to resolve their underlying health issues. Blind health edicts issued by central authorities to a mass population risk harming specific individuals in ways that can be avoided through a more personalized approach by a skilled and experienced practitioner. Although most countries at least nominally had processes that allowed people who reasonably believed that getting vaccinated could threaten their life to get a medical exemption, the interview between Bret Weinstein and Betty Pezzimenti (which can be found on Odysee) offers clear insight into what this process looks like in reality (Hint: It’s not pretty).

As further evidence of a lack of medical consensus among experts on Vaccine safety, the *COVID Vaccine for nurses survey* published by ANA Enterprises, surveyed 4912 nurses between 8th - 29th July 2021. 11% of nurses who responded were unvaccinated 7% did not plan to get vaccinated while 4% were undecided. And, keep in mind, people in the healthcare profession were under *intense pressure* to get vaccinated. The MSNBC article *Unvaccinated Police And Nurses Getting Fired Isn’t A Trajedy* gives some insight into the intense coercive pressure and steadily escalating threats of unemployment that unvaccinated public health workers have been exposed to.

The “informed opinion” of experts speaking with a gun pointed to their heads is less convincing than the informed opinion of experts that are free to arrive at any conclusion they wish to, without fear of grave personal consequences.

Even worse than censoring experts was the censoring of people who suffered, sometimes terrible, vaccine injuries. In early 2021, Facebook deleted a private group which composed of 120,000 members entitled *COVID-19 Vaccine Victims And Families*. This was a group of people, many of whom were left permanently crippled by the COVID vaccine, along with their relatives, who connected together on

Facebook to share stories and coping strategies for their injuries. The act of deleting this group clearly violates **Article 19** of the universal declaration. If there is any kind of speech whose freedom needs to be held **absolute and sacrosanct** it is surely the freedom of people who've been harmed to speak out and tell others that they've been harmed.

This is the single most important principle that serves to check the onset of tyranny!

It is now clear that COVID vaccines have permanently crippled a number of people who have taken them, sometimes horrifically to the point where every day is like torture for them. Interviews with those that have suffered vaccine injury can be found on the Dr John Campbell YouTube Channel ("Kyle", "Adam", "Neuro disease after vaccine with Nikk"), the Drbeen Medical Lectures Channel ("First Ever NIH/NIND Study on Vaccine Caused Neurological Injuries (Preprint)", "Neurological Issues After Vaccination") the Fox6 New Milwaukee YouTube Channel ("Sen. Ron Johnson with families on adverse reactions to COVID vaccine")

For a more quantitative indication of vaccine injury and death there was a People Fish Survey Insights Report : Rathert (PF21-0208) which was fielded to 1000 people in September 2021. Here's the link:

http://surveys.people.fish/r/468283_613142fc90c9d1.02343325

To the question : "How many people do you know personally that have died of COVID?" the respondents answered:

0: 61.9% 1: 18.4% 2: 8.6% 3 or more: 11.1%

To the question : "How many people do you know personally that have died of a COVID vaccine?" the respondents answered:

0: 88.4% 1: 5.1% 2: 2.6% 3 or more: 3.9%

Although a survey is a far cry from the gold standard of a statistical assessment of medical outcomes, there has really been a notable lack of any thorough attempt to quantify the mortality risk of COVID vaccines. With that in mind, flawed though it is, this statistical survey might be the best guess we have on quantifying the relative risk of COVID vaccination compare to catching COVID and indicates, at a population-wide level, that you are a third as likely to be killed by the vaccine as you are of getting killed by COVID itself. From a purely utilitarian point of view, taken in isolation, these figures indicate population-wide COVID vaccinations may reduce population wide deaths compared to zero treatment, depending on the efficacy of vaccine protection, (although with such unimpressive safety, it is definitely worth breaking down vaccine deaths and COVID deaths by age) – but this survey **strongly suggests** that telling people "COVID vaccines are safe" **is a lie**.

To the question "What was the severity of your COVID vaccine side effects?" The responses were:

None: 42.5% Mild: 43.7% Moderate: 11.5% Severe: 2.4%

To the question "Do you know anyone who suffered a serious adverse reaction to a COVID vaccine?"

Yes: 20.1% No: 79.9%

If we assume that people have an average of 100 contacts they know, that would imply about 1 person in 500 was left permanently crippled by the COVID vaccine.

It would probably be a gross overestimate to assume 1 in 50 was permanently crippled by the COVID vaccine as people would likely self-report a temporary, severe and frightening reaction that resolved itself as serious. However, their wider network would probably never hear about it, so that one person you are only loosely acquainted with at the office who had a severe reaction to the vaccine would probably need to be permanently crippled by it for it to register on your radar.

One might argue that although the number of people who were left permanently crippled by the COVID vaccine is very concerning, 5-10% of people that catch COVID go on to develop long COVID which adds up to a far larger number when compared to those permanently injured by COVID vaccines. Some might therefore try to make the utilitarian argument that, in spite of a small fraction of horrific vaccine injuries, that vaccine mandates are still justified as long COVID cases dwarf vaccine injuries.

Reports like the U.K.'s *COVID-19 vaccine weekly surveillance reports* have consistently shown that, while COVID vaccines don't reduce transmission, they are effective at preventing hospitalization and death from COVID (Conferring roughly a 3-10 fold risk reduction in hospitalization and death, when doubly vaccinated individuals are compared with unvaccinated individuals, depending on the age group). However, the protection that COVID vaccines offer against long COVID for breakthrough cases is weaker. The team analysing data from the COVID Symptoms Study App developed by ZOE and King's College London, Published a study (*Risk factors and disease profile of post-vaccination SARS-CoV-2 infection in U.K. users of the COVID Symptoms Study App: a prospective, community-based, nested case control study*) found that 1 dose of vaccine had no effect on the fraction of breakthrough Delta Variant COVID cases which developed long COVID, while 2 vaccine doses reduced the chance of Delta breakthrough cases developing long COVID by 50%. 50% protection for breakthrough cases from the vaccine is the most protection against long COVID that any study has shown. A subsequent study conducted by the same King's College group (*Risk of long COVID associated with delta versus omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2, Michela Antonelli, Joan Capdevila Pujol, Tim D Spector, Sebastien Ourselin, Claire J Steves, The Lancet Vol 399 June 18, 2022*) has indicated that recent boosters do not reduce someone's chance of developing long COVID from omicron (unlike Delta where the recency of the COVID booster is related to up to a 50% reduction in the probability of catching long COVID). This study did not include enough unvaccinated individuals to assess their chances of developing long COVID from Omicron.

The CDC paper *COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status and Previous COVID-19 Diagnosis – California and New York, May-November 2021* contains data on the fractional incidence of hospitalizations for:

1. No previous infection, unvaccinated
2. No previous infection, vaccinated
3. Previous Infection, unvaccinated
4. Previous infection, vaccinated

For a cohort in California. The result was that the rate of hospitalization for previously infected unvaccinated people, was the same as the rate of hospitalizations for COVID for previously infected vaccinated people. This implied that for someone who has been previously infected by COVID, getting vaccinated offers no additional protection against hospitalization (while still involving a risk of serious vaccine injury) which implies that for those who have previously been infected by COVID getting vaccinated makes no sense whatsoever.

This is particularly noteworthy, as vaccinated mandates pressurized everyone to get vaccinated, irrespective of whether they had been previously infected by COVID as a condition for work and travel.

Duration of immune protection of SARS-CoV-2 natural infection against reinfection in Qatar; Hiam Chemaitelly was a study on an unvaccinated cohort indicates that, for healthy people, while the first infection from COVID involves some risk of hospitalization and death, subsequent infections, even in the case of those that are unvaccinated, poses no risk of hospitalization or other serious outcomes.

On the other hand *Outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 Reinfection, Ziyad Al-Aly, Benjamin Bow, Yan Xie* suggest that the risk of all cause mortality, hospitalization and long COVID symptoms are double for those reinfected when compared to those who were infected only once. However, this study broke the participants down according to vaccination status and found that this increase risk following reinfection applied irrespective of the recipient's vaccination status.

The above digression, over the previous 4 pages, should give the reader some understanding of the current available state of the art evidence for the direct health risk that COVID vaccines pose, the protection against COVID that these vaccines confer, both for those who are immunologically naive and those who are previously infected, and some information on candidate therapeutics.

To Summarize:

1. The health risk from COVID vaccines has been neglected. It is clear that some people who've received the COVID vaccine, that were previously healthy, have been horrifically crippled by the vaccine – a survey indicates that COVID vaccine deaths may be as high as 30% of all COVID deaths
2. U.K. Vaccine surveillance data indicates that double vaccination offers 70-90% protection from death and hospitalization among those who are immunologically naive
3. A study on Californian patients indicates that those who have been previously infected by COVID gain no additional protection whatsoever against hospitalization by getting subsequently vaccinated
4. Double vaccination conferred 50% protection against long COVID from the Delta Variant for breakthrough infections. Having a recent booster confers no protection whatsoever against long COVID from Omicron
5. Many studies indicate that Ivermectin, which has an excellent safety record, reduces the risk of hospitalization and death from COVID. Although these studies were underfunded with relatively small group sizes, so we don't know if the results hold for larger groups

I don't think I need to present an extensive argument to the reader that COVID vaccines are completely ineffective at preventing infection or at stopping COVID from spreading. At this stage, everyone who

hasn't be living under a rock these past few years will know many, many people who were vaccinated and then later caught COVID.

So, in conclusion, at a population wide level, vaccinating the entire population (verses offering no treatment whatsoever) will save lives and prevent hospitalizations. However, given the high risk of COVID vaccines, we have no idea whatsoever if vaccinating the low risk population (an unvaccinated person below 40, with no co-morbidities, who catches COVID has less than a 1 in 1000 chance of dying from it) will save net lives or if it will contribute to crippling and killing a net amount of, previously healthy, young people. And there is evidence that vaccinating someone who previous had COVID confers no additional protection whatsoever and unnecessarily risks seriously injuring them. It's also possible that treatment regimens could offer an effective alternative to de-risking COVID to an extent that would make vaccination unnecessary. Ivermectin alone might reduce COVID deaths by about 60% and some doctors claim that in combination with vitamin D, vitamin C, Quercetin and Zinc, even greater efficacies may be obtained. The experts who promote these treatments are censored and threatened.

Finally, there is the possibility that someone might choose to live an extremely isolated, distanced life, order their goods on delivery, and neither get vaccinated, and risk vaccine injury, nor contract COVID (or at least be unlikely to contract COVID) and so also avoid the risk of COVID injury.

During emergencies, it is important to accurately assess the facts of the matter and collate the best available evidence to support these facts. But beyond whether a particular medical treatment or procedure is statistically likely to harm or help a person, there is a general moral principle that death by omission involves far less moral culpability than death by commission.

This implies that if you force someone to do something against their will, and against their better judgement, "for their own good" **you damn well better be sure you don't harm them.**

And, in absolute terms, there are easily over 7 million people who've been left permanently crippled by COVID vaccines. This means that, globally, there are almost certainly over 100,000 people dotted about the place, who never wanted to be vaccinated, but who were pressured, most likely by threats of unemployment, to take the vaccine against their better judgement **and are now permanently crippled as a result.**

What do you tell someone who you ordered to get vaccinated against their will because "the science says it's safe", who is left with a permanent debilitating heart injury as a result? What do you tell their friends and families?

???

"Well, statistically speaking, the science said the COVID vaccine was more likely to protect you from an injury than cripple you for the rest of your life – I guess you were just unlucky"

???

What constitutes forcing someone to receive a COVID vaccine? We haven't yet got to the point where the secret police show up your the door with a vaccine, knock you out and then forcibly vaccinate you,

but unvaccinated individuals in a wide variety of different walks of life have been under **intense pressure** to get vaccinated against COVID-19. At some point, the unjust misery which those who refused to get the COVID vaccine, were forced to endure, is tantamount to forced vaccination.

Many countries, all over the world, required that those entering them provided Proof of Vaccination as a condition of entry. By October 2021, 144 countries had a COVID-19 vaccine passport system instituted. This is not a human rights violation as countries have the right to choose which foreign nationals to let in and which not to let in – although it will obviously pressurize some people to get vaccinated.

Macron introduced the *Pass Sanitaire* that required those wishing to enter any public space to either show proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID test in the past 72 hours, and then charged people to get COVID tests. Austria introduced lockdown measures – but only for those who were unvaccinated. Austria placed 2 million people who had not been vaccinated into lockdown, while allowing those who were vaccinated to go about their daily lives. A similar policy has been imposed by the Netherlands which has required proof of vaccination for restaurants, bars, nightclubs, museums, cinemas, indoor and outdoor festivals. In Canada proof of vaccination is required for travel by plane, train or ship *including internal flights within the country*. These measure all violate **Article 2** (which states that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status), **Article 7, Article 9, Article 13(1), Article 18, Article 20(1), Article 21(2), Article 27(1)** of the Universal Declaration of Human rights.

Violating someone’s Human Rights is not an acceptable way for governments to “nudge” (more like shove) their, largely healthy, populations into taking a medical treatment that can sometimes pose a serious risk to their long term health.

But all these nasty restrictions that governments placed on unvaccinated members of their society pale in comparison to how many governments went out of their way to deliberately threaten the very livelihoods of those who chose not to be vaccinated out of concern over the health risks that the vaccine posed...

Governments all over the world mandated that public employees of all kinds get vaccinated or lose their jobs. In the U.S., Joe Biden went as far as to try and require businesses with 100 or more employees to be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing – furthermore, in the U.S., those who were fired for refusing to get vaccinated were not often not entitled to unemployment benefits. On November 19th 2021 the Public Health Agency of Canada announced that all essential workers, including truckers, had to be fully vaccinated by the 15th January 2022 in order to continue working cross border, and Employment and Social Development Canada has advised employers to fill out records of employment, for employees that get sacked for refusing to get vaccinated, in such a way so as to deny them employment insurance (a social security payment) possibly leaving them penniless after losing their job. In Victoria, the government passed a mandate which required that “all authorised providers” and “authorised workers” require proof of vaccination by November 26th or a medical exemption. Victoria also mandated vaccination for construction workers. Many of these rulings violate both **Article 23(1)** as well as **Article 22** of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Austria even went as far as to fine individuals who were unvaccinated. While Greece has imposed mandatory fines of 100 Euros per month for over 60s who are unvaccinated.

When a state threatens to take away a person’s entire livelihood, through firing them from their job, and even refuses to pay them social security, which for some people, such as those with mortgages and rents to pay, could result in them ending up homeless – in a world where it seems like everyone, landlords, hotel owners, even charities like Ronald McDonald House for children with cancer, is determined to turn away those who are unvaccinated – there is no way to interpret this other than to conclude that many governments have FORCED their citizens to get vaccinated against their will.

Forcing a person to do something that could permanently cripple or kill them is tantamount to PHYSICAL ASSAULT. This violates Article 3 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Indeed, the criteria for physical assault does not even require that the activity you are forced to engage in must permanently harm you. If the police went around the place arbitrarily punching law-biding citizens in the arm, they would be guilty of physical assault even if everyone they punched just got a bruise and later recovered – and a government that endorsed such behaviour from the police would violate article 3 in the process. Having a fever for a day or two is at least as bad an experience as being punched in the arm, in which case, the millions of people that were vaccinated against their will through being placed under unreasonable duress, that developed fever or had other distressing reactions to the vaccine, even if they were only temporary, were physically assaulted by their government.

The phase III COVID vaccine clinical trials were the core evidence base that governments use to justify violating people’s rights as a means to increase overall public vaccination levels.

As it happened, in the 12 months following their publication, it later turned out that these trials were conducted in a sloppy, unprofessional manner, and were riddled with poor record-keeping, methodological irregularities, and borderline scientific misconduct. On the 2nd November 2021, Paul Thacker published an article in The British Medical Journal entitled **COVID-19: Researcher blows the whistle on data integrity issue in Pfizer’s vaccine trial** that summarizes the testimony of Brook Jackson, a regional director employed by the organization, Ventavia Research Group, who worked at one of the sites conducting Pfizer’s Phase III clinical trials for their COVID vaccine. The whistleblower Brook Jackson claims to have witnessed the company that conducted the phase III clinical trial for Pfizer’s COVID vaccine:

- **Falsified data**
- Unblinded patients
- Employed inadequately trained vaccinators
- Was slow to follow up on patient adverse events
- Had a culture that discouraged reporting and correcting poor work practices

With one of two other Ventavia employees that contacted the British Medical Journal confirming that the Ventavia site for the phase III COVID vaccine clinical trial had not collected clean data and that the data was, in their words (as quoted by Paul Thacker): “A crazy mess.”

Briane Dressen signed up to participate in the Astra Zeneca phase III clinical trials. After her first vaccination, administered to her as part of the trials, she developed a severe and permanent neurological disorder describing her symptoms as having the sensation of constant electric shocks, heart rate fluctuations, severe muscle weakness. These symptoms were utterly debilitating and never went away. Because of her severe reaction, those conducting the AstraZeneca trial removed her from the trial and didn't administer a second vaccination. **Briane Dressen's severe reaction to the AstraZeneca vaccine, as part of the clinical trial was not included in the final report that assessed its safety.**

Maddie de Garay enrolled in Pfizer's clinical trials for 12-15 year olds and received her second dose of the Pfizer vaccine on the 20th January 2021. Following vaccination, she developed severe abdominal and chest pain, shocks running up her neck and spine and extreme pain in her fingers and toes. Over the course of 2.5 months her symptoms progressively worsened and she ended up requiring a wheelchair and a nasal drip tube. Between January and June 2021, Maddie de Garay has been admitted to the ER 9 times. In Pfizer's report of this clinical trial (of which Maddie de Garay was a participant) entitled *Safety, Immunogenicity, and Efficacy of the BNT162b2 Covid-19 Vaccine in Adolescent*, Robert W. Frenk, et al. *N Engl J Med 2021; 385:239-250* the results paragraph of this report contains the statement:

“there were no vaccine-related serious adverse events and few overall severe adverse events.”

This is a second clear example of a major omission of critical safety-relevant information in a trial whose expressed purpose was to assess the safety of the COVID vaccines.

Practically, the only quantitative studies on COVID vaccine safety at a comprehensive level are the original phase III clinical trials. If these trials did not record patients who were severely injured by COVID vaccines in their final safety assessment (which, at this point, it is now clear that they didn't), **then we have no idea of how risky these COVID vaccines are whatsoever.**

A drug with serious and unknown health risks is **experimental**. While many drugs can sometimes have negative side effects, it may still be sensible to prescribe them in cases where the expected benefit outweighs the risk. But how can you calculate whether or not the benefit of a vaccine, administered to the majority of the world's healthy population outweighs its risks, when you don't even know what the risk are – due to **scientific malpractice** during its phase III trials?

To describe any treatment with serious, but unknown, health risks as anything other than experimental is preposterous.

This further implies that the administration of experimental COVID vaccines needs to adhere to 10 principles of ethical medical behaviour outlined in *The Nurembourg Code* which outline the conditions of voluntary informed consent that must be satisfied in order to ethically administer an experimental medication, whose health risks are unknown, to patients.

Principle 1: The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential. This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give his consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of consent or coercion....

Clearly, forcing someone to get a risky experimental vaccine as a condition for keeping their jobs violates **The First Principle** of the the Nurembourg code, and when we think back to the public statements made by politicians back in March 2021, where they emphatically said “If you get vaccinated, you won’t catch COVID” can this be viewed as anything other than deceit? The omission of serious vaccine injuries from the phase III clinical trial reports can also be regarded as an example of deceit. Both of these actions also violate **The First Principle** of Nuremberg Code.

Then there was the Trucker’s Convoy.

Throughout the two years of COVID, prior to the convoy, there were a series of massive demonstrations and assemblies, worldwide, by crowds of people who opposed lockdowns, mask mandates and unjust discrimination against those who chose not to get vaccinated out of health concerns. Throughout this period, governments completely ignored the will, and clearly expressed anger and distress, expressed by masses of protestors that peacefully (for the most part) assembled, time and time again, and instead passed whatever laws they saw fit, which increasingly tightened the noose around those who would prefer to remain unvaccinated – often pushing them into personal ruin.

Since masses of people standing outside parliament, waving signs of protest and intense opposition to the progressively more draconian legislation passed by governments across the world, was having no effect, the of truckers Canada, many of whom faced personal ruin as a result of the government’s impending prohibition of cross border travel, decided to use their vehicles to send the Canadian government a message they couldn’t ignore. And, in addition to honking their horns in Ottawa, some truckers blocked important border crossings, including the Ambassador bridge linking Windsor Ontario to Detroit.

The police cleared the illegal border blockade from the Ambassador bridge by 12th February 2022, The border crossing at Alberta-Montana was cleared on the 15th February, along with the border crossing from British Columbia to Washington and Manitoba to North Dakota.

The convoy-related protests in Ottawa and other Canadian cities were relatively peaceful and orderly (as large scale protests, filled with tens of thousands of people who are angry with the government, go). Certainly the truckers protests didn’t leave behind any torn down statues, burning cars, or buildings with smashed-in windows that tended to accompany some of the hot spots in the George Floyd protests, which occurred all over the U.S. in the prior year.

Yet despite the fact that, in absolute magnitude at least, any disorderliness displayed by the truckers convoy was less than 1% of the chaos that was seen during the George Floyd protests, the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, decided to declare a state of emergency and froze 206 banks accounts, without any court order, of organizations linked to the trucker Convoy. The Canadian government even threatened the possibility that it could freeze any account that made even a small donation to the convoy, while saying this would be unlikely. However, the Conservative MP, Mark Strahl, claimed that one of his constituents had her bank account frozen for donating \$50 to the Freedom Convoy, during the period where it was entirely legal. Freezing banks accounts without a Court Order violates **Article 17(2)** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states *No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property* and given that Article 11(1) states *Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to the law in a public*

trial at which he has all the guarantees necessary for his defence, any sudden deprivation of property that is neither in the tax code, nor as a result of a trial, must be considered to be arbitrary.

A Sky New article (Freedom Convoy: At least 100 people arrested as police move to control Canadian Truckers Protests) reports that the Canadian Police set up 100 road blocks to prevent the supply of **food** and fuel to the protesters. The Canadian Police literally tried to starve their fellow citizens out of a largely peaceful demonstration that aimed to bring attention to their legitimate grievances over fundamental human rights which their government had denied them. In this they showed greater ruthlessness than even the Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak (a relatively mild-mannered fellow compared to Justin Trudeau, who admires China’s dictatorship having said, in so many words: “There’s a level of admiration I actually have for China. Their basic dictatorship is actually allowing them to turn their economy around on a dime and say ‘We need to go green, we want to start investing in solar’”).

When Justin Trudeau described the truckers as a “small fringe minority...expressing unacceptable views” (besides the fact that an insignificantly small fringe minority, consisting of a handful of protesters, was incompatible with his decision to declare a National Emergency across all of Canada) he completely missed the point of the right to peaceful assembly. This right is not solely there to protect the right of the majority, but also to protect the ability of minorities to express their views and grievances. Furthermore, given that most of the views which the truckers were expressing was that the Canadian government was not entitled to violate their fundamental human rights, or contravene the Nuremberg Code, describing the view that governments must respect the basic human rights of their citizens as “unacceptable” truly represents a new low point for a once free nation.

During the protests against the vaccine mandates in Ottawa, a number of sources tried to portray the protesters as acting on behalf of foreign agents. Nil Koksai, an Anchor from CBC News (a news station directly funded by the Canadian government) suggested that the truckers protest may have been originally instigated by the Russian government. Bill Blair, Canada’s minister for public safety and emergency preparedness said of the protests “What this country is facing is a largely foreign-funded, targeted and coordinated attack on critical infrastructure and our democratic institutions.”

When I was younger, whenever you’d hear about mass popular pro-democracy protests against some third world dictator, the dictator would always blame “foreign interference” or “pernicious foreign influence” for fomenting the protest. Blaming foreigners for domestic discontent, expressed by a population demanding respect for their rights, is a typical shoddy tactic that dictators the world over employ to avoid taking responsibility for the failures and shortcomings of their own government.

The current rhetoric we hear in today’s modern democracies, of “pernicious foreign ideas” and “sinister foreign agents fomenting discontent within our borders” was once only deployed by dictatorships like North Korea, Communist Russia and Nazi Germany. Certainly countries try to influence politics in other countries, but, once upon a time, we trusted that if democratic nations respected the rights of their citizens, treated them properly, and communicated with them honestly, then any attempt of foreign propaganda agencies to sow the seeds of discontent domestically could be clearly spotted and debunked by domestic news sources. Generally, when a domestic population is largely content it is virtually impossible for foreigners to foment unrest. Foreign interference only seeds riots when it falls upon the fertile soil of pre-existing domestic unrest.

All in all, out of the 30 Articles which make up *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* democratic western governments have now violated **17** of them.

There's no other way to look at it, we've now reached the point where the governments of most, if not all, western democratic societies no longer respect the human rights of their citizens.

Perhaps, out of habit, our governments are still less oppressive than extreme dictatorships like China, or North Korea, for example. But the governing class no longer perceive they have any sacred moral duty to restrain themselves from forcing the population to do whatever they may want at any given time – and infringing their fundamental human rights and freedoms in the process.

In the absence of an organised and effective resistance strategy, we can only expect the infringement on our liberty, and even our basic rights, to become progressively worse with time, as those in power seek more of it. The authorities may relax and tighten their grip in waves – but we are indisputably in the midst of a rising tide of tyranny.

They've basically flushed *the entire universal declaration of human rights* down the toilet.

And for what?

For a lockdown which, with the exception of Australia and New Zealand, turned out not to have saved any lives at all...

...and for a vaccine that is utterly ineffective at suppressing the spread of COVID, whose health risks **remain completely unknown***, which children don't need, which most people voluntarily decided to take anyway, which is minimally effective at protecting against long COVID, and which may be less effective at preventing severe disease and death than other safer, treatments involving repurposed drugs, but which we will never know since large scale studies into the efficacy of such treatments remain

***all we know at this point is that the people running the phase three clinical trials neglected to report some participants, who have now come forward, that were seriously injured by the vaccine, how many people were injured by the vaccine that have still not come out in public, remains to be seen.**

under-funded and under-powered – meanwhile the use of these promising treatments is systematically suppressed by health authorities, to the point of becoming taboo, due to “an insufficient amount of evidence” supporting them, while those same health authorities that complain about the lack of evidence make no effort whatsoever to perform the experiments required to amass sufficient evidence...

...and all while needlessly damaging the economy leading to the worst inflation we’ve experience in over 40 years.

Was it worth it?

It would be foolhardy to say that under no circumstances should there ever be lockdowns, border closures, mandatory vaccinations, etc., One could envisage an extreme situation where:

- There was a disease with a 30-70% fatality ratio
- There was a vaccine with a proven track record that could effectively prevent the disease from spreading (the smallpox vaccine, for example)

Where emergency measures like border closures, mandatory vaccinations, even localised lockdowns to facilitate contact tracing, could be justified as a means to save massive amounts of death. And, indeed, international law does allow for human rights to be violated as a means of protecting other rights (Article 29(2)).

However, if the institutions of our post war democratic order are to continue to function, as they were originally designed, so as to guard against the re-emergence of totalitarianism, then any emergency measures that violate people’s basic rights on a massive scale*, must be approved of by a national referendum in the wake of a public discourse which is open and **UNCENSORED (at least with regards to the views of anyone with relevant expertise on the matter).**

There may be certain times when certain rights must be curtailed **but free speech and freedom of the press must NEVER be curtailed IRRESPECTIVE of the emergency** as, without these freedoms, the public will have no way to tell if there even is a real emergency, or whether tyrants are using state propaganda as a means to fool the public into surrendering their rights and allow an emerging dictatorship to form which they might never be able free themselves of for the rest of their lives!

Emergencies that require rights to be limited unfortunately sometimes happen, but in a democracy it is up to **THE PEOPLE** to decide whether or not there is an emergency and to what extent said emergency (if there is one) justifies limiting their rights.

If a group of unaccountable, easily bribed, politicians are allowed to decide when there is an emergency, silence anyone who disagrees, and dictate to what extent they can violate and limit people’s rights – without giving the very people, whose rights they intend to violate, any say on whether they

* temporary, targeted stay at home orders for positive cases and contacts, during a new pandemic is common sense. International border closures also don't violate any rights as sovereign nations have the right to choose not to allow non-citizens into their territory. It also make sense to force citizens re-entering from risky countries to quarantine without a referendum.

think there is in fact an emergency or whether said emergency justifies limiting their rights – then democracy is lost, and the checks and balances against tyranny will be so broken as to be effectively non-existent.

If we allow politicians to lie about the downsides of a medical treatment (such as the permanent neurological damage from COVID vaccines in some people), suppress and destroy the careers of dissenting voices, including those of experts, and then force vast swathes of people to take it, or else lose their jobs, (in the case of COVID vaccines) ...

...can we really rule out the possibility that they might pull the same stunt, some time in the future, for mass:

- **surgical implantation of population-wide tracking devices**
- **sterilization treatments**
- **insertion of brain implants for the purpose of mind control (i.e. neuralink)**

????

Besides COVID, it's also worth realising how modern education is evolving, how children are being acclimatized to having every detail of their online activity monitored, to being punished for consuming or discussing information from "unapproved" online sources, and are now being trained to be good little informants, not only of the bad behaviour of their peers but of any unapproved views or ideas which their peers might express, or secretly harbour.

On the 30th June 2022, the Canadian "Liberal" Party cabinet approved of the booklet ***Confronting and Preventing Hate in Canadian Schools*** published by the Canadian Anti-Hate Network for use in the National school curriculum. It is worth looking into the kind of culture and control system which this booklet advocates establishing in schools throughout Canada:

Page 17 contains a list of "bad" social media platforms, and advises teachers to keep a close eye on suspicious pupils who use these unapproved messaging platforms...

p17 - *"Telegram – Telegram as a publishing and networking tool is very valuable for citizens of authoritarian regimes in other parts of the world, however, usage in Canada can be a red flag. While many hate promoting individuals attempt to code their messaging on public platforms like Facebook and Twitter, the messaging on Telegram tends to be more violent and direct"*

Page 22 encourages schools to institute anonymous reporting systems to encourage students to report peers that express concerning views (note this extends beyond bad behaviour and direct insults to "bad" thought and opinions)

p22 – *“The school also implemented an anonymous reporting system to encourage students to come forward with concerns.”*

Page 25 encourages parents to monitor their child’s internet activity, be aware of the online content they consume and to report any concerns that they have with their child’s browsing history to the school counsellor. It also instructs teachers to deduct marks from pupils who quote unapproved sources in their essays. Thus instilling an intuition in children during their developmental years that if they read things that the system disapproves of, there will be a steady price to pay in terms of marks, qualifications, and later career success

p25 – *“A basic awareness of what kids absorb online is elemental to maintaining their safety and understanding their evolving perspectives. Sites not explicitly dedicated to white nationalist ideology including Reddit, 4chan or 8chan—can host robust sections where kids are actively recruited.”*

“Open a conversation with your child about the spectrum of validity and bias in online resources, both academic and those rooted in personal interest. What YouTube channels do they follow? What podcasts have they heard about what subjects?”

“If you have concerns, make an appointment with a counsellor or staff member you feel knows your child well. If your child shares concerns with you, help them voice these concerns to staff members they trust.”

“In a Canadian History class, a student repeatedly cited from hate-promoting online sources, including sources by Stefan Molyneux. His parents did not seem receptive to the teacher’s concerns when she met with them. The teacher revised future assessment rubrics to account for the viability and academic validity of source material, ruling out the vast majority of hate-promoting publications and figures.”

Note how they set the bar low for what constitutes a hate promoting source by explicitly mentioning Stephan Molyneaux as opposed to, say, Iron March Legacy.

Page 28 advises teachers and fellow pupils to monitor their peers’ artwork for lesser known hate promoting symbols and to report them to colleagues and to the administration...

p28 – *“An art student added a lesser-known hate-promoting symbol to a class mural, and classmates noticed. The students brought the issue to the teacher’s attention, who then consulted with colleagues and administration to decide on a course of action. The teacher and an administrator met with the student, but the student was inflexible and unremorseful about the harmful nature of what he did. Wellness staff was alerted and asked to watch for signs of increased stress or agitation in the student, and the teacher followed up with the initially concerned students.”*

Perhaps the most damning section of this toolkit is Page 35 and 36, on the spot scenarios, where we see that this isn’t just about hate, it’s about total ideological monitoring and control.

If a child expresses unapproved COVID-related opinions this tool kit advises the teacher to let the student know, in front of the class, that arguing along these lines is not acceptable and is harmful, to follow up with a one-to-one discussion with the student after class, then let the school administration

know so it can be documented, and then have a meeting to discuss the child's unacceptable views with their parents.

P35 – *“A student argues in support of democracy-threatening events like the January 6, 2021 Capitol Hill attack, or movements like Stop the Steal, or the COVID-19 conspiracy movement in class discussion”*

P36 – *“Let the student know right away that behaviour is not acceptable and is harmful, and explain why. Educate the student if you feel the information is coming from a place of ignorance rather than malice.”*

“Invite them to discuss with you further after class, one on one.”

“Let the school administration know so it can be documented, if warranted.”

“Depending on the situation, a meeting with the parent(s) may be warranted.”

Page 40 encourages staff to remind children how what they read and write online will be monitored and will damage their future career opportunities...

P40 – *“Maintain an active, responsive school-wide curriculum to keep students aware of the long-term impacts of how they represent themselves and interact with others online.”*

Page 41 Instructs teachers to monitor the student's online behaviour and activity on any school-owned devices, such as a laptops which the school might provide for the pupils “for free” in order to identify students who read unapproved information sources or write down unapproved thoughts or ideas.

P41 – *“Access and search any school-owned devices used by the student. When warranted, obtain parental permission to search the student's devices.”*

One has to sympathise with teachers today, and there is undoubtedly plenty of extremist material out there on the internet, in addition to racist groups who attempt to recruit children to their cause. Organized attempts by pupils to disseminate pamphlets from racist organizations, in order to recruit their classmates to the cause, is obviously unacceptable.

Nevertheless, it is instructive to read the booklet in full and acknowledge the sheer scope of the Orwellian system of surveillance and ideological monitoring, that it endorses setting up in schools all across Canada. Schools have, understandably, long encouraged pupils to report bad behaviour, and especially bullying, to teachers for obvious reasons. But there is clearly a recent development to foster an organised network of informants across schools between peers, teachers, parents and administrators to monitor, not just what children do, but what they *think*, what they *read*, what *political opinions they have*, and to let pupils that read from unapproved sources – and express unapproved thoughts – know that Big Brother is watching them, and documenting their every thought and move, and that if they think the wrong things, or read from the wrong sources too much, it could damage their long term careers.

No longer is it just enough for teachers to know what children are doing inside school during school hours. Teachers, wellness staff members and school administrators now need to know what children are doing *and thinking* every waking second of the day from dawn ‘til dusk – and, maybe even, what they dream.

And during the formative years of their lives, children are being conditioned into thinking that this intense degree of intrusive surveillance is O.K., that you have to let the teachers, your peers and the school administrators watch your every move and monitor everything you read online, or else how can we stop those evil hate groups? Total surveillance of everyone is naturally the only answer! And be careful never to look at information sources which the government doesn’t approve of! You wouldn’t want to permanently damage your long-term career prospects now would you?

The reference to COVID-19 on Page 35 was especially instructive and ultimately reveals that this is not just about protecting children from sinister hate groups.

Rather the recruitment of pupils by sinister hate groups is merely the urgent danger for which the only protection is to institute a system of total ideological surveillance and documentation over students, teachers, administrators and other staff and to mobilise the “entire school community (cult?)”, including parents, into a network of informants which monitor what each other think, watch and read and then support, flag, document and record any “school community member” that expresses unapproved opinions, or reads unapproved materials.

What the reference to COVID clearly shows, however, is that, once this control system is implemented, its uses will not be limited to protecting children from getting recruited by hate groups. Rather, it will be used to ensure that pupils do not read, talk about, or even think *anything* which the government doesn’t approve of. When I was younger, people spoke about reporting **incidents** of misbehaviour (principally bullying). Today, it seems, the scope for reporting has been radically widened and children are now encouraged to report “**concerns**” about other pupils’ thoughts and beliefs that they express in conversation. This change in culture is a classic **red flag** for the onset of totalitarianism.

The endgame, of this ideological totalitarianism in schools, is clear. Children will be made to understand that there are consequences – negative consequences – for looking at parts of the internet which the government cannot censor and control. They will be taught that those who read the uncensored internet have something wrong with them – or, even, that they are a danger to democracy and that decent citizens must either convince the people they know to stop reading pernicious forbidden online materials – or report them to the authorities. The only way “to protect our democracy”, after all, is to completely limit what we read and see to a small number of approved State Propaganda channels run by the Canadian Liberal Party and to ostracise everyone in our circle who dares to read unapproved content. At this point, even though it is unlikely that governments will be able to control the whole internet, presumably the hope is that the next generation of adults will have been thoroughly conditioned throughout their childhood to avoid the uncensored parts of the internet and to only look at the sites which the government (or more accurately, the globalists and monopolists which support the government) can control and censor.

Today’s children are being groomed to live in a totalitarian future with an Orwellian intrusiveness, the likes of which is hard to even imagine. That future will come to pass in the absence of any organised and effective resistance.

This section has offered undeniable evidence that the post world war two democratic order that was designed to protect our human rights and limit the concentration of power is now disintegrating before our very eyes and if we wish for our children to live free and dignified lives, as oppose to being trampled down by misery, fear and oppression, then we urgently need to do something.

But what?

Factual occurrences offer proof that something very bad is happening, but in order to consider the problem clearly and, by so doing, figure out what to do about it, it is necessary to conceptualize this collapse of freedom from a more abstract, big picture perspective. This is dealt with in the next section.

THE BIG PICTURE

Today the word “Decentralization” is something we associate with “permissionless payment”, “permissionless lending”, “permissionless markets”, “permissionless communication” and “blockchain storage.” Today, decentralization is association with computer software and databases of information which are impossible to delete (or so their advocates hope) and last for eternity.

But decentralization is simply about limiting the extent to which power is allowed to concentrate and, in that case, modern Republicanism, based upon the Separation of Powers and representative government, is, at its core, a decentralized governance project.

In this sense, the United States of America is the largest, longest lasting Decentralized Governance project that currently exists.

The modern Republican system based on:

- Constitutionally guaranteed human rights
- Separations of Powers across different governance Institutions
- Frequent Democratic Elections in which the people elect politicians to represent their interests, and defend their rights, within the various institutions of government

The intention behind this arrangement was to create a harmonious interrelationship between the general wider population and a select core network of highly competent political and institutional experts. The ultimate goal being that institutional policy experts use their high-level expertise at achieving political and social outcomes to create the results which the general population, broadly speaking, desires, while simultaneously protecting and respecting the basic rights of the whole population, including minorities.

The danger, however, is always that the competent experts either:

- Use their competence to serve and empower themselves rather than the majority
- Use their competence to serve wealthy individuals, or those in positions to reward them handsomely for their service (which is also indirectly serving-serving)

To this end, elections form an integral part of any Republican system and are supposed to serve as a means to ensure that the general populace has the ability to elect leaders that are both competent and have the will, inclination and integrity to make use of their considerable abilities to benefit the broader population and, in the event that their leaders use their positions of power to benefit themselves at the expense of everyone else, the broader population can vote them out for someone better come the next election.

After taking stock of all the events described in the previous chapter, it is clear that our current systems for limiting the concentration of arbitrary power, for rendering political power accountable, and for protecting the basic rights, freedoms and autonomy of the general population **have failed!**

There have been several developments, over the previous decades which have put our institutions, which have been established by the Post World War Two Democratic order, to protect human rights and prevent tyranny, under strain:

1. Increased specialisation between different fields of knowledge
2. An increasingly sophisticated understanding of Human Psychology
3. Mass collection of private personal data
4. An increasingly wealth-obsessed society
5. Debt-based fiat currency
6. The proliferation of undemocratic, supra-national organisations, to manage and regulate an increasingly globalized trade network

Increased specialisation between different fields of knowledge

The function of democratic elections is for the electorate to effectively “supervise” their representatives, with the representatives in turn supervising the various armies of public service technicians which they are tasked to (usually indirectly) coordinate to deliver various outcomes that should serve to benefit the overall population. If the representative is ineffective at serving their public “supervisors” the public effectively use elections as a means to “fire” their representatives. Elected representatives in turn often have some control or influence in appointing at least the top tiers of publicly funded institutions and, failing that, usually have the option of defunding the entire institution in the event that it fails to satisfactorily serve the public interest. In that sense, the voting electorate supposedly hold their representatives accountable for serving the public interest while the representatives, in turn, hold the various publicly funded institutions accountable for serving their electorate. This mechanism of indirect accountability is supposed to effectively ensure that the complex apparatus of the public sector is effective in serving the needs of the general public.

According to Adam Smith, increased specialisation is key to increased productivity. Knowledge is no exception to this and the increasing variety of specialised technicians along with the increasing proliferation of fields and sub-fields of research has greatly contributed to scientific and technological advancement.

However, one major challenge of specialisation is that, all too often, a situation can arise where the supervisor hasn’t got the foggiest clue of what the person that they are supposed to supervise is actually doing. Communication between different specialists can frequently result in mistakes where critical

information gets “lost in translation.” In addition to accidental miscommunication, there is also the potential for specialists to deliberately bullshit their supervisor and convey the impression they are working hard, or working effectively, when they are actually slacking off or fucking up. If the supervisor has no knowledge of the specialist’s trade, he may not be able to detect it.

Problems with the supervisor-worker relationship, on occasions when supervisors don’t really understand what the people they supervise are doing include:

- Supervisors telling workers to accomplish something they can’t
- Supervisors telling workers to accomplish something they can, but it turns out that, by accomplishing it, they cause some harm which the supervisor had not specified that they avoid (even if it’s the opportunity cost of not doing some important routine task in order to accomplish the supervisor’s instructions)
- Workers pretending they can’t do something when they can (to save themselves work) and the supervisor believing it because he doesn’t fully understand the capability of his workforce
- Workers telling the supervisor they need more money or time than they actually do
- Supervisors not giving workers enough resources to accomplish the task
- Workers telling the supervisor they have succeeded in achieving excellent progress when they haven’t accomplished anything and the supervisor believing them because he didn’t really understand what he was even asking them to do in the first place (often because someone higher up the chain asked him to pass the orders down to his workforce)...
- ...and so on...

We generally think that someone has done a reasonably good job if the person (or people) they are serving were left better off than they would have been if they had not taken the initiative (after salaries have been taken into account). In the case of politics, this is very difficult to evaluate as, due to the vast complexity of human society, it is very difficult to say for sure what the world would be like if they hadn’t implemented a particular policy, or had they implemented a different policy.

So, generally politicians spew out a load of jargon and numbers no one understands, smile and intersperse it with a bunch of positive language with buzzwords like “successful/wonderful/etc.” tell everyone how great they are and how, even though things have got worse, their policies have still been tremendously successful due to yatter-yatter-yatter and we’d be *even worse off still* if they hadn’t been implemented. Then the opposition disagrees, spews out a bunch of jargon and numbers no one understands, then talks about how *their* policy proposal, which no one understands, would have been so much better than the established government’s policy either as an empty assertion, or alternatively backing it up with an argument that no one understands... and then people are left scratching their heads wondering what everyone was talking about.

The above considerations raise serious questions about whether either the electorate can effectively “supervise” their elected representatives, or whether the elected representatives themselves can effectively “supervise” the various public institutions and civil servants who are tasked with executing their political decisions (as demonstrated by the series: *Yes Minister*).

A proper, liberal education aids the public in meaningfully engaging with this political process, but this is countered, and increasingly strained, by political issues becoming more technical, specialized and

complex, which inevitably tends to separate the voting public from the political process, and makes them increasingly reliant on taking the word of technical expert commentators on trust...

...this in turn means that, by controlling the information space, by engineering the messages sent by technical commentators, voting outcomes themselves can be engineered – this reduces, and possibly even renders meaningless, the concept of government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Mass Collection of Personal Data and Increasingly Sophisticated Understanding of Human Psychology

Voting decisions, indeed decisions of all kinds, are, ultimately, behavioural outputs. As psychology becomes more advanced we are learning more and more about the neuroscience and psychology behind the decision-making process and, ultimately, what kind of things cause people to make one decision rather than another.

With social media, algorithms can experiment with showing different kinds of articles into people's feeds and then record their responses (likes, comments, etc.,) and then categorise probabilistic responses of different demographics, using all the personal information they have supplied to the algorithm. But doing this, those controlling the algorithm can learn that input X can elicit response Y from demographic Z with probability A. By recording a vast library of a range of responses to a range of different content inputs, it is possible to create tailored inputs to elicit tailored responses – these responses may include voting decisions.

This is a fundamental issue with democracy: because elections, referendums, etc., are extremely important, political parties invest millions into trying to shift their outcome. Gerrymandering being one, particularly egregious, example. The same principles apply to lobbying and the behaviour/decision-making process of elected representatives. As governments become larger and the decisions made by elected representatives effect more and more people – including wealthy business men – the amount of time, effort and resources that go into influencing a politician to support one bill, rather than another, becomes immense, and the activity relating to causing political change becomes a veritable industrial sector in its own right.

Yet, at some point, one has to wonder: if lobbyists can effectively illicit any given political decision from both the general public and politicians, at what point is the democratic process no longer “The people deciding how they should be governed” in any meaningful sense, and at what point has it simply become a manipulation/persuasion arms race between small rival groups of master persuaders/master manipulators to persuade/manipulate the sheeple into implementing one political outcome rather than another? Beyond a certain effectiveness of psychological influence on how people make decisions one way or another – can the voters meaningfully be considered to be influencing the governance of their country at all? Or do the voters merely serve as conduits – pawns – for the political influence of skilled lobbyists and propagandists?

The arms race of influence/manipulation that occurs in modern democracies is nothing new. The sophists of ancient Athens taught rhetorical skills to young nobles in exchange for a hefty fee. It was said the Sophists were so skilled in the Art of Persuasion that they could convince an audience that night was day and day was night, that good was bad and bad was good. And the sons of wealthy Athenians, who were trained by the best Sophists, could speak so convincingly in Athenian assemblies as to persuade the voters to support any political decision they wished.

Wherever political systems arose on which state actions and governance rested on the grassroots decisions made by the masses, elites have always gone to great efforts to persuade the masses to vote for the outcome they desire the most, as opposed to outcomes they find less desirable, and have always invested vast amounts of resources to secure the most profitable political outcome for themselves.

But, if we consider the main purpose of democracy simply to give the public a mechanism to protect their basic human rights, as opposed to positively governing the country, perhaps the increasing ability of technology to manipulate our decision-making process is not so great a threat **so long as the majority of people are firmly committed to steadfastly hold onto their basic rights, irrespective of the propaganda that gets thrown their way, and, while allowing propaganda and information manipulation to inevitably influence their governance decisions, to NEVER allow it to rob them of their basic human rights.**

Unfortunately, it is far from clear, that the majority of people will always use their votes to protect their human rights and, indeed, it seems increasingly plausible that people can be persuaded, through sophisticated propaganda, to consentually vote away even their most fundamental human dignities and freedoms.

One plausible way that people could be convinced to give up their rights is through the use of a threat that is highly complex, abstract and whose details are incomprehensible to most people. Then the expert is given the stage, mouths off a load of jargon that no one understands, presents simple analogies which convey the point but are ultimately unfalsifiable, and then explains to the public “Don’t worry, the highest top tier experts who completely understand the problem (that is far beyond your comprehension) have discussed and deliberated it at length and we’ve come up with a solution that will stop you from all dying – and it all it requires is that you give up all your basic human rights and get microchips inserted into your brains!”

Can we really rule out the possibility that, someday, some government expert may take the stage during some future public broadcast and say things like:

“Yatter-yatter-yatter thermohaline conveyor belt, yatter-yatter-yatter methane emissions from melting permafrost, yatter-yatter-yatter, soil erosion yatter-yatter-yatter positive feedback. A good analogy for the climate is a man with his head in a guillotine, CO2 emission is like the guillotine blade. The bottom line is if we don’t act now we are all going to die from crop failures, wild fires, floods. But don’t worry, there’s a solution, yatter-yatter-yatter plan ABC yatter-yatter-yatter innovative regulations yatter-yatter-yatter artificial intelligence, yatter-yatter-yatter smart grid, yatter-yatter-yatter World Carbon Reduction Organization (WCRO) with total authority to forcibly impose the implementation of Plan ABC on national governments yatter-yatter-yatter implantable tracking devices inserted into the body yatter-yatter-yatter mandatory personal carbon footprint monitoring yatter-yatter-yatter synthesized food yatter-yatter-yatter automated

fully-armed WCRO punishment drones. And the best thing is, we've developing a brain implant that will make you *want* to engage in activities that will lower your carbon footprint and positively take pleasure in minimizing your impact on the environment...including having less children. Even better, these brain implants will stop you from being racist or sexist and increase your levels of empathy to other people and to nature, although some bad people object to having WCRO microchips inserted into their brains because they don't want to be caring and empathetic and instead want to be racist, sexist, anti-semetic. Homophobic and nasty – and try to spread false rumours that these chips contain a small explosive charge that can be remotely activated... But the bottom line is, so long as we implement plan ABC, we can avoid death and destruction and instead all prosper and be happy. So we must implement plan ABC at all costs! The only problem is, there's this awkward, outdated, pedantic little thing called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that interferes with our ability to implement plan ABC and instead will condemn us all to death. So trust the science, let's not let pedantry and details interfere with this vital plan to save us all. We must put the implementation of plan ABC above all else! Who's with me?"

Can we really reject the possibility that with an all-immersive propaganda campaign, powered by big data and AIs analysing user feedback on social media and finding out what kind of content for each particular demographic is most likely to make them support plan ABC, with enough video montages of celebrity after celebrity after celebrity smiling and saying "I trust the science! I support plan ABC!", "I trust the science! I support plan ABC!", "I trust the science! I support plan ABC!" with cheery uplifting music playing in the background...

...would the majority of people still say "No way! We're not throwing away our rights!" or would people gradually, one by one, shrug and say "Well I don't really understand everything they're telling me, and it's all a bit above my head, but I don't want to die. So, I guess I support plan ABC."

I do not wish to suggest that climate change is not a genuine problem. However, the average person on the street is not an expert in climate science and so has no way to argue back when a climate science expert takes the stage and outlines a complex problem that's over their head along with a complex solution that's also over their head. There are many way to deceive people which don't involve telling pure lies. Indeed the most effective deceptions are the ones which contain the most truth.

Examples of deception could be:

- You can be truthful about the problem and lie about the solution
- You can exaggerate the problem and then lie about the solution
- You can lie about the problem and lie about the solution
- You can be truthful about the problem and present one genuine solution, but lie about it being the only or the best solution – when in fact it may be one solution that benefits the elites the most among many plausible solutions... some of which may be better than the solution which is being promoted

The most effective way to rob people of their liberty is probably:

A fake solution to a real problem.

There are often many solutions to the same real problem. Different solutions may produce radically different political outcomes. The problem is that when an expert presents people with a complex problem which they don't understand and then presents **one** solution, which nobody understands, which may have some very specific political ramifications, if people don't understand the problem, it becomes very difficult to reject the solution that has been served up on a silver platter in favour of a different complex solution, with different political consequences. Quite often, no time or energy is invested into working through the best solution, because the powers that be with the funds to work through viable solutions don't want to put effort into developing solutions which have political outcomes that don't benefit them.

Under these circumstances, the danger is always that those resisting the rollout of the totalitarian system of control may be tempted to deny the existence of the problem and, hence, will be easily refuted as liars, or people who don't know what they're talking about.

It seems very plausible that, in a complex situation like this, those who have total control over the communication and information space, with teams of psychologists and propagandists who are expert at influencing the human decision-making process might well succeed in controlling the perceptions of the majority of the population to the point of persuading them to give up their human rights and surrender total control to an unaccountable centralized, all-powerful global authority.

Propagandizing the public, in order to sway their voting decisions, is nothing new, but big data does take it to a new level. While there has always been a cat-and-mouse game between deceivers and those wishing to avoid deception, the human brain has not changed with time, whereas our technological ability to influence people is increasing exponentially. Unless we design corresponding technological systems to enable us to more effectively resist the influence of extremely sophisticated and deceptive propaganda systems, then in the absence of any technological help, the "cat" of mind-control will eventually catch the "mouse" of critical thinking and, since an all-powerful centralized authority is highly unlikely to fund any project that will enable people to resist its power to deceive them, then if the people lose power to a technologically advanced totalitarian elite – they might never be able to regain it ever again.

An increasingly wealth-obsessed society

It seems that our culture increasingly worships celebrity status, bling and wealth. Television is filled with celebrities showing off their houses and cars, music videos featuring singers wandering around massive mansions and so on and so forth. Influencers that make money, even through humiliating themselves, are seen as successes and, in general, as religious values and traditional virtues are increasingly disparaged, when everything else that might command respect in society is belittled, all that remains is one number: Net Worth... or perhaps income and the outward trappings of wealth.

Ironically, job insecurity significantly contributes to wealth obsession as, when income can start and stop and is no longer secure or guaranteed, a much larger cushion of savings is required in order to secure one's subsistence.

The general obsession that society has with wealth, and its association with power and status, has a pernicious effect on politicians. This is especially amplified by the fact that politicians have no job security to speak of and their salary for the next 4 years is totally dependent on getting voted in on the next election. If a politician loses an election, they'd better hope they can hustle up a new well-paid job to replace their lost salary, especially if they have a large mortgage to pay. This naturally puts pressure on politicians to perform favours for potential future employers during the period when they are in office as well as accepting bribes.

Not only that, but it usually costs quite a lot of money to campaign for an election, and takes resources to promote yourself on media channels, including conducting a successful social media campaign, in order to become familiar with the electorate.

All these things make it easy to buy off politicians. Often those with money will lobby both parties simultaneously, and perhaps hint to the politicians of all the major parties that if they pass particular regulations or bills in parliament that the moneyed interests support, they may have some luck wrangling a well-paid job with a seven figure salary for themselves after leaving office.

The net result is that, all too frequently, regardless of who the citizenry vote for, their elected representatives always end up passing the same kind of laws that favour moneyed interests and lobby groups, as irrespective their party affiliation, all the politicians in **all** the major parties are subject to the same incentive to serve the same moneyed interests.

And again, if every representative on the ballot sheet will pass the same laws irrespective of who the citizens vote for, then the function of the election system to act as a check on tyranny is **broken!**

To compound this problem, money can be also used to buy off large segments of the information space. Such as news outlets, film studios, social media, etc., etc., In the absence of draconian regulation, and the presence of a free press, this domination of the information space by moneyed interests can never be perfect. Nevertheless human beings have a psychological tendency to place greater weight on the opinions of successful, high status individuals who are presented as having authority, with low status individuals often presumed to be cranks and nut jobs. In a world where money is increasingly equated with status, this actually means that the people we respect tend to be the same people who are easiest to "buy off." After all, one way of making lots of money is to let someone buy you off. For this reason, you might notice a certain coordination in the opinions endorsed by high status celebrities and news anchors and an increasing tendency of "respectable" information sources to parrot off whatever the moneyed interests want them to parrot off.

Other than raw money, fancy sounding job titles in fancy sounding institutions can also command respect from the public. But, here again, whoever spends the money funding those institutions gets to control who gets the fancy-sounding-job-title and who doesn't. Which again, allows the moneyed interests to tell the experts in "respectable" institutions: "If you want to keep your fancy-sounding job title, which everyone respects, you'd better say to the public what I tell you to say!"

Debt-based fiat currency

But where do the moneyed interests get all their money for corruption and political control? If they're constantly giving truckloads of money away to people, then surely, at some point, they'll run out?

In a gold-based system, the only way to get money is to either put physical effort into mining gold or to provide some service that people will be willing to pay gold for.

It's true that even gold-based systems can fund some corruption. Governments can tax gold from their people and, with the use of "public-private partnerships", can use public money to "buy" services from favoured moneyed interested, who have perhaps bribed said politicians. Governments can also give monopoly rights to particular businesses in the form of licensed activities or regulations that are difficult for small start ups to comply with.

But in a fiat currency system, the scope for corruption is ten times worse. Money is literally created whenever banks give out loans, and public institutions write the regulations that determine what banks can and can't loan money out for. Central banks can print infinite money out of thin air and use it to buy bonds. So if you know a central banker and he tells you how they plan to change the interest rates or what assets the central bank plans to buy in the future, you can purchase those assets ahead of time and, by doing so, divert some of the flood of newly printed money into your own bank account.

Basically, in a fiat debt based system, your claim on wealth is determined by what number someone writes on a ledger next to your account name. And for the insiders of the financial world, they basically write whatever numbers they want to write onto their personal account balance (obviously with lots of juggling and accountancy tricks to make it all look "fair" and "rule-based").

Debt-based fiat currency facilitates a vicious cycle where the moneyed interests lobby the politicians with lots of money to pass the laws and regulations they want, and then the laws and regulations they want rig the monetary system to make them even more money allowing them to make even bigger bribes and "donations" to politicians to rig the system even more in their favour – and so on and so forth.

With debt-based fiat currency, corrupt moneyed interests have access to near infinite money from the magic money tree, to allow them to bribe whoever they need, to do whatever they want indefinitely, without ever running out of cash.

The proliferation of undemocratic, supra-national organisations, to manage and regulate an increasingly globalized trade network

Democracies, where they occur, are implemented on a national level. No leader of a supra-national organisation such as the UN, WTO, WHO, IMF, FATF, BIS, WIPO, etc., etc., is elected directly by the citizens of the world and, as such, they are a long way from being accountable to the average person.

Most supra-national institutions with tangible power exert this power through reputation-based mechanisms. The UN can, for example, organise trade sanctions against countries that don't play ball, and if you don't adhere to the trade sanctions, you get sanctioned yourself. So, in a kind of circular logic, all the countries of the world tend to refuse to trade with countries that the UN sanctions for fear that, if they defected and traded with the pariah states, the UN would declare sanctions *against them* and then no one would trade with them for fear of getting sanctioned themselves.

The EU operates with a similar kind of circular logic. Countries in the EU get to trade with other countries in the EU without having any tariffs imposed upon them. However, they must impose tariffs on non-EU members because, if they don't, they get booted out of the EU and then all the other EU countries will be forced to impose tariffs on them.

The FATF operates with a similar reputation-based circular logic. If you're on their blacklist, it becomes virtually impossible to do business with the global banking system and, if you're on their grey-list it becomes considerably more difficult. In order to stay on the whitelist, governments must prohibit banks, who operate in their countries, from providing services to countries on the black-list. Governments comply with this for fear of being put on the grey-list themselves.

The net effect of international institutions operating with the reputation-based circular logic described above is that undemocratic, supra-national organisations can apply a great deal of pressure indeed on the democratically-elected governments of nation states through manipulating global trade and the global banking system. Using this mechanism of divide and conquer, many supra-national organisations can make life very unpleasant indeed for nation states that fail to comply with their demands.

Many heads of supra-national organisations are appointed by the leaders of nations, some of whom were democratically elected. The Secretary General of the UN is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of The Security Council. The FATF President is appointed by the FATF Plenary which is attended by "206 members of the Global Network and observer organisations" (which sounds a bit like a circle jerk of international organizations) and so on and so forth...however, most leaders of nation states are bought and paid for by the elite. It is only occasionally the case that a renegade leader breaks through.

So, to summarize...

- 1. The governance institutions in most countries are complicated, with internal workings that are difficult to monitor and official meetings so full of jargon, that the average citizen couldn't work out what the attendees are talking about even if they didn't die of boredom within 5 minutes of listening to them – in practice, the population can only truly guard democracy with the aid of interpreters for governance and political issues (i.e. the press).**
- 2. Although the alternative media is a diverse, chaotic and uncontrollable ecosystem of bloggers and content producers, the platforms with the largest audiences, that control which piece of content gets promoted and which piece doesn't, are controlled by a small number of wealthy individuals and organizations. The major content producers (i.e. news organisations, large studios, etc.) who can afford paid promotions through the large platforms are also heavily controlled by a small moneyed elite**

3. **The large platforms gather massive amounts of user information, can monitor user feedback extensively and use AI to get an idea of the “trails” of content that are likely to sway someone’s opinion in one direction or another. This can be used effectively to shift the results of elections.**
4. **Even if the moneyed elite can’t manipulate the information space to get the people to vote for their preferred candidate, the chances are that the less preferred candidate is also in their pocket, so while less preferred candidates might pass a few policies to placate the masses, they are still, for the most part, likely to promote (or at least not unduly interfere with) whatever agenda the moneyed interests of the world wish to pursue**
5. **When the occasional rogue candidate, who cannot be bought off, slips through the cracks, and manages to win a national election (despite fierce opposition by the news media, smear campaigns etc.) – by giving speeches, and organizing a grass roots campaign of supporters knocking on people’s doors to promote his campaign of reform – undemocratic supra-national organizations then use their influence to rig the global economy to cut off international trade and banking from countries that elect loose-cannon-reformers. This leaves people worse off. Then when the disillusioned populace vote in an establishment candidate, the supra-national organisations re-open their society to international trade to improve that nation’s economy and make it seem like the establishment candidate is better at governing than the previous loose-cannon-reformer.**
6. **While any one nation might temporarily be ruled by a loose-cannon leader, supra-national organizations are, almost without exception, establishment. This is because at any one time, the majority of heads of state are establishment, and the heads of supra-national institutions are usually elected by committees consisting of many heads of states. So, while one or two may be loose cannons, whenever the head of a supra-national institution is appointed, the overwhelming majority of leaders in the room (who appoint the supra-national head) are vetted, bought and paid for by the establishment**

The early part of the 20th century was characterised by organised labour. The end of the 20th century, and especially the earlier part of the 21st century is characterized by organised capital. There was probably never a time where representative democracy was free from manipulation from small groups of exceptionally influential and powerful people, nevertheless, recent changes have vastly reduced the extent to which the masses can use democratic elections to curb tyranny:

1. Big data and advances in the science of psychology provide tools for mental manipulation with unprecedented power, for those with resources, that can sway people’s decision-making processes in any way those wielding them may desire
2. Debt-based fiat currency is an infinite, inexhaustible fire hose of money, that corrupt insiders of the global finance system can use to buy off practically every politician of a major party, along with established news media, and experts inside a wide range of educational and research institutions funded by grants and donations from non-profits controlled by wealthy individuals
3. Modern communication technology enables the elites in society, located in every corner of the earth, to converse with one another on a daily basis. This enables them to coordinate supra-national organisations in a far nimbler manner than before, executing more sophisticated plans in pursuit of far more ambitious global agendas

Now we've discussed the various ways that changes in technology, the economy and finance, since the end of World War 2, all work together to undermine the ability of modern democratic systems to protect against the development of future tyranny, it is worth understanding mechanism that a small tyrannical elite can use to assert absolute rule over a larger mass of people in a manner which (they presumably hope) will be able to crush all resistance.

So now we move on to:

The emerging phenomenon of the use of centrally-controlled personal records to punish dissidents in a manner that is arbitrary and outside the rule of law or the standard legal process which involves legal representatives and court proceedings

No fly lists are an early example of this. No fly lists are essentially a record of your name, which some member of a government organisation can arbitrarily decide to place on a list. This list is then passed around the various staff who run airports and aircraft companies and the government instructs them not to let anyone on the No Fly List fly. Companies generally adhere to government regulations as governments can pretty much make up laws that enable them to fine companies any sum of money they want. And since companies have a lot of money to protect, they are usually careful to comply. No Fly Lists are a U.S. phenomenon.

A credit rating is another number that is secretly added beside your name that you can't control which will profoundly affect your life through affecting your ability to raise money to buy a house, or start a business along with the interest payments you must pay to service your loan. Credit ratings agencies are independent, but, firstly, it is ultimately the government that decides which organisations get to operate legally within a country so, like airlines, they will probably be inclined to do things to make the governments, of the countries they do business in, happy. Secondly, it seems plausible that influential people with enough money can stack the decks and ensure that "the right people" are in control of credit ratings agencies.

Drivers licenses, business licenses, etc., etc., are records that are kept by public bodies, that you have no control over, that can potentially be edited without a court order (or at least not renewed) or any requirement for the state to fund any legal representative to defend your case. These records affect your ability to drive, or to legally engage in a wide range of income-generating activities, which may be critical to your livelihood.

And, of course, there's your bank account. A record with your name on it (your account name) where the number beside your name (your account balance) represents your claim on all worldly resources; including resources which are necessary to your life and health, such as food, shelter and medicine, along with your ability to meet and interact with others such as money for transportation or to pay the phone and internet bill. Banks can freeze your accounts without informing you, but merely in response to any payment patterns they deem to be "suspicious activity". They will then file a suspicious activity report (SAR) to the National Crime Agency (NCA). Individuals who find their bank accounts suspended get no warning: There is no opportunity to attend court and be provided with a legal defence prior to an account suspension. On the contrary, people frequently just find their account has been frozen completely out of the blue with no prior notification – in much the same way people can find they've been placed on the No Fly List without prior notification.

And then there's your social media account along with your email account. Which has a record of your communication with other people and enables you to publish material to an audience of followers/subscribers you may have gradually acquired over the course of decades – and again, the company running the platform can suspend, or even delete, your account any time they want – no trial by jury required.

The Chinese social credit system is really a system that integrates all the important records that you require to get on in society (get work, travel, do business, rent a place, get approved for a loan, communicate on social media, etc., etc.), links them all together, and connects them to an integrated surveillance system that monitors every aspect of your behaviour from personal spending, to who you talk to and what you say. The system then modifies your record to make your life harder if you behave in a way that The Party disapproves of and to make your life easier if you do and say things The Party approves of.

Thankfully western democracies don't quite have a full on social credit score. Instead, people have records with lots of "independent" agencies. And those independent agencies can change our records in ways that would make our lives harder (reduce our credit rating, take away our business license, freeze our bank account, cancel our social media account, take away our drivers license, put us on a no fly list) but, in theory, because in the west, all various agencies are "independent" from each other (we hope), it's unlikely that all our records will deteriorate at the same time, unlike in the Chinese system.

Or is it?

All we'd really need to have a de facto Social credit system in the West is for all the various companies that keep important personal records on us to collaborate together to screw up the records of political dissidents simultaneously, in order to make their life hell.

And there's certainly examples of large, supposedly unrelated, companies acting in a clearly coordinated manner.

Facebook, Apple, Spotify and YouTube all announced on Monday 6th August 2018 that they would be removing Infowars from their platform. Wait a moment...I thought they were separate companies...kind of weird how 4 completely separate, unrelated companies would just so happen to remove the same content producer from their platform on the same day. Almost as if, I don't know, they had secretly conspired together, planned it ahead of time, and then all acted in concert.

LinkedIn and Twitter, cancelled Robert Malone's account within a week of each other.

On January 7th 2021, Facebook barred Donald Trump from its service. On January 8th 2021, Twitter banned Donald Trump from its service. Then, on January 11th 2021, Amazon kicked Parler off its web hosting service. While one could arguably say that maybe the same behaviour by Trump caused both Facebook and Twitter to ban him for the same reason, it's pretty uncanny how Amazon shut down Parler within 4 days of Twitter and Facebook's Trump ban.

So clearly, very large, very important and seemingly “unrelated” companies frequently act in concert with each other. Is it unrealistic to consider the possibility that the issuer of your passport, the issuer of your driver’s license, the regulatory agency that issues your business license (or, if you are employed, perhaps the same regulating agency might have a “chat” with your employer), your credit rating, your social media accounts, your bank account, your phone provider, etc., etc., may some day become all unofficially coordinated together, either by the government, or by some shady monopolist (or group of monopolists acting in concert towards the same agenda), like Blackrock that owns a controlling stake in all of them, and that this coordinator – or coordinating group – would have the capacity to make everything simultaneously go wrong in your life by suddenly messing with all your accounts and personal publicly-held records at the same time, in the event that you were doing something that interfered with their political agenda...maybe saying the wrong thing, expressing the wrong view, or associating with the wrong people?

As more and more records become digitized, it will become progressively easier for an authority to edit all of a given individual’s records rapidly and in a coordinated manner for the better...or for the worse.

Then there’s central bank digital currency.

Central bank digital currency is a ledger of account names with a number beside each name. In a world with digital CBDC wallets, you would download an app to your phone, with access to your CBDC wallet and, if you wanted to pay someone else’s CBDC account, you would simply send a signal from your phone to the servers at the central bank instructing them to deduct the payment amount from your account and to add it to the account of whoever you wanted to pay.

CBDCs are an important innovation for, although they are a form of fiat currency, they are not a form of debt-based currency. As things stand, the *entire global digital payment system*, as it exists today, is debt-based and run entirely by private banks. This means that a severe credit crisis could conceivably lead to a fiscal contagion effect that could take out all, or most of, the private banks in the world. This would make digital payments impossible in many, if not all, countries. Multi-national companies simply **could not operate** without a global digital payment system as they simply would not be able to coordinate paying salaries to tens of thousands of employees, along with payments to suppliers for thousands of orders, payments to creditors, shareholders, rent, shipping etc., simultaneously across many countries. If all the banks in the world simultaneously went bankrupt, large companies would simply have to close down, as they would not be able to continue their operation without a digital payment system. That means no complex products like cars, aeroplanes, microchips, farm machinery, minerals from mines, oil, grid electricity, piped water, etc., etc., a severe global credit crisis could conceivably be an absolute disaster that could end civilization as we know it!

In principle, because Central Bank Digital Currencies are not debt-based, **they could facilitate a global digital payment system that is immune to credit crises**. This is a major advantage over our current debt-based digital payment system. CBDCs would also allow our financial system to continue to function and remain stable even in the absence of economic growth.

However, CBDCs would also lead to a situation where a single institution could freely edit the cash savings of everyone who possesses savings in a given currency. That's a heck of a lot of power!!! If there was some kind of public consultation and a bill of rights that clearly asserted that the central bank will only operate CBDCs in a straightforward vanilla way to facilitate payment between people and companies and not mess around with balances in any other way, or freeze people's accounts, CBDCs could actually result in a far more robust global financial system.

Unfortunately, it looks more like the CBDC payment system will be designed behind closed doors by an elite that will use it to acquire as much power and wealth as possible for themselves.

CBDCs have potential advantages. However, without clearly stipulated checks and balances, they will produce a single monopoly which is in charge of all cash-savings and cash payments across an entire country.

If those in charge of this central bank ledger have the power to arbitrarily edit it, prevent people from making payments here, zeroing out their life savings there, fining people for this bad behaviour, adding a bonus onto people's accounts for promoting that "pro-social idea" etc., etc., this would give central banks tremendous power to control the Overton window of political speech as well as political outcomes. Furthermore, even if the laws that limit extremely unacceptable forms of hate speech, for instance, seem reasonable, it's entirely possible that central bankers could find all sort of ways to punish people for saying the wrong thing, that is far outside these reasonable-sounding laws, by repeatedly "making mistakes" that just so happen to punish people who express political opinions which they don't like.

To illustrate this, let's imagine a future where Jack wakes up one morning to find his CBDC wallet has been frozen. Immediately Jack panics and calls the "CBDC wallet suspension hotline" where a cheery operator answers the phone and says "Good Morning Jack! What can I do for you today?" To which Jack replies: "My CBDC wallet has been frozen! Can you please tell me what's going on?!!!" To which the cheery operator replies: "Of course Jack! No problem! Wait a moment and I'll look into it for you..." then after Jacks listens to music on the phone for 45 minutes, the operator comes back: "Sorry for the delay Jack. Yes it seemed our algorithm accidentally flagged one of your posts on social media as unacceptable hate speech. But don't worry! I've just phoned the head of our Serious Hate Crimes Department who took a look at your social media post and he confirms that the algorithm made a mistake and he has filled out the required paperwork to unfreeze your CBDC wallet which should function normally again some time within the next 3 working days." To which Jack replies "Thank you! What a relief! So in 3 working days I'll be able to use my CBDC wallet to once again make payments?" To which the cheery voice at the other end replies "Absolutely! And just be a little careful about what you publish on social media, I'm afraid our algorithm for detecting prosecutable speech crimes can be a little bit overzealous sometimes." To which Jack breathes a sigh of relief and says: "Well thank you for unfreezing my wallet." To which the operator replies: "No problem! Is there anything else I can do for you today Jack?" To which Jack replies: "I don't think so, I think that's all I need." To which the operator replies: "Great! Have a wonderful day Jack!"

And now Jack will know to be very careful about what he posts, or shares, on social media in the future.

So you can certainly see how, in the absence of checks and safeguards, CBDCs would confer tremendous power to their controllers to pressurize the population into conforming to any order the establishment gives them **whatsoever** and even to conform to more amorphous “approved behavioural standards and viewpoints” that are not explicitly decreed but merely implied. How they will choose to use their ability to place intense financial pressure on anyone they want, to do whatever they want again will be limited only to the imaginations of whoever controls the CBDC payment system.

Is now worth taking stock of a more general rule:

A small elite can only oppress a much larger population by convincing its members to participate in their own oppression.

This will initially be achieved through creating a record, or set of records for each person, which only the elite have the power to edit and the record will be such that its contents will determine whether rest of society treats the person referred to by the record well, or whether they make said person’s life tremendously difficult.

When the elite zero out your CBDC account, it is ultimately your fellow man who oppresses you by refusing to provide a good or service since you cannot pay him for it. When the elite place you on the No Fly List, it is ultimately the person behind the airport checkout that oppresses you by refusing to allow you to get on that flight, when the elite cancel your driver’s licence, it is ultimately the person in the car rental company who oppresses you by refusing to give you a rental car due to your driver’s license being invalid.

The elite can only change the record entry, it is the response from the rest of society to that change in record which causes the real oppression.

So by responding to other people’s official personal digital records, that can only be edited by the elite, in exactly the way the elite want us to respond, we oppress our fellow man and participate in the elite’s system of oppression.

Without that participation, there would be no oppression.

Imagine, if every single person, including policemen, just ignored what was written on official records. Under such circumstances, the small oligarchy of central controllers would be stripped of 99.99% of their power.

Eventually perhaps, the police could gradually be purged of all principled people, and, by gradual degrees, be replaced by a gang of thugs who are willing to mindlessly arrest and assault people – maybe even someday murder people – for no reason other than the fact that someone, they have been habituated to accept has authority over them, orders them to do so.

But in Western countries, we are not there yet. Policemen still have principles, many are committed to upholding the law and doing things by the book.

So ultimately the elite will, initially at least, attempt to gain total arbitrary control over society by **changing the book**.

And a big problem with digital technology is the ability to edit enormous databases enormously quickly and accurately.

Prisons are expensive to maintain and quickly reach capacity. So the ability of a state to threaten prison in the event of large scale disobedience and non-compliance, is limited.

The ability of a state to butcher its citizenry is, in principle, unlimited. But, today's police are not yet ready to run around randomly butchering innocent people right, left and centre. Furthermore, if the masses of people feel their lives are threatened, that there's nothing to gain by compliance and nothing to lose from rebellion, then average people, who mostly just want a quietly life, may suddenly rebel if their backs are pressed against the wall and when the mass of people organize together, the police and the army may soon find themselves out-numbered and, besides being outnumbered, if they butcher and imprison the farmers: then who will feed them?

So the initial mechanism for mass oppression will be oppression through public record and the masses will oppress each other on mass by responding to the public records of other people (which only the elite have the power to edit) in exactly the way the elite want them to respond.

The challenge with breaking the cycle is that, in large societies, reliable records for assessing the reputation of strangers you don't know are an important vehicle for establishing trust with those with whom you want or need to transact. All of mankind's power and accomplishments ahead of other animals rests on our ability to cooperate. People need people, and in large anonymous societies, a central official record is needed to keep track of what people have done for others (money), whether that professional will serve you acceptably or give you food poisoning (food premise license), are they honest and safe (criminal record), are they trustworthy (credit rating). These official records help strangers to confidently and safely transact with other strangers. Transactions between friends don't require centrally managed records. Transactions between strangers do. By facilitating transactions between strangers, a record-keeper can promote economies of scale and specialization, which benefits everyone. The problem is, as people become more reliant on anonymous business transactions, they also become more reliant on the public record keeper. When everything's going good, people think to themselves: "I don't need to foster close personal relationships with plumbers, farmers, bakers, housebuilders, electricians, car mechanics, etc., as long as I have money in my pocket, I'll be fine as I will simply buy whatever I need and want!", but as people become less reliant on informal personal exchanges between people with different skills, they become utterly reliant on the financial system and the controllers of that system. At some point, if those controllers should choose to "turn off" such a person's reputation record, including their bank account – that person can suddenly find himself completely isolated from the financial system and utterly incapable of securing even the most essential goods and services.

Accountants are as old as civilization itself. Indeed many ancient civilizations depended on them. Accountants facilitated the first human civilization in Mesopotamia and served as important record keepers for what everyone contributed to society and also what they were entitled to from society. Throughout the ages, this power to determine what people were entitled to, and what they owed, led to many accountants and bankers to become very rich indeed. Corrupt financiers are nothing new.

What's new is computing, the internet, surveillance technology and Artificial Intelligence. What is being created is:

1. A vast surveillance structure that can track all human actions, communications and transactions
2. An AI capable of analysing the vast data archives of human actions, communications and transactions and categorizing them
3. The integration of this massive AI detection system to categorize the actions and transaction of millions of people, with the ability to modify said individual's personal official records, including their bank account, according to the behaviour observed – and flagged – by the AI

All this will add up to the tightest, most oppressive system of mass enslavement that has ever existed.

Furthermore, these record changes will be presented as the “withdrawal of a privilege” rather than the “the denial of a right” and the powers that be will try to present messing around with the public records of people they don't like in the same contexts as a workplace firing an employee it doesn't like, or a club cancelling someone's membership – and not as a legal penalty. By presenting undermining someone's status, through sabotaging their official public records, in a non-penal context, it will be possible for them to use the integration of....

...Surveillance ↔ AI ↔ Editing Important Official Publicly-Held Personal Records...

To penalize dissidents without going through the court and without even notifying them that they have been penalized. Much the same way that bank accounts can currently be suspended without any due process or notification.

There are really only two ways to resist this:

1. Ensure you have a network of friends with the right mix of skills to live off the land, off-grid with minimal interaction with larger society – possibly with a number of people in your network interacting with the control grid and playing a kind of “Inside-Outside Game”
2. Maintain a parallel record for keeping track of reputation/skills/capability/honesty/etc., which enough other members of society use and trust to make some level of commercial life possible **and which the elite don't have the power to modify**

The blockchain, or other decentralized ledger systems, are suitable technologies to maintain such a parallel record. However, giving that record societal significance, from the point of view of enabling dissidents who fall out of favour from the centralized system to continue to survive and get by will require advanced strategy, tactics and coordination that is far more sophisticated than just “buying some bitcoin, HODLing it, and buying a Lambo.”

These tactics will be discussed in detail especially in the final chapter.

Finally, in the chapter:

The nature of conspiracies as a kind of naturally emergent social phenomenon is discussed

Who exactly are the elite?

In short, simply anyone with disproportionate financial power, political power, or social influence. The factors that fuel conspiracies, which give rise to oppressive elites, are:

1. People who seek power are more likely to get it than people who don't seek power
2. People prioritise the well-being of people they know and cooperate with, ahead of people they don't know
3. People prefer to form alliances with those who have a high ability to help them ahead of those who have less or no ability to help them
4. People who are determined to accomplish a particular goal will tend to hide critical information from their adversaries which could use it to interfere with them
5. People who are determined to achieve a given goal will deal with adversaries who interfere with them through either: a) co-opting them and turning them to allies b) Disempowering them and reducing their future ability to interfere with their plans, or, c) eliminating their adversaries
6. When a small group of people disempowers and humiliates a larger group, that small group will intuitively know that if they re-empower the large group that they have just humiliated, that large group may well seek payback for their previous disempowerment – and be a lot harder to disempower the second time. This creates a cycle of ever increasing restrictions, where the more the small group restricts, the more resentment they create which leads to still more restrictions – this cycle can sometimes end in genocide

1 – It is only natural for people to sometimes wish that others acted differently. For most people, this might be a preference, for other individuals the behaviour of others may cause them considerable distress which they eventually become resigned to putting up with.

But for a few people, the current state of the society they find themselves in is so unbearable that they become **determined** to do whatever it takes, to do everything in their power, to throw every effort of their very being into changing the way that other people act in society to a manner which they view as acceptable – many of these kinds of people get involved in politics, either officially by joining a party, or unofficially through lobbying, activism, donations, etc., etc. When I say 'politics', I mean the social influence game in the most general sense. Others may get into politics for purely self-serving or self-glorifying reasons as a result of craving fame, power, wealth or status perhaps to validate their efforts in life, or themselves, as being significant in some way.

The reasons why people pursue political influence with great intensity may vary greatly. Some may believe intensely that people need to radically change the way they do things to avoid a climate catastrophe; others may feel an intense sense of urgency to prevent some future serious disease; others may dream of a technologically advanced paradise where no one has to work, where no poverty exists and where robots serve us hand and foot and is absolutely determined to make it happen; others may want to end ageing and death once and for all; some may be absolutely convinced a rival country presents an existential threat to the world, and must be eliminated; some may feel that women,

disabled, people, or other minorities are treated unfairly and are absolutely determined to even the balance; others may feel passionately about saving the chimpanzees, the polar bears, or some other animal and habitat, and have obsessively looked into all the economic activities that humans engage in that could threaten such creatures, or habitats, and are determined to spend every waking hour trying to put an end to such activities to protect the animals they love for future generations; others may be religious zealots who believe the majority of society is deeply sinful, and will incur the wrath of the one true God unless everyone repents their wicked ways and constantly performs whatever Holy rituals they all need to perform, or wear whatever it is they all need to wear, to appease God's wrath and live virtuous lives; others may believe that nuclear reactors are producing lethal toxic waste and that everyone will die of cancer in the next few years unless every nuclear reactor everywhere is shut down in short order.

Many of these causes may be justified. Many who pursue these causes may be very well meaning. Many others may not be.

The point is that the reasons why various people may be passionately determined to change how politics is done, how institutions are arranged, or how people behave is extremely varied. Nevertheless, some people undoubtedly wish to change the way things are done, and how other people live their lives, very intensely.

Such people may tend to, at first, feel that their vision for a future society, that is different from our current one, is so compelling that all they need to do is find the right words to articulate it, find incontrovertible evidence and compelling arguments in support of it, and then the whole of humanity will be instantly converted and will willingly radically change the way they do things to one that is obviously better in the mind of our determined fanatic. When this inevitably doesn't happen and many people instead laugh at or dismiss him or her, this will intensely frustrate the determined revolutionary who will then think to himself: "Well! If the world won't listen to reason, and make the urgent and necessary changes to the way they live voluntarily, then clearly I need to find some way to FORCE (or, perhaps more euphemistically "nudge" or "incentivise (read threaten)") the majority to change how they do things WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT!"

Politics is, broadly speaking, a kind of mixture between a numbers game and a game of acquiring the necessary competences to achieve success in any given campaign. In a democracy, this might be a combination of people with campaigning skills, a treasurer, allies in the press and in television broadcasting companies (today this would include allies in social media companies) in addition to those knowledgeable of the law, policy experts, sociologists, perhaps even scientist and technologists may be needed as part of the implementation. If changing society involves conquering some enemy country, then people with military capabilities might be a necessary addition to the alliance. In any case, since organisations with all the necessary specialists are much more effective at achieving a political outcome than one lone wolf who can't work with anyone, the people who successfully seize power and influence tend to be those who are both good at working with others as part of effective teams but also good at continuing to pursue their own agendas within that team.

The end result is these cooperative networks emerge, which are composed of fanatically determined revolutionaries, with aims that are at least not in direct conflict with each other, along with a few egotistical, power-hungry individuals who go along with the fanatics to secure their support in a quest for pure self-glorification. In any broad alliance, there will always be a certain degree of insincerity

among the allies. People obsessed with their own personal pet agenda will exaggerate the degree to which they value the agenda of their important allies and will try to link the importance of their own pet-agenda to the pet agendas of their allies. This is probably why we hear policy-makers sometimes spew out nonsensical word-salad like: “Gender equity will be an essential step to effectively combat climate change.” Amid those at the table who genuinely do have causes that they feel passionately about, but who insincerely acknowledge the value of other people’s causes, a few people may be sitting on the high table who don’t genuinely care about *any* cause, but *profess* to care deeply about every cause that advances their career and increases their political influence. The other people sitting at the table are the hired implementers, those who listen to what the group of influential power-brokers want and try to suggest how their company can deliver precisely what they want...for a hefty price.

Effective implementers are team players and will ensure that *everyone* with the capabilities they need to implement their plan either has a seat on the table, or is under the direction of somebody with a seat at the table.

2 – In any case, those elements of the “grand political alliance” who have seats on the table and representation in discussion forums, that are held by the most influential power brokers in the world, are bound to have their interests prioritised ahead of those who are not sitting at the table and who are not contributing to The Plan

But what is “The Plan”?

“The Plan” is simply:

Whatever mishmash of agendas the various intense and effective political movers and shakers who end up becoming members of the most influential effective political alliance of power-brokers may have. This is probably somewhat dynamic, with new people coming in, some people getting bootied out, some people rise in influence, others fall in influence.

So the plan may get modified in nuanced ways depending on the participants and the relative influence of the participants or “Stakeholders” – but what remains constant is that everyone who’s sitting at the table wants to change how things are done and how people do things... including how people who aren’t sitting at the table do things.

3 – Not everyone will sit at the table, some people won’t be “team players” in general those sitting at the table will tend to perform a cost-benefit calculation for potential new “stakeholders”

To what extent will they bring some new and valuable capability to the existing stakeholders?

vs

To what extent will they add to the cacophony, confuse things and defocus the ability of existing stakeholders to execute on their existing plans and agendas?

The nature of alliances/friendships etc., is usually a somewhat informal one where friends/allies help each other out when their friend/ally is in need.

Now think of a friendship where one person has a great deal of ability to help another person, while the other person has limited or no ability to help their friend. Such a friendship will involve one friend constantly helping out the other friend, who's always in trouble, while the other friend will not be able to materially return the favour – even with the best will in the world.

For this reason, people tend to form friendships with other people who have similar abilities to help them out as they have to help out their friends. People with lesser abilities will tend to be less desirable as friends, people with greater abilities probably won't want to be friends.

This is the underlying logic for why class systems and hierarchies (whether formally recognised or not) tend to form within societies.

Either way, highly successful, highly influential people with a high capacity to use their influence to bring great benefits to others will tend to pair off or team up with individuals with similar levels of wealth and influence...while leaving out the greater bulk of humanity. Hence, only the most successful movers and shakers, with the greatest political influence, make it to the highest round tables to collaborate with others in similar positions.

And if we then apply point (2), that people prioritise those they know who they collaborate with over those they don't, we can easily imagine a bunch of influential people sitting around talking to each other setting up institutions, systems, and implementing policies that all help everyone else who's sitting around the table to get what they want and achieve their personal interests.

It is entirely possible that these same policies/institutions/systems could work against and harm many other people who don't have a seat at the table. This could either be by design, but it could also simply be down to the influential elite being unaware or the ramifications and collateral damage which their activities and interventions cause among people who they rarely interact with.

4 – By definition, any great political change that aims to make sweeping nationwide (or even global) changes to how people do things will inevitably disrupt the way some people are already living their lives. The new must negate at least a portion of the old. Inevitably, some people will find themselves in a situation where the new “reforms” will demand that they stop doing what they were always doing and do things in a different manner prescribed by “the reformers”, at least some people who find themselves in this position, are likely to resent this disruption to their lives.

This means inevitably, any alliance of movers and shakers who wish to radically reform the political order will face either some – or many – adversaries.

There are two reasons why reformers might want to hide critical information about what they're doing from their adversaries or potential adversaries. One reason would be that in any conflict whether on a physical battlefield, or in a more abstract political context, the more you know about your adversary, the easier it is to develop counter strategies to interfere with their ability to execute their plan. Your adversary, anticipating this, will probably be inclined to hide the details of their plans from you to minimise your ability to interfere with them.

The second reason to hide your intended plans, is if their full details became public then a whole load of people who aren't even aware of such plans and don't even consider themselves adversaries – but

rather just want to quietly get on with their lives – might realise that your plans will interfere with their lives, decide they don't like your plans, and feel the need to get active and start attempting to interfere with them.

In other words, by revealing all the details of your intentions, you could create new adversaries where none previously existed and by hiding your plans from the general public you could prevent many adversaries from arising and getting organised at all...at least until it's too late.

So there are many good reason why people who plan to reform or change the political and social system in some radical way, might choose to hide at least some of their machinations from the wider population.

Is this starting to sound a bit like a globalist conspiracy yet?

The fact of the matter is that, realistically, conspiracies are a fundamental staple of politics to a greater or lesser extent. As people across the world gain an ever greater capacity to communicate with one another, then, inevitably, conspiracies will start to arise on a global level. The danger of “conspiracy theorists” is that, because conspirators will attempt to hide all the details of their plans (even if they reveal some details) conspiracy theorists will tend resort to speculating about what the conspirators are hiding...which can cause conspiracy theorist to go off the rails at times.

And it's entirely possible that many, if not all, the conspirators genuinely believe that they are planning something that is profoundly good, “But we can't let everyone know all the details of our plans because, if we did, our adversaries would misrepresent us, and it would be ‘challenging’ to communicate to the public why this particular part of our plan, which on the face of it sounds really bad, will, in fact, serve the greater good.”

However, although speculating conspiracy theorists frequently invent imaginary conspiracies, anyone who tells you global conspiracies don't exist is gaslighting you.

5 – People go into politics for different reasons. However, the one thing they all have in common is the desire to change society... to change other people's behaviour in some way. Presumably, from their personal perspective, for the better – to make society a nicer place to live for everyone. The goal of everyone in politics is either to reduce behaviour XYZ, to increase or promote behaviour ABC, or to give more resources to group HIJ. That's all political reform in a nutshell.

So, while the end goals of different politicians (or political activists) may vary dramatically (in terms the type of activities – industrial/domestic/etc – they wish to modify), there is a *convergence* in the type of tools they will all tend to gravitate to. In the same way that artists may have radically different painting styles but will all appreciate a high quality paint brush and canvas, in addition to high quality oil paints, so too will politicians, with radically different end goals, all gravitate to the same “tools of the trade” for modifying people's behaviour:

- Political Propaganda
- Broadcasting
- Psychology

- Collecting data to amass voter profiles
- Mass Surveillance
- Modifying the educational curriculum
- Working with religious institutions
- Cash incentives
- Fines
- Taxes
- Nudges that make doing something (they want people to do less of) gratuitously awkward
- More difficult licensing requirements
- Prison
- Executions

And in the same way that a rally driver might look at a new engine that can make his car go faster and think: “Wow! I could really use that to win the race!”, so too will, at least some, political power brokers look at technology such as microchip brain implants, or social credit systems, and think to themselves: “Wow! This technology could really help me to transform people’s behaviour, and the way society works, so as to conform exactly to my objectives – and for the better!”

So, although you may have an amorphous alliance of people who want different things, many will look at general instruments which can be used to control the population in various ways as interesting potential tools to accomplish whatever political agenda they may have.

The only people who wouldn’t look at Social-Credit-like systems and brain chips with interest are people who value some degree of freedom more highly than their personal political objectives. Yet you have to remember that it’s not easy to be a politician, and anyone who goes through the grinder of politics for decades, who has to put up with the constant job insecurity, who’s constantly attacked and berated by the opposition and the by press, who’s told to eat shit and call it chocolate for decades, and decades, is the kind of person who probably feels extremely intensely about a particular political issue. People who work in the political machine will tend to be abnormally passionate about achieving their objectives – possibly to the point of obsession. And if such people intensely want to change the way people in society behave, they are more likely than average to look at technologies, like Social credit, or even, maybe someday, brain chips as interesting tools which could someday be used to obtain whatever political objectives they’ve strove to achieve for their entire life.

As such, it’s likely that, varied though people’s objectives maybe, there will be a convergence in whatever politically influential grand alliance which may emerge, to be interested in mechanisms which can be used to modify human thoughts, decisions and behaviours.

Some people say that globalist are using things like global warming and pandemics as an excuse to justify amassing great power for themselves and to implement of systems of control which secure their position as overlords. But there are actually several different possibilities:

1. People who genuinely believe there is a desperate need for drastic collective political action to solve the problems of the world might see systems like undemocratic supra-national organisations with blanket enforcements powers, surveillance, social credit, rationing etc., as genuinely necessary measures required to save humanity **or...**

2. There are people who genuinely believe we need drastic collective action, but the people with the real influence just want to secure the power as overlords over the rest of humanity and simply fund any activists out there who strive for causes or have narratives which they consider useful for furthering their aims. If this is the case, we might see a lot of superfluous systems for social control proposed, well in excess of what is really necessary to solve the underlying problem.

And then there's the escalation that arises from a determined "reformer" clashing with a determined opposition.

Groups of determined reformers might first believe that through simple campaigning they can win people over. Then they might find that their campaigns only convince a few people with the majority remaining unconvinced. At this point, the "reformer" might think: "Oh well, I guess people can't be persuaded to implement my desired changes. Let's gently nudge people into complying with a set of light incentives that make life easier for those who comply and make life a little harder for those who don't." Then they find there are trouble-making vocal critics that are putting out material criticising their policies and swaying the masses. So they de-platform their critics. But the masses continue to spread the publications of their critics through platforms they can't control. So they roll out a surveillance system that monitors what people see and say and "gently" fine people for watching the "wrong content"....

6 – ...but people respond to this by using VPNs and being more surreptitious about the content they watch. So they respond by tightening the surveillance net still further. Then it's now starting to become clear that their centrally planned system is failing and people are worse off, this causes unrest. But the members of the elite can't handle the possibility that the system they've strove for decades to establish is failing, so they rationalise and displace their own failure on their enemies by saying the only reason it's failing, and people are worse off, is because of *disobedience*, that not enough people implemented the plan faithfully and *precisely* enough, and the reason society is falling apart and failing is all because of groups of dissidents have undermined the plan, and, in order for all us to prosper, the leaders need more control over society so that the plan can be implemented *precisely*. In order to work, the plan needs to be implemented *precisely*. So the surveillance system is strengthened, and the social credit system is made more strict so that anyone who questions the plan can't get a job, can't ride on public transport, can only access their CBDC wallet for 3 hours during the week, and can only rent the lowest quality accommodation. But, although people are now afraid to question the plan overtly, dissidents develop subtle codes for communicating their disapproval of the central controllers, so now the central controllers programme an AI system to identify even coded expressions of dissent and discontent with the government. And anyone who express the slightest whiff of doubt for the plan, or even fails to praise the plan constantly over, and over, and over again, will find their social credit rating irreparably damaged – while anyone that overtly expresses a desire for revolution is immediately shot.

As the noose tightens evermore around the masses and the state of society worsens, the elite, (who perhaps once upon a time thought that they would rule over a happy, prosperous, grateful people, eager to implement their plan), can sense their palpable resentment and anger, even if the masses are mortally afraid to express it. Like a coiled up spring, the controllers intuitively know that if they ever loosen their grip, even slightly, the latent rage that now pervades all of society, that only remains suppressed through mortal fear and intense oppression, will explode in a violent revolution and, if it does, they will surely all get lined up against the wall and shot...if they are lucky.

The controllers don't trust the police force, and replace them with drones. The controller don't trust the workers, and replace them with robots. The rest of humanity now becomes nothing more than a liability, a vast mass of people that performs no useful or necessary function, which is cumbersome to control and potentially extremely dangerous – should they ever let the masses slip through their grip.

You can see how circumstances of extreme inequality and intense oppression can end in genocide.

Once you've bound and gagged your wife, stuck her in the boot of your car, drove out into the middle of the woods in the dead of night, and then open the boot to see her struggling and crying...what's the next step?

Unbind her and let her go back to hang out with her friends???

...and then everything will be back to normal???

All the above considerations are, of course, pure baseless speculation. But you can see how the basic logic of bullheaded determination and ambition, alliance, utility and conflict can plausibly produce vast inequality and a very ugly system of oppression.

Beyond musings, however, there is also history. And history shows us three things:

1. The depths of evil which some people are willing to sink to is limitless (Jack The Ripper, and countless serial killers are real)
2. Not all evil people are obscure nobodies, and not all people in positions of power and responsibility are good. History shows us that **frequently** the **very worst** elements of humanity succeeded in achieving positions of supreme responsibility at the very apex of their societies (Hitler, Mao, Stalin, Gaius Caligula, Pol Pot, and on, and on, and on...)
3. When a small group of people hold all the power and succeed in setting up a system of control that can robustly oppress a larger mass of people with such efficiency that they have no way of fighting back, the elite controllers will almost always eventually end up treating their slaves as beasts of burden, whose will and personal well-being counts for nothing, and who only exist as instruments to serve the various needs and desires of their masters, and can be culled at will (The Spartans, The Confederacy, Roman Gladiators, Russian serfs, etc.,).

And now we throw technology into the mix... what do you think Gaius Caligula would have done with a comprehensive system of surveillance drones to monitor everyone in the Empire, combined with an AI to analyse all the data and automatically flag any behaviour he deemed suspicious?

What would Bill Gates do if he was in charge of such a system, for that matter?

However, it is critical to note that there is not one particular group of people conspiring which, if eliminated, will solve all the problems of the world and result in everyone dancing round the fire singing kumbaya together. Rather conspiracy is a phenomenon that spontaneously emerges over and over again through the logic of social interactions and human nature as do elites, class structures and systems of oppression.

Because of this, ruthless attempts to overthrow the elite will only produce a new elite that is just as bad, if not worse.

It's also worth keeping in mind that there is no single, perfectly homogenous, conspiracy. At the top level of society there will always be a mixture of competition and cooperation. But since competition tends to end in either elimination, or some kind of cooperative peace, while new competitors may emerge from time to time, the self-extinguishing nature of conflict/competition will tend to lead to the emergence of a broad global alliance – at least on some matters.

It's worth mentioning that even if the dominant power-players in the modern global economy really did want to institute an all-encompassing system of surveillance and control, even if they did want to insert microchips into everyone's brain to make them docile and obedient, it would not make them unusually evil. The price of losing power is often revolution. Those in power may fear this, so much, that they would look favourably upon any tool or means of reducing the likelihood of revolt.

Imagine a salesman from the future went into a time machine and managed to secure an audience with some average run-of-the-mill medieval king. If the salesman told the king: "I have this magic microchip, which if inserted into your subject's brains will ensure they never revolt, and will work 50% more industriously for 50% longer. This brain chip will make your soldiers both better fighters in the battlefield and absolutely loyal to their king. This chip will also ensure the men-folk of your realm will not object to you banging their wives, nor will your wife resent you having affairs once my magic chip is installed inside her brain." How would the king respond? I would imagine many kings would immediately make a royal decree that every subject of their realm must have a chip installed in their brain by the next week on penalty of death – or, at the very least, he would issue such a decree to be enforced upon the inhabitants of some territory he recently conquered in battle..

So the rulers today are no worse than the rulers of yore. The only difference is the technology which they will have at their disposal.

Ultimately, the only thing that holds back oppression over the long run, other than the odd good emperor who might happen to inherit the throne from time to time, are institutions which are carefully designed to achieve the very purpose of limiting the concentration of power.

And even these have historically failed over the course of time. The Athenian Democracy was ruined by the Peloponnesian War with Sparta and eventually got conquered by Philip of Macedon. The Roman Republic turned into a continual string of dictatorship after it was taken over by Julius Caesar and, then later, Augustus.

And today, it seems increasingly apparent, for all the reasons previously described in this manifesto, that our current system of representative democracy is beginning to seriously fail and may completely cease to defend our rights, or prevent tyranny, in the not too distant future.

Think of our modern democratic system as a castle, designed to protect its inhabitants from the horrors inflicted by future dictators similar to Hitler, Stalin, Mao Zedong, Genghis Khan, Pol Pot, Kim Jong Un, Gaius Caligula and countless others that have subjected their populations to unspeakable horrors – condemning millions to live out their lives in misery and fear...assuming they are lucky enough to escape the torture chamber and the noose.

Now think of:

- Big data
- Advances in Psychological manipulation Techniques
- Undemocratic Supra-National Global organizations
- Specialization
- And fiat currency

As 5 cannon balls, fired from the cannon of unlimited tyranny at the castle of limited governance and democracy, smashing down the walls, smashing down towers and causing the inhabitant to scurry in panic for safety as they try to avoid the rain of falling stonework.

From time to time, throughout history, effective defensive structures have been rendered ineffective in the face of new advanced weaponry and battle tactics. Our current democratic system, as we know it, has become dramatically less effective at withstanding the increasingly sophisticated psychological, informatic and economic weapons that are deployed against it with increasing ferocity by those eager to seek absolute, uncurbed power for themselves, and who would rather not be held accountable to the masses.

We urgently need to build better systems to defend our rights, freedoms, and personal autonomy from assault by 21st century tactics and technology.

We need to build a stronger castle.

The ruthless, power-hungry people of the 21st century, who are willing to oppress limitless numbers of other human beings in order to accomplish their goals, are no different from the kind of tyrants that litter all of history. But the technological capability they wield will be immensely more powerful, which is why there is an urgent need to carefully develop an effective counter strategy that is capable of successfully limiting, even the most sophisticated modern 21st century assault on our liberties and human rights – lest we lose them forever.

The remainder of this book outlines the strategies and technologies needed to resist the slew of developing systems and strategies, designed by ruthless individuals with fanatical visions, that aim to utterly crush all resistance and completely control all of society in the process.

BITCOIN : A CRUCIAL FIRST STEP, BUT MUCH MORE IS NEEDED

The root of most concentrated power and influence in modern political systems arises from a record that affects how people treat each other that only a small number of people can control : A suitable AI will vastly amplify the scale and scope of this social control by public record. The bulk of this power lies in money, which is proportional to each person's relative claim to wealth – including to life's most essential necessities. Although the issuance of licenses permitting people to engage in gainful activities, or permits to travel (passports), also represent an immense quantity of power **provided society at large enforces these centrally editable records.**

Bitcoin represents the first embryonic steps towards a software infrastructure designed to resist this creep of increasingly tyrannical control through digital record manipulation.

Why does society accept the modern banking system? Where people store a great deal of their personal wealth as numbers on a ledger that a banker could change anytime they want with the tap of a button (stealth fees are a good example of banks just deducting money from your balance because they want to)?

The answer is verifiability and remote access.

If I offer to give you a shiny yellow piece of metal in exchange for your car, how do you know how much of that shiny yellow metal is gold? How do you know that I'm not lying about its purity? Etc., etc., but if I transfer \$10 from my account into your account, when you see your balance go up by \$10, you know that you have received exactly \$10 from me. Also, unlike any physical object out there, I can use banking to make remote payments and, hence, coordinate economic activities with people on the other side of the world in short order.

These are the reasons we submit control of a great deal of our net worth to a number on a ledger, written by a banker, that can easily be changed by that same banker.

However, in addition to the bank closing its doors, there's also the issue that banking facilitates higher tax rates. To start a bank account, you usually need to provide the bank with your name and address. And, ultimately, tax authorities can usually ask banks for information about their customers. So now the government knows:

- Your name
- Your address
- How much money you're making
- How much money you're spending

In times gone by, peasants could hide their grain, gold, silver and other valuables and tax officials would have a pretty hard time finding them, or even knowing they existed in the first place. But when everything is on a bank ledger, and even most of your physical assets were purchased through the banking system, then the government can acquire a very accurate understanding of the income, savings and expenditure of all their citizens. This might explain why, from 1900 to today, government expenditure has increased from about 10% of GDP, to 40% of GDP.

At the most fundamental level, government is public spending.

It maybe true that government is force, but without public spending, soldiers and policemen wouldn't receive their salaries, would stop working for the government, and there'd be no force.

A big issue with alternative currency systems is that, if a single person is running the system, and if it isn't approved by the government, then the government can close down the entire operation and everyone who holds savings there might lose them completely. From 1998 to 2009, Bernard von Nothaus issued a private gold-backed note called The Liberty Dollar, he even issued electronic currency (eLD). However the whole operation was shut down in 2007 a dozen federal government agents seized two tons of the precious metals that were backing the Liberty dollar, and, in 2009, Von Nothaus was arrested and ended up spending one year in prison. After 7 years of confiscation, in 2014, the U.S. government finally returned the gold they seized to the owners.

This is an example of how a private, centrally managed, custodial system to facilitate payment, that fails to adhere to government regulations, such as KYC, AML, etc.,etc., can go badly wrong.

Bitcoin is the world's first payment system that is capable of operating robustly in countries all over the world – even where it is illegal

The key feature of bitcoin is it is a decentralized record of payment information, as well as a payment system that pays people to back it up accurately.

Basically it's a list of public keys (pseudonymous versions of Account Names) and Account balances (denominated in bitcoin). Roughly speaking, if you store this list of account names and account balances on your computer, then you can set up your own account balance and *the bitcoin algorithm* will transfer a little bit of bitcoin into your personal bitcoin account in exchange for faithfully storing a backup copy of the ledger for everyone else. And, because of this payment incentive, lots and lots of people all over the world store an identical copy of the bitcoin ledger. These people are called **Bitcoin Miners**.

It's a little bit more complicated than that. In addition to storing the account names and balances, the miners also store the past transactions and run the protocol which allows people to use their private keys to transfer bitcoin from the public key that corresponds to the account that can be accessed by that particular private key, to the account balance of any other public key. And, when a transaction happens, all the computers all over the world, which store copies of the bitcoin ledger, have to append the new transaction, in an identical manner, to the existing ledger using a consensus algorithm. Furthermore, the code for the bitcoin algorithm can be modified and the mechanism for process of inputting new code into the bitcoin protocol run by the entire network is somewhat complicated.

But the bottom line is that bitcoin is a computer program that effectively pays people to run it in addition to storing an entire payment record.

The miners are the employees, the users are the customers, but the code is the boss. And, because you can't throw a computer code into prison, there's no ring leader to arrest to disrupt the payment network. The miners ("employees of the bitcoin system"), who are paid by the code to accurately store copies of

the payment records are dispersed all across the world, and if even one of them continues to manage to store a copy, the network is still viable. The feasibility of a government arresting all the bitcoin miners everywhere in the world simultaneously is miniscule. Furthermore, if some “employees” (miners) get arrested, “the boss” (the code) offers a higher salary to attract new “employees” (miners) in order to ensure the record of payments and balances is accurately stored and robustly backed up.

It is important to remember that decentralization is not some magic spell that makes miners or users immune from the laws of their land. And those who use the bitcoin network illegally, do so at the risk of getting arrested and going to prison. Rather what decentralization means is, irrespective of how many people get arrested, the service will still be available and someone, somewhere, will surely decide it is worth their while to run it – in a similar way to how drugs remain available to buy even after a multi-decade-long war on drugs.

At the most fundamental level, cryptocurrency and decentralized ledger technology is a system for creating immutable, eternal, self-perpetuating records.

And, if you’re going to store a significant portion of your net worth as a number on some ledger, there is an obvious appeal in storing that net worth as a number on an immutable, eternal, self-perpetuating ledger, in which the sum total of all the numbers on the network will never exceed 21 million...even if the market demand for this number, a hence the exchange rate, is highly uncertain.

In theory, bitcoin is private. In practice, unless you use it extremely carefully, bitcoin is extremely public. In principle, the fact that the public keys are random strings of numbers and letters that give no information away about the individual that controls the account (by possessing the private key) means that, although the whole world can find out how many bitcoin are in any one account associated with a particular public key, they don’t know the identity of the actual person who controls that account.

However, the instant you reveal your public key, maybe on a website in order to receive bitcoin payments for some commercial service or other, then you’ve just doxxed yourself, and **the whole world** will know how much bitcoin you receive in payments for the rest of eternity. If you use bitcoin to pay someone for a product or service, then the product or service provider will need to know your public key to verify that you have in fact paid them for your service. In which case, in principle, the service provider you have paid will be able to find out how much bitcoin you have in the wallet you used to pay them forever and if they’ve delivered a good to your address, such as a pizza, then if the wallet you used to pay them was your only wallet, they will know how much bitcoin the inhabitant of the address they delivered pizza to owns anytime they may wish to check in the future **for the rest of eternity**. In practice, the majority of people who purchase bitcoin do so through a centralized exchange like coinbase. These centralized exchanges usually collect proof of identity and proof of address from their users, this means that, if you use a centralized exchange, the government can find out how much bitcoin you bought. You can transfer your bitcoin off the exchange onto a pseudonymous private wallet that you control. However, 99% of the time people will transfer bitcoin from a custodial wallet, controlled by the exchange, to a private wallet that they control. Since the government can find out which custodial wallets are assigned to which people, and since 99% of transfers from custodial wallets are to private wallets controlled by the same individual that controls the custodial wallet – it’s pretty easy for the government to work out who controls any private wallets that received money from exchanges and, hence, how much cryptocurrency they own.

Indeed, the very nature of payment will usually involve a service provider revealing their identity, otherwise how would a customer know said provider can be trusted without a reputation/brand identity? Even customers often have to reveal their home address to service providers to receive delivered goods. Hence, the actual use of bitcoin for payment (unless you're very careful to juggle around with wallet address) will frequently involve one, or both parties making the payment revealing the public key and bitcoin balance that is linked to their identity...

(Monero does not suffer from this issue, and anonymous payments can be made through Monero without the risk of doxxing yourself, in this regard Monero is superior to bitcoin)

...on the plus side, though, despite the ability of the government, or anyone else, to know how much bitcoin you have, bitcoin remains a permissionless payment system. Unlike bank accounts, no one can suspend your bitcoin account. Regarding confiscation, in principle there is what is referred to as a "wrench attack" someone buys a monkey wrench and threatens to beat in your skull with a monkey wrench unless you give them your private key (the cryptocurrency equivalent of a PIN number). From the perspective of the tax man, the equivalent of a wrench attack would be for the government to threaten to imprison you unless you transfer the taxes you owe to them (which they know you owe them through analysing the public block chain). For a handful of people with large sums of money in their wallets, this would be very easy for government cronies to do (and bitcoin whales would be wise to choose their jurisdiction carefully). However, for lots of small wallets owned by millions of people this would be considerably more difficult.

Citizens of a legitimate government should, of course, pay their taxes. Nevertheless, a cryptocurrency system does, give citizens the ability to take a principled stance, refuse to pay their taxes and, as a last resort, starve their government of money if they feel it has become illegitimate. Bitcoin also dramatically increases the cost of government oppression when compared to a CBDCs. To confiscate bitcoin, the government literally has to send police to your door, who then have to coerce each individual wallet holder to give up their private keys, which would likely involve considerable threats, and would result in law suits against the police (in countries that are still nominally free). In other words, it could be done, but it would take a lot of time an effort compared to just pressing a button and immediately suspending the CBDC account of any dissident the government doesn't like. And in a world where people only accept bitcoin, including the military and the police force, as that was the currency needed to purchase goods and services because it was the only currency that any vendor would accept, the government would potentially face an existential threat in the event that a large segment of the general public flat out refused to pay tax, as the government could enter into a vicious cycle where police quit because the government doesn't have enough bitcoin to pay them, and the government can't raise enough bitcoin, as the don't have enough police to collect the required tax revenue to pay them.

In this sense, bitcoin resists the development of a situation where, at the touch of a button, or, with a split second decision made by some anonymous enforcement AI, the system can immediately cut you off from your savings and eliminate your ability to financially transact with anyone for anything – including essential necessities required for life itself. And also makes it considerably more difficult for a government to arbitrarily confiscate the liquid wealth of their citizenry (as a response to, say, expressing dissenting views).

However, in the world of politics, resistance begets counter resistance. If the entity you attempt to resist, single-mindedly wishes to accomplish the end that you wish to resist, that entity will likely attempt to overwhelm your resistance and find new ways to achieve their goal that your strategy is less effective at resisting.

Let's consider the various ways that governments could render bitcoin's protection ineffective:

1. Launch a successful 73% attack on the bitcoin network
2. Achieve a global monopoly on the manufacture of computer hardware and then ensure that all computers are sold with a firewall that prevents users from accessing the bitcoin network, while surfing the internet (in practice, this would probably be achieved by ensuring that all the countries with major manufacturing sectors for computers and microchips had the required regulations to ensure they were sold with the firewall in place). Governments could even install kill switches onto computers that will automatically melt their circuit boards and send a signal alerting the police in the event that users attempted to by-pass the factory setting of their computer.
3. Mess around with all your other records (passport, drivers license, business license, credit rating, ownership of shares in listed companies, social media accounts, etc.,) in the event you try to use bitcoin, or any other cryptocurrency, to pay someone for something
4. Make it illegal for large businesses to accept anything other than fiat currency for the products and services they offer and large businesses are inputs into most of the supply chain – even small businesses purchase inputs from large businesses, which may only accept fiat.
5. Make bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies legal, but attack the ability of dissidents to earn money by suspending their business licenses etc. Dissidents, which the government disapprove of, will then eventually end up spending all their bitcoin (cryptocurrency) savings buying the goods and services they need from established business monopolies, and will be unable to earn further income as a result of not having the required business licenses. The result will be a constant trade deficit between the little guy and the established business interests and, eventually, the established business interests will hold all the bitcoin
6. Introduce a “Bitcoin Holding License” or “Bitcoin Transfer License” where only a small number of approved large financial institutions are legally entitled either to hold or transfer bitcoin in a wallet directly linked to the bitcoin network. But don't worry, during the amnesty period, everyone else will be allowed to exchange the bitcoin they hold inside their own personal wallets for a “bitcoin-backed CBDC”, which is basically the same thing right? After the amnesty period, the government would then criminally prosecute and imprison anyone caught holding or transferring bitcoin without a license.

As I explained in the previous chapter, people who are good at advancing their political objectives excel at forming alliances with all the necessary “stakeholders” they require to implement and enforce whatever political changes they intend to impose upon the broader population – and to eliminate all obstacles that may stand in their way. This tends to result in an unholy cordial alliance forming between all the relevant levers of power. Once upon a time, this was an alliance between the Church and the State. Today, the alliance is more complicated, with the military, the police, the courts, the banking system, the corporate media and the education system at the core, along with alliances between the various large manufactures that produce the infrastructure that facilitates the continuity of the control

network along with the society that it controls all acting with some degree of coordination and with various political movements understanding that all of the relevant institutions need to be co-opted at some level to accomplish any sweeping goals of reform.

As such, it's reasonable to assume that any alliance of power brokers, which emerges and successfully achieves political dominance, will try to either co-opt bitcoin and cryptocurrency, and mould it into a successful tool required to control the population and achieve their objectives – or they will work to eliminate it altogether. Furthermore, it's important to keep in mind that the top power brokers tend to be people who are very effective at getting things done, and accomplishing what they want, so resisting their plans will not be easy and, since their plans will likely be dynamic and will change in the face of resistance, any resistance strategy must also be dynamic, and capable of changing with time and be capable of rolling with the punches.

...hodling bitcoin and waiting for it to appreciate enough to buy a lambo will **not** be sufficient to prevent the smartest, most well-connected and effective executors in the world from building their control infrastructure, creating a defacto AI-driven social credit system (even if such a system is never officially announced and merely takes the form of manipulating all our existing public records in a centrally coordinated, surveillance-driven manner) and maybe, someday, forcibly ordering everyone to get implantable tracking devices and brain implants...

And now, without further adieu, let's go through the various ways that a centralized authority could either destroy, render irrelevant (by reducing bitcoin's price to zero), or co-opt (with bitcoin backed CBDCs where only licensed institutions can hold bitcoin directly) bitcoin and other cryptocurrency networks.

Launch a successful 73% attack on the network

The main thing which protects the bitcoin network from a 73% attack is that any private interest which invests sufficient money to control 73% of the hash-power of the bitcoin network is, almost by definition, also invested in the success of the network. Attacking the bitcoin network after purchasing enough computers to control 73% of the hash power would be like buying a Mercedes Benz and then smashing it with a sledge hammer. A 73% attack on bitcoin would cause the price of bitcoin to absolutely plummet. Thus, the price depreciation of bitcoin itself would probably outweigh the value of bitcoin which a successful attacker could steal as a result of the attack.

Furthermore, it would not be easy to surreptitiously acquire enough bitcoin mining hardware (processors, power supply, coolant, etc.,) and consume the power equivalent of the country of Argentina while remaining anonymous. Hence, if a private individual, or illegal cartel, tried to attack the bitcoin network, it is almost guaranteed that they would be detected and identified. In which case, all the bitcoin holders of the world, including hedge funds and large cryptoexchanges, such as coinbase, would likely all sue the attacker simultaneously and again, because the attack would cause bitcoin's price to plummet, there is no guarantee that the attacker would be able to use his bitcoin to fund an effective defence. And any identified attackers that blatantly messed with that much money, would almost guarantee that a lot of powerful people would take contracts out on their lives.

So, for the overwhelming majority of actors, there is simply no incentive to launch a successful attack on the bitcoin network.

The only actor that could profit from attacking the network would be an attacker:

- That could credibly roll out a replacement currency (and so would win, rather than lose out, from a crash in the price of bitcoin)
- Had an army to defend himself against all the furious bitcoin holders who would inevitably identify them
- Has a lot of people trying to assassinate them already and has sufficient security protect himself from assassins, and so wouldn't be phased by a slew of new contracts taken out on his or her life.

Only one kind of credible actor fits the bill: A nation state.

This is the problem with the maximalist proposition: if we assume bitcoin will dwarf all other assets then, at some point, it will interfere with the vested interests of nation states with enormous budgets and militaries to boot – including superpowers.

Imagine a situation where:

- A nation state builds up a sizeable bitcoin mining facility
- And then plants saboteurs in the bitcoin mining facilities of all the major bitcoin mining companies (which at this point are so large that they're not easy to hide)
- Then either with the use of bombs, or cyberattacks that, say, mess with the coolant pumps of all the other bitcoin mining facilities at the same time, takes them all out simultaneously
- At this point, the hashpower of the nation-state attacker is sufficient to dominate the hashpower of all the other bitcoin miners, and it gains the capacity to insert malicious code into the blockchain
- The result of a successful attack on bitcoin would likely be a massive crash in the price of bitcoin. This would cause a vicious cycle where a lot of bitcoin mining operations would be forced to scale down as they would otherwise end up running at a loss. A nation-state actor, on the other hand, might be willing to mine bitcoin at a loss for an extended duration in order to successfully prosecute a War on Bitcoin. By so doing, the malicious nation state actor could artificially make mining bitcoin uneconomic for a protracted period of time to the point where **ALL** the for-profit bitcoin miners shut down their operation and the nation-state attacker controls 100% of the hashpower
- Keep in mind, in this scenario, the major bitcoin mining facilities are damaged (either through a bomb going off inside the facility, or through overheating due to a coolant failure from a cyberattack) if the price of bitcoin crashes and the malicious state actor uses its hashpower to maintain a cost of mining at a level that is so high that no one can profitably mine it, then which bitcoin miners will be willing to invest the immense amount of capitol into repairing their sabotaged facilities during a period where it is impossible to even mine bitcoin profitably?
- Keep in mind, government intelligence agencies excel in infiltrating networks and communities, either by introducing their people into the community from the bottom, or by digging up the dirt on prominent and active community members at the top – and then blackmailing them to

implement whatever changes the intelligence agencies want. This process of infiltration and blackmail could be utilized by a determined intelligence agency to insert malicious code into the bitcoin network protocol

- Once the malicious state actor breaks the bitcoin network. That same actor will be able to **sequentially destroy every single other proof of work network in existence** gumming them all up to the point that operating and transacting on them becomes both impractical and impossible

A significant challenge with the use of proof of work blockchains to moderate the power of existing established interests is that existing established interests are the ones who control the world's energy resources. And in a proof of work network, the ability to burn energy is what gets you influence.

Proof of Stake networks have their own vulnerabilities, however one big advantage of proof of stake over proof of work is that attacking a Proof of Stake network depends on having the particular tokens which are associated with that network whereas the same generic hash-power can be used to overwhelm all Proof of Work Blockchains simultaneously.

Also, acquiring an attacking share of a Proof of Stake network will push up the price and hence, if anything, empower the network.

Thus Proof of Stake serves as a many-headed hydra. One, or even many, networks can be compromised and taken out by an attacker, but such attacks will not compromise the remaining networks.

Ensure the factory settings of all retail computers deny access to the bitcoin network

With the proliferation of supra-national global institutions, it is clear that government regulation the world over is highly correlated across many countries – think about how correlated the response of national governments in many countries was to COVID, for example. In general, different industrial sectors achieve dominance in different countries. Globally, if we include the European Union as a single sovereign regulator, six countries make over 90% of the world's microchip production. Imagine a situation where all the countries that manufacture some key component of computers could be pressured into passing some kind of regulation that forced (microchip) manufacturers that operated inside them to place some kind of device with a hard-coded malware package (like a mini flashdrive) that is automatically installed in every computer which relays that computer's activity, through 5G to a central AI. This AI can detect the online activity of the user and, in the event the user accesses their bitcoin wallet, automatically transfers all the bitcoin in the wallet to a wallet held by some supra-national organisation, say, the BIS. One could imagine the BIS might bribe the relevant countries to pass such regulations by offering them (or getting their minions to offer them) tempting low-interest loans in exchange for forcing computing hardware manufacturers to insert said malware into all the computer components they export.

This scenario would be extremely unlikely in a situation where there is considerable international rivalry. And there would probably be ways to get around it. But even through putting a small amount of

counter-fit mice, keyboards, computers, and even cryptocurrency hardware wallets into the supply chain, it might be possible for the intelligence agencies of governments to generate enough scare stories of people losing their entire life savings through accessing their cryptocurrency wallet, using faulty hardware, to discourage the majority of the population from using cryptocurrency, and to stick to “safe” CBDCs instead.

Reducing the demand for bitcoin to close to zero, so that holders find it practically impossible to find anyone, anywhere willing to sell anything for it, would have the equivalent effect to launching a 73% attack on the network. The network would still remain, but its existence would be irrelevant.

Mess around with all your other records

In the previous chapter I described a dystopian scenario where the government could use an AI to spy on everyone’s behaviour and mess around with their:

- Driver’s license
- Credit Rating
- Bank Account
- Business license
- Passport
- Social media account

Unless they towed the government’s ideological line, avoided talking about the wrong things, avoided unapproved behaviour, avoided reading unapproved content, voted for the right people, and avoided associating with the wrong people.

With the bitcoin network, government authorities can’t mess with your bitcoin balance with the touch of a button. But they could still potentially mess with your driver’s license, your passport, your credit rating, your business license, your qualifications, your social media account, and so on and so forth. They can still put pressure on your employer to give you the sack and, once you’ve got the sack, they can deny you social welfare, in addition to any permits you may require to run your own business honestly.

If you’ve got no income, and no way to make any, then you’re going to be highly reliant on your bitcoin savings appreciating to procure the means to live. Furthermore, if the government specifically decides to mess with the public records of people who hold cryptocurrencies, then that will likely push the price of bitcoin down, and it will also make most people afraid to sell you goods or services for bitcoin – or other cryptocurrencies.

If the government have this level of control, even with bitcoin, then clearly bitcoin isn’t enough. For those who are concerned about government overreach, we clearly need a parallel blockchain coordinated society who all provide for each other’s needs in a way that goes beyond a few people hodling bitcoin but otherwise working within the existing system.

Force All Large Businesses To Accept Fiat Currency

Large businesses are too big to hide and have too much capital at stake to be able to risk non-compliance. Governments just make up whatever rules they want and the difference between no fine at all and an infinitely high fine is just one vote in parliament. For that reason, large businesses are very careful to comply with regulations (exception when non-compliance is existential to their business model). For that reason, if governments told large businesses “the fine for accepting bitcoin payments for the provision of services is \$1 billion” you can be sure that no large corporation would be willing to provide services to anyone in exchange for bitcoin...or any other cryptocurrency.

Small businessmen and sole traders might be willing to take the risk, for the right premium, and hope to fly under the radar. But most small businesses have at least some large suppliers for at least some of their input. So if a situation develops where the small business accepts bitcoin from customers, but pays fiat in order to procure the required inputs, or purchase important services from large suppliers, then such a small businessman would have to sell crypto for fiat in order to avoid racking up massive fiat debts (along with their corresponding interest rates). This in turn would create a sell pressure for cryptocurrency, and would probably deter small businessmen from accepting bitcoin either.

Make bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies legal, but attack the ability of dissidents to earn money

In this scenario, bitcoin and cryptocurrencies become the dominant currency, but the centralization of power continues nevertheless as the powers that be use coercion in other parts of the public record to ensure that anyone who doesn't toe the ideological line, promoted by whatever power-brokers achieve dominance in society, are still reduced to destitution. Hence, the citizenry remains stripped, to all intents and purposes, of the freedom to speak, think, research and lobby for political positions and causes that disagree with the ideology of the dominant power. This is similar to scenario (3) except no one is punished for using bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies. However, people *are* punished for reading unapproved sources, expressing unapproved opinions, voting the wrong way etc., through all the other government records and regulations that are centrally editable (drivers license, passport, business license, educational qualifications, social media and so on and so forth). In this scenario, many cryptoenthusiasts cheer as cryptocurrencies go “to the moon” but the underlying reality remains a totalitarian Orwellian surveillance state where every move you make and every word you speak is watched – it's just a totalitarian system where people use bitcoin, and other cryptocurrencies, as a medium of exchange instead of fiat – but people are still very careful what they do, say read and associate with for fear of the surveillance AI cancelling their business license, passport, qualifications, pressurizing their employer to fire them, cancelling their welfare... and so on and so forth. Because they have crypto, all their assets cannot easily be seized, but there's enough regulations and centrally controlled records that people still rely on the favour of the political system to secure their income.

Introduce a “Bitcoin Holding License” or “Bitcoin Transfer License” only granted to a handful of approved large financial institutions

Today a large enough fraction of the population owns cryptocurrency to make directly banning and seizing it extremely impractical. However, while the government probably won't directly seize the underlying assets, they may well order the peasantry to exchange their decentralized cryptocurrency for a centrally controlled cryptocurrency receipt issued by a handful of licensed financial institutions. In

this scenario, the government would pass a law which forbids the transfer of cryptocurrency between unlicensed wallets. To legally transfer cryptocurrency from one wallet to another you would need to be a licensed financial institution. In this scenario, the only people legally transferring cryptocurrency across the underlying blockchain networks would be large licensed financial institutions. Everyone else would not have a license and, if they were found to have a balance on the underlying network (after an amnesty period where people are allowed to exchange their crypto for “crypto receipts”), they would get fined or arrested. However, they would be allowed to hold their bitcoin, or other crypto-assets in a licensed custodial financial institution. This institution would then issue them with “crypto receipts” recorded on a ledger which is centrally controlled, and unilaterally, editable by the licensed financial institution. And to have an account with the custodial institution you would need to perform KYC etc., holders of crypto receipts would then be able to transfer their crypto receipt account between different licensed institutions in much the same way as you can transfer money from an account in one bank to an account held in another bank today. The banks would then transfer the underlying cryptocurrency between each of their wallets held on the underlying blockchain. But, although the average person would continue to get price exposure to cryptocurrency, there would be no pseudonymity and all payments would be permissioned and the banks would have the right to suspend your account if they wished.

A lighter version of this situation would be one where private individuals are allowed to self-custody cryptocurrency on a wallet directly on the blockchain whose keys only they possessed, but where it is illegal for an unlicensed wallet to transfer cryptocurrency to another unlicensed wallet.

So:

Unlicensed Wallet → Licensed Wallet = Legal
Licensed Wallet → Licensed Wallet = Legal
Unlicensed Wallet → Unlicensed Wallet = **Illegal**

In other words, if you want to use cryptocurrency to legally buy a good or service, unless you were a financial institution, you would have to first transfer your cryptocurrency into the wallet of a licensed financial institution, that would then issue you with cryptocurrency receipts and you could legally use those cryptocurrency receipts to pay for goods and services by transferring some cryptocurrency receipts, held in your bank account, into the cryptocurrency receipt bank account of a vendor selling you a good or service. That vendor could then legally exchange his cryptocurrency receipts held custodially by a licensed financial institution for real cryptocurrency held in a wallet that he directly controls (in exchange for paying a withdrawal fee to the institution in question). However, if the vendor wished to legally spend his cryptocurrency again he would have to first redeposit it into a licensed financial institution.

The lighter version, where people can store cryptocurrency directly on the network but can only legally spend it by transferring it into a licensed financial institution might not be so bad – as I will argue in the coming chapters, by default, in a relatively legitimate state, one should act legally, but one must always retain *the ability* to organise and act illegally as a last resort, in the event a tyrannical cabal seizes power and begins to violate people’s basic human rights right, left and centre. And so long as people had the ability to legally *hold* cryptocurrency in a wallet they directly control then, in the event that the government or financial institutions got really bad, they would retain the ability to spend it illegally – as a last resort.

Under these circumstances, there would be a bitcoin standard, very much along the lines of the gold standard, where the banks hold most of the bitcoin and continue to facilitate most transactional payments between people, but where bitcoin is the ultimate store of value and serves to impose discipline on the banks' issuance of digital "bitcoin receipts". In fairness, such a system would have certain advantages as retail users of bitcoin receipts, managed by the banks, would be able to casually spend bitcoin receipts and give people their custodial bitcoin receipt account numbers and sort codes away without revealing their entire net worth of bitcoin to the world in perpetuity. Whereas, in a situation where everyone uses the bitcoin network directly, there are bound to be tons of clueless retail users out there who would do things like put their public keys to their main wallet up on websites to attract donations and sell merch without realising that the entire world will then be able to know their net worth in bitcoin. So, ironically, a centralized custodial bank ledger could actually protect the privacy on non-technical individuals who don't really know what they're doing.

It's worth keeping in mind that a traditional banking system based on a bitcoin standard would be a massive improvement compared to a comparable banking system based on a gold standard. Gold is hidden away in a vault, so there's always some doubt whether the banks have all the gold they claim. Has some gold been debased? Have they bribed the auditor? Etc., However, the open nature of the blockchain is such that, in the case of a bitcoin standard, once the public keys of the various banking institutions were known, then the whole world would always know how much bitcoin each bank kept in their "vault." And so any member of the public could audit a bank's bitcoin holding at any time. As such, it would be much easier to detect if a bank was cheating wrt issuing too many bitcoin receipts (as compared to cheating wrt gold receipts).

But the underlying point is that bitcoin alone is insufficient to protect humanity from tyranny and government overreach.

Ultimately, the decentralized ledger can only ever be a tool for a community to use. It's true that technology shapes society, but the way it shapes society is always a delicate dance between the new capabilities, which a novel technology opens up, and how society chooses to use that capability. No protocol can shape society on its own. The protocol of blockchain governance must always interact with the society or community that uses it.

Computers display signals. And protocols can display intricate and ordered patterns of signals. But if we talk about blockchain governance, the ultimate real-life affect of those signals given out by a decentralized network will be determined by the meaning which the community that uses them ascribes to such signals displayed by the network. And that will be determined by the social norms and regulatory procedures of the society that uses the decentralized network in question. These regulatory procedures/social norms/etc., can never be entirely determined by the code – which will only ever be a tool, at best, to coordinate the society – although such regulatory procedures may complement the code.

As a simple example, consider a rule for maintaining decentralized distributed control in a Proof of Stake Network. A protocol could be written that limits the number of coins a given wallet could stake – such a protocol, on its own however, could not enforce decentralized control as any given human being could always control multiple wallets. However, if there was a community procedure in meat-space which ensured that each human being on the network could only control one wallet, and perhaps NFTs could be allocated by the community to humanity verification inspectors and you had to shake the hand

and meet a humanity verification inspector in person to get your wallet approved for staking, then a combined interaction between the protocol and the norms enforced by the real community *could* guarantee a high level of decentralized control in a given decentralized ledger network.

This is just one example of how the social norms of a real living community of interacting human beings could greatly extend the possibilities for the range of organized behaviour that a protocol could facilitate.

THE FOUR STEPS TO DECENTRALIZED CIVILIZATION

Many people today fetishize cryptocurrency, and believe it's a magic silver bullet that will automatically render their holders immune to government oppression. A policeman shows up at your door, you show them your ledger nano X hardware wallet and declare: "Your powers are useless against me! I own bitcoin!" to which the policeman replies: "Oh, my mistake! Sorry to bother you sir!" and walks away.

Cryptocurrency and decentralized data storage are, indeed, valuable tools for resisting centralized tyranny, but only if wielded correctly. Without a clear strategy, the mere existence of cryptocurrency and decentralized data storage is like having a gun, a sword, or a crossbow to hand yet having no idea how to use them. Even if you own a modern pistol during the medieval period, without training on how to use it, without organising with others, how do you think you'll fare when you try to use it to defend yourself against an organised cohort of the king's crossbow men and archers who've trained to use their weapon of choice for their entire lives?

If you have no idea how to use the weapons that you possess to organize a defence, there is little purpose in having them. To understand how we can use decentralized data storage to defend against tyranny, we must absorb two things:

1. At its most basic level, the purpose of the blockchain, or any other decentralized storage system, is to store an immutable append-only record of information, where the combination of a cryptocurrency payment system, and a protocol that only pays cryptocurrency to miners who store the record with **absolute precision** ensures there will always be an inexhaustible supply of new miners who are willing to make precise backups of the network's legacy record of information forever
2. At its most basic level, the goal of any stealth turnkey authoritarian system is to create a situation where defectors, who don't go along with ideology of the regime, will be immediately unable to transact, or even communicate, with the rest of society and will be denied permissions to engage in a range of activities. This includes transactions which secure the most basic necessities of life, or permission to engage in even the most basic activities. This system will be enforced by a centrally editable digital record that records who has permission to do what.

The core question then simply is: How can we use (1) to prevent (2)?

One can easily envisage a situation where an immutable record of information exists, but where everyone ignores it and instead pay attention to the centrally editable digital record that is maintained by "respectable" members of society with "legitimate" authority.

In such a situation, the mere existence of (1) will be utterly ineffective at preventing (2).

Decentralized data storage is merely a tool that can be used by people to organise and coordinate a resistance to centralized tyranny. But, in order for that tool to be effective, it needs to be accompanied by a suitable coordination strategy.

Ultimately, the fundamental unit of sovereignty is the nation. A nation is a collective group of people who:

1. **Transact with one another**
2. **Communicate with each other**
3. **Produce most of the goods and services they need and trade for the balance**
4. **Have the capacity to defend their interests and rights against aggressors**

All these capabilities are necessary in order for a nation of free people to protect their rights against a tyrannical oppressor.

Defence cannot work without a productive economy. Soldiers cannot withstand an enemy army for long if their citizens can't feed them, or even supply them with arms. And a productive economy cannot function without communications and transactions, where communication is used to specify what you want someone else to do for you and transactions are used to compensate them for responding to your communication to meet your needs. Communication and transactions are also necessary for an effective defence as the troupes need to be aware of the activities of both their enemies and their brothers in arms and also need to get paid for their efforts to defend their nation so that they can buy what they need from the productive economy to sustain themselves.

The problem with many sovereign nations, however, is that though they may be capable of protecting their citizens from having their rights violated by a foreign aggressor, the central controllers of many nations are often guilty of violating the rights of their own citizens and, all too often, the components of nations (i.e. the citizens) lack the ability to defend their rights against the enforcement authorities of the nations they exist within.

But what if there was no central enforcement authority for a nation? What if every function of a nation could be decentralized? What if the rights of the citizens could somehow be enshrined into computer code and defended automatically?

Like any nation, a decentralized nation would have the capacity to effectively defend the sovereign rights of its citizens against a foreign aggressor. But, with luck, unlike many nations which exist today, a decentralized nation would also **reliably defend the individual rights of each individual citizen against the domestic enforcement authorities as well.**

Implementing such ideas in practice will not be easy and will require a lot of hard work and probably involve numerous mistakes.

But we have to try.

In the following four chapters I will attempt to describe how the four functions of nationhood might be organised through the use of decentralized systems.

The goal here is not to actually create a full, official nation, but rather to create the **ability** to **rapidly** coordinate a decentralized nation anytime, anywhere **if need be**. In practice, we can expect any government to respond with extreme aggression to attempts made by groups of people within their borders to assert their sovereignty, especially sovereign rights which the ruling powers don't recognise. In many cases, where the ruling powers are doing a reasonably good job of keeping order, such assertions of sovereignty would be unnecessary and provocative. Yet, in other cases, such assertions of sovereignty against a government that's barreling down a path towards totalitarian tyranny, maybe be **absolutely essential** – irrespective of how aggressive the ruthless tyrant's response may be.

The primary purpose of these proposed decentralized systems is to serve as turnkey set of tools that can be used by oppressed peoples the world over to effectively resist oppression from their state if need be (the decentralized nature of said organisations will not, of course, protect the individuals participants from punishment by the state, it will, however, make it impossible for a state to “decapitate” an organised resistance through arresting ringleaders, as it will be the software that does the organising)

The secondary purpose of these proposed decentralized systems of organization is to enable people to slip their heads out of a gradually tightening noose of control-by-centrally-editable-record. And ensure that, irrespective of how much a state messes up and damages the personal public record of an individual that they control, a parallel record, that can be maintained on the blockchain, will always exist to guarantee the reputation of that individual – and that individuals with sabotaged public records, but high quality parallel blockchain records, will always be able to find a community of people willing to transact with them economically and support their needs. And, by so doing, these parallel records will support freedom of speech and freedom of thought in the face of encroaching state tyranny.

If, in the far future, an official, fully decentralized nation should emerge, all the better. But for the purpose of this manifesto, we will focus on the tools and strategies required to resist the emerging totalitarian system of control over information and thought which the various central governments, financial interests and social media companies seem eager to impose upon the wider population.

But whether we are talking about decentralized payment, decentralized communication, decentralized production or decentralized defence, the core feature that all these systems must have in common is that they must be capable of functioning illegally. That is not to say they should necessarily be illegal. Governments may choose to make them legal or governments may try to ban them but, irrespective of whether they are legal or not, the infrastructure must be capable of functioning. The very word “illegal” may send shivers down the spines of some people, but when push comes to shove, it is impossible to resist a sufficiently determined, tyrannical government without resorting to illegal action of some kind and some of the people we respect the most, such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King engaged in illegal activity. This is obviously extremely risky, but all I can say is that it comes down to the conscious of each man to decide for himself whether he believes – all things considered – that his government is legitimate and worthy of obedience...or not.

DECENTRALIZED PAYMENT

Decentralized payment is the backbone of everything else that's decentralized. As the essence of all decentralized organization is a programme (which can't be arrested) paying people to do something or run something to maintain it. Hence, a decentralized payment system is linked to all other decentralized systems. In the case of a pure decentralized payment system, like bitcoin, the code literally pays people (miners) to run the payment system on their computer.

In a previous chapter I outlined a Doomsday Scenario where a Nation State takes out the bitcoin network. And, even more horrifyingly, once bitcoin is taken out all other proof of work networks can also be taken out in short order. With Proof of Stake, however, if the majority stakeholders are benign and refuse to sell, there's not much you can do to attack the system (other than steal their keys if they've been practising poor security). But also with proof of stake, the disruption of any one proof of Stake network will have relatively little impact on other proof of stake networks.

The ultimate function of any decentralized ledger is to perpetually maintain an immutable append-only record for all eternity with absolute precision.

Why one might want to do this, and what applications one might use this for, could be varied but the underlying goal of these decentralized systems remain the same.

So the question then is:

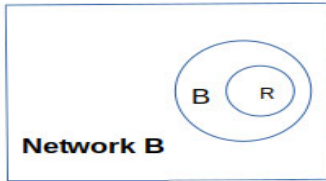
Is there any way to preserve an immutable, append-only record in perpetuity that could be more secure than bitcoin's proof of work system?

I think the answer might be to have a Proof of stake network that pays other proof of stake networks interest to store a precise copy of a given record, R.

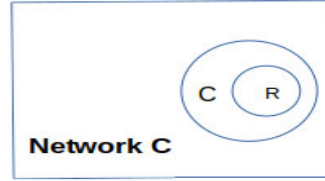
In this example illustrated below, network R stores data record R. People who stake coin R (the native cryptocurrency of network R) receive interest in coin R. However, network R is also capable of detecting other unrelated Proof of Stake networks, checking them to see if they are faithfully storing record R and faithfully appending record R in accordance with how network R is appending record R and, if another network both faithfully stores and appends record R in a manner that is consistent with how network R does it, then network R will evaluate the security of the other network and reward those who stake coins on this compatible record-R-protecting network with coin R. So, in the example shown, Network B stores and appends an identical version of Network R, Network R detects this and,



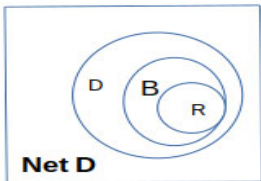
Stake: coin R
Earn interest: coin R



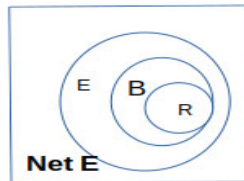
Stake: coin B
Earn interest: coin B, R



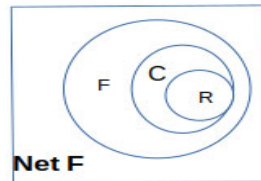
Stake: coin C
Earn interest: coin C, R



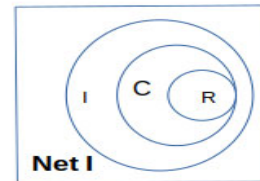
Stake: coin D
Earn interest: coin D, B, R



Stake: coin E
Earn interest: coin E, B, R



Stake: coin F
Earn interest: coin F, C, R



Stake: coin I
Earn interest: coin I, C, R

for this reason, rewards those staking coin B on network B, with coin R. Hence those who stake their coins on Network B will earn interest in Coin B and Coins R – even if the had no coin R previously. Network B stores record B, of which record R is a subset. Like Network R, Network B is also programmed to detect other Proof of Stake Networks that Store record B and append it in a manner that is compatible to how network B appends the record and to reward them with coin B. Both Network D and Network E do this. And, for this reason, individuals who stake coin D on network D, also earn coin B. But because record R is a subset of record B, those staking coin D on network D will also earn interest in coin R. (In total earning coins D, B and R). I've also shown an example of Network C, that stores record R but not record B as a subset of record C. And Network F that stores record C.

Anyhow...you should get the idea.

Now imagine network R gets attacked and the attacker inserts malicious code into the protocol which changes record R in a manner other than append only, in other words, the attacker tries to change record R's past. But let's assume that Network B remains intact. Because record R is a subset of network B and the protocol for network B is append-only, network B is now incapable of modifying record R in a manner consistent with the way the attacker modified it. For this reason, those staking coins on network B will cease to earn coin R as a result of staking coins B on B. However, they will continue to earn coin B for staking on network B. And because record R is now a subset of record B, record R remains intact up to the very moment that it was successfully attacked.

All the other networks C, D, F and I operate on the same append-only principle and hence also, those staking on these networks will no longer earn coin R as a result. However, because record R is now incorporated into their native networks, they continue to preserve the way it was up to the very point when Network R was attacked.

If we now assume that Network R was the primary facilitator of a popular, high market capitalization, high utility token X, then, after the attack the ledger for token X would hard fork into X2, stored on network R that has been attacked and token X stored on all the other networks storing data record R that were not attacked. Presumably the holders of token X would be shocked by the attack on Network R and be eager to shore up the integrity of the remaining networks which continue to accurately store their token balance. And so maybe some token X holders, might sell some of their token X holdings and use them to purchase coin B and then stake that coin on network B, to increase the security of network B against an attack through boosting the market capitalization of coin B and increasing the barrier of entry for an attacker.

Ultimately, decentralized data storage is all about maintaining the integrity of a data record. If a given network fails to store a data record accurately as a result of being successfully attacked, so long as an exact back up of the data record is stored on another network, the result is no great loss.

But, in any case, bitcoin currently exists as a highly decentralized cryptocurrency payment system which enables people to make payments to each other, irrespective of what any government would prefer, with no ring leader that can be arrested to take the system down.

There are many other cryptocurrency payment systems out there. At the moment probably no other payment systems are currently as secure as bitcoin, but hopefully, in time, a range of other decentralized cryptocurrency payment systems will get battle-tested enough to inspire confidence in their security. Hopefully at least a few cryptocurrency systems will achieve dominance that are based on different security principles that can back each other's records up so that the integrity of the underlying records can be preserved even in the face of a successful attack on one or more of the networks.

The ability for anyone to store and transfer wealth permissionlessly across borders, and make payments permissionlessly for goods and services, is a very significant contribution to defanging the bank's ability to destroy the lives of people they don't like by suspending their accounts – or by making it impossible for customers to pay them.

Also, a decentralized payment system, is the springboard to coordinate an unlimited range of other decentralized activities.

Once you have a decentralized software program that has the ability to pay people, that opens up the possibility to create software programmes that pay people *to do things*. Which in turn facilitates the organization of any activity between multiple human beings (which, until now, would require a head ringleader, or group of ringleaders) without requiring the existence of any ringleader at all.

What kind of activities can be organised really just depend on the *payment criteria* which may be hardcoded into the payment network and is limited, only by the imagination of the programmer.

DECENTRALIZED COMMUNICATION

Perhaps **free communication** is the single greatest safeguard which a population has against any sinister machinations which their leaders may have to consolidate power, and eliminate any future possibility of regime change, even at the expense of the basic rights of citizens. Free Communication is essential to enable those outside the regime to monitor the activities of the regime and warn the population in the event that such activities should threaten the rights, freedoms, or the future ability of the population to engage in the political process and replace their leaders if need be.

The principle power advantage that rulers have over their subjects is always organization. When rulers are doing a good job, members of the public are often happy to let them get on with the business of organising the running of the country. However, when rulers are doing a bad job, the only way to overthrow them is to organise against them. **And communication is essential for the public to both identify unacceptable crimes and other activities perpetrated by their leaders, and also to facilitate organising the required political response to expel them from their seat of power and replace them with someone more suitable.** Needless to say, for this very reason, rulers and others with great influence within society often don't like people communicating their misdeeds, or other embarrassing information, and would like to be able to force the communication systems to censor the spread of any information that could damage them – so that they might conduct their misdeeds, crimes and plots quietly outside of public's gaze.

For this reason, it is essential to have a communication system that can't be turned off or censored by the simple flick of a switch from a handful of oligarchs. A communication system that is both effective and can even operate illegally, if need be. A communication system that will remain up and function even in the face of the most intense attempts by the leadership, the military, the police, and industry to take it down and will continue to enable people to exchange messages and news – including unapproved news that the state, and oligarchy, desperately wish to censor – even in the face of a vicious onslaught by the world's most powerful people.

Ultimately, perhaps the greatest reason why uncensored news is essential is because all societies have brutal treatments for those who've committed heinous crimes. Throwing someone into prison for life is a truly brutal punishment which I think very few readers would wish upon themselves, their family or their friends – but if the crime is sufficiently heinous, such as murder, it might be justified. However, if the state has total control over all the information that everyone sees, and total censorship power, then

if it wants to coerce someone it doesn't like, who says the wrong thing, or campaigns for the wrong cause, then all it has to do is accuse them of some heinous crime, like murder or rape and battery, for example, and if it has total control over the dissemination of information, then who in the general public would be the wiser? Alternatively, if a critic of the regime dies in an "accident", and the regime has total control of the country's communication system, then how could the general public ever find out if they were, in fact, assassinated? Such state brutality based on false accusations of crimes could be applied to ringleaders who oppose the systematic oppression of a race, religion or other group – or indeed for any other reason. Uncensorable news and analysis serve a vital function in curbing the ability of the state to systematically brutalise its enemies based on false accusations of crimes, or at least alert the public when it occurs, and, at the very least, make those in charge of the country reluctant to accuse their enemy of false crimes too frequently or too blatantly...if they are unable to suppress the spread of critiques of their accusation and evidence that may call it into question or, even, outright disprove it.

A further advantage of one, or many, decentralized communication platforms is that they would also serve to back cryptocurrency up with an asset of real and tangible value: attention. A cryptocurrency linked to a social media platform, is probably the most basic way to confer real, tangible value to a cryptocurrency and counter any claims that said cryptocurrency is a "worthless ponzi scheme." It is feasible to make a social-media-linked cryptocurrency valuable by plugging it into a social media platform with a business model akin to facebook. Where normal users can use it for free, but where advertisers must pay the native cryptocurrency in order to access premium data analytics software and run targeted ads.

If running targetted ads on a decentralized social media platform generates sales revenue and profit in fiat currency...

...and if the only way to run such target ads, which drive fiat profits, is to spend the native cryptocurrency to access the data analytics and ad promotion software...

...then it makes sense for advertisers to reinvest some of their fiat profits produced by sales from running the ads into purchasing more cryptocurrency, in order to run more ads and make more sales...

...this will generate a rational exchange rate between the native cryptocurrency of the decentralized social media platform and fiat currency – irrespective of any speculative pressure, or lack thereof.

In addition to miners, who host and run the software, setting up their own wallet and getting cryptocurrency paid into it, moderators, content creators, developers, etc., etc., could also receive cryptocurrency in exchange for improving the code, moderating content and even producing content.

Again, in such a system, "the code would be the boss" coordinating the required activities to run the platform and, again, since you can't throw computer code in prison, the code could continue to coordinate and compensate people to undertake the required activities to host and run the platform in perpetuity. Much like the illegal drug market, if some "employees" of the code got arrested, the code could simply raise the price for the important work they do to manage and run the platform until someone, somewhere, in some part of the world decided that the salary was worth the risk.

It's important to be realistic about the ugly side of this – as the ugly side is inescapable. A fully uncensored platform would attract terrorists plotting to organise atrocities and find new recruits, advertisements for illegal drugs, weapons and child sex slaves would appear from time to time. Scammers and confidence tricksters would lurk, as would full on Neo-nazis and every kind of extremist imaginable.

But it is also important to remember that no amount of encryption or communication facilitation can render organised crime immune from the law. As, no matter how secure the pathway of a message, if the end point of that message is a police informant, then the police will always be able to gather the evidence they need to put the criminals behind bars (as they should). Every organisation needs participation to function, and the process of recruiting new participants, opens up a criminal organisation to undercover cops, as does the disillusionment of existing participants. And then there's the matter of neighbours simply working with the police and reporting suspicious activities and crimes they witnessed or fell victim to.

So an uncensorable social media platform might facilitate crime, but it would certainly not make criminals immune from the law.

But should we create a platform that could make the police's job of catching criminals a bit harder?

While the work of the police in gathering evidence and carefully prosecuting serious criminals who commit appalling and immoral crimes should always be applauded, and while some ability to keep crime down is important, society does not have a duty to maximize the efficiency of policing, or to embrace anything that will completely eliminate crime. Perhaps if everyone had a chip in their brains that made committing crime impossible then all crime would be eliminated...does that mean we should do it? Inserting a tracking device with a camera and microphone into the body of everyone on the planet might make the police's job easier...does that mean we should do it?

In many respects it is a healthier situation to have electronic encryption which forces police to talk to neighbours in order to get the information they need to catch criminals as that, in turn, forces them to cultivate good relationships in the neighbourhood, effectively ensuring that the police can only do their job when a social contract is in place which the majority of people agree with. As compared to a situation where police never talk to the community because surveillance tech delivers better, more reliable, information than any distraught human witness and so instead the police spend their time gazing in front of computer screens, scrolling through surveillance camera footage, social media posts and intercepted "private" emails, until the AI crime analytics programme tells them to arrest someone, at which point they break down the door and make the arrest. Perhaps, it may be more efficient, but there's something about the lack of witness testimony, the lack of face to face engagement between the police and the civilian population, in this scenario, that is somewhat disturbing.

It's also worth mentioning that, in principle, you could have a decentralized algorithm that did selectively censor things. The computer code can pay moderators cryptocurrency to delete unwanted content. Users could each have a vote on the platform (perhaps weighted to meaningful content produced to avoid multi-accounting) and elect moderators to censor certain content which the users deem undesirable. Or censorship could be on a group by group basis, with some groups on the platform that are moderated, and other groups that are not. That would enable users to avoid offensive, illegal content by joining groups where such content is moderated out.

However, if the user base of a decentralized platform chose to moderate out certain content, the key point is that their choice of what to moderate would not have to conform to the law or the oligarchs. A user base could decide it wanted certain content moderated out, while at the same time decide other content – which the law forbids broadcasting – is suitable to be broadcast on the platform and again, there'd be no one ringleader that could be arrested.

In any case, once the cat's out of the bag and decentralized platforms become a thing, there will likely be a few completely unmoderated platforms (likely with some horrific content) but there may well also be moderated decentralized platform, some on a platform level, others on as group level. The important thing is that there are platforms that can report and disseminate crimes, corruption, government overreach, corporate corruption, and deceit which neither the government, nor the oligarchs, nor anyone else can forcefully shutdown or block the dissemination of. When it comes to any decision to moderate content, it would have to be something along the lines of one man one vote, which would then require some pretty sophisticated methods to prevent the use of bot nets to gain disproportionate influence on what gets moderated (proof-of-content-production? Proof-of-following? Some mixture with humans on the look out for bots trying to game the system?). And then there's the issue of governments or oligarchs using paid troll farms to disproportionately vote to censor any content they want.

So unless some very sophisticated technique could be devised for deciding on what gets moderated that could not be gamed, it may well be necessary to simply have a platform with zero-censorship and zero moderation indelibly hard-coded into the protocol, or at least limited to group moderation – and very sophisticated software to enable users to personally block out a lot offensive content which they don't personally wish to see in their feed.

At the end of the day, the inescapable truth is that any technology which effectively resists government control will resist **all government control**, including activities we might prefer to be controlled – **ultimately that's the tradeoff**. But police can still do their job in the face of uncensorable communication, it will just be harder. And ultimately creating an additional tool for criminals, uncomfortable though it may be to contemplate, is a trade off worth making to prevent more countries from becoming totalitarian states armed with evermore effective surveillance technology like North Korea, or China. Indeed an uncensorable communication platform, if it could be made readily available to everyone, might even force existing totalitarian countries like China to be more reticent to make large numbers of citizens “disappear”... if they had no way to prevent the general population from finding out exactly what they were doing.

Then there's the issue of linking social media to an eternal, undeletable blockchain network.

What if, one day, you're drinking a bottle of whisky with your friends in your flat, everyone's drunk and then one of your friends says to you: “I'll give you a can of beer if you post a picture of your cock on BlockMedia!” to which you reply in a slur drunken voice: “Your on!” And then your friend takes photos of your dick, including pictures of you pulling yourself off with their mobile phones (but not getting hard because you're so drunk) and pissing on the floor, and then, just to show how you're not afraid of anything, you take the photos, upload them onto BlockMedia and click “post”. Then everyone bursts out laughing saying “Oh my God!” and then everyone starts rolling around the floor in drunken laughter.

Once those embarrassing naked photos are uploaded onto the blockchain, the algorithm will DEMAND that everyone, who mines cryptocurrency on that network, store a publicly accessible back up a copy of your dick pissing on the floor while drunk, with exact precision, **for the rest of eternity.**

Given everything on the public blockchain is undeletable, it may not be the best idea to put all the posts on the entire social media platform on the blockchain. For example, you could store the cryptocurrency ledger on the blockchain, store the decentralized payment protocol (which basically pays everyone to do their bit to maintain the platform and keep everything running) on the blockchain, but then have a group of people, who are decentrally paid, to maintain an editable, and deletable database that stores all the posts. As long as the decentralized payment part of the operation is on the blockchain, then the platform can be coordinated without any legal structure (such as an LLC) and hence can continue to operate in an organised manner – even if the government deems it illegal.

However, the instant you make a post deletable, you introduce a backdoor that some attacker can hijack to delete whatever posts they wish to delete. So maybe you could have to separate databases to store different posts:

- One deletable database
- And one eternal blockchain-based database

If you store the post on the deletable database, then, in principle, in addition to you being able send an instruction to delete a post, the person managing the database (who's paid cryptocurrency to manage it by the blockchain) could also delete your post, along with anyone that acquires your username and password, who could then login into your account and click "delete" on your behalf. But, on this decentralized social media platform, you also have the option to tick a box that says "Store on public blockchain" before clicking "post" and if you click this button, then instead of being stored custodially on an editable, deletable database run by a custodian, paid cryptocurrency to do so by the blockchain protocol, your post is stored publicly, for all eternity in an undeletable format, on the blockchain itself. Perhaps someone raped by an important official, or even a king, or someone who is extremely wealthy, or someone like Edward Snowden who wanted to leak important information to the general public that a major superpower found extremely embarrassing, might want to click "Store on Public Blockchain" before clicking "post" to make doubly sure that whoever they were exposing would have no way to pull the strings required to delete said post (such as, say, hiring farms of trolls, identity thieves, hackers, etc., to steal the password to your account – and delete the post)

...although, to protect against drunken dick picks, the platform might cause a pop-up to immediately appear if someone clicks "Store on public blockchain" with the question: "Once you post this content, it can never be deleted, are you sure that this content does contain indecent or compromising material that you might later regret posting?"...

At the same time, unimportant trivial posts would be stored, by default, in deletable format. This decentralized social media platform would also have a convenient, easy to use, user interface that would enable anyone to search through posts that were stored on the public blockchain, easily and efficiently, without requiring any level of expertise.

The next question is:

Should bitcoin be the native cryptocurrency of this new social media platform, or should another cryptocurrency (perhaps even a new cryptocurrency and a new ledger) be used?

People could certainly pay bitcoin to access premium features of and promote posts in a given social media platform, and then these bitcoin revenues could be used to fund developers, content producers and those who provide the hardware to run the social media platform on. However, I'm not sure whether an algorithm that automatically pays the various stakeholders to perform said tasks could be run on the bitcoin network. So maybe a custom designed decentralized network that both operates a bitcoin-like cryptocurrency payment system and automatically pays cryptocurrency to individuals for doing the work that is needed to run the platform (as if a human or a centralized database, coordinated, say, the bitcoin payment, then that would be a point, a "ringleader", that would be vulnerable to attack). Then there is the matter that running such a social media system using bitcoin would give the early adopters of bitcoin a *MASSIVE* disproportionate ability to have their voices heard on the platform relative to anyone else. Also, such a platform would rely on the early adopters of bitcoin to supply the starting capital.

The interesting thing about starting a completely new native cryptocurrency associated with the platform is that you would need hardly any starting capital at all (other than the servers and enough money to run the servers). The people needed to run a new run a new decentralized social media platform could labour speculatively, effectively mining a newly-issued crypto-token native to the new platform in the hope that, at some point in the future, the platform will grow and their current meager crypto-token salary might someday be worth enough to justify the effort they put into setting up the platform in the early days.

This is a really good example of how the issuance of a new coin through a few simple taps on a keyboard could be used to magically bring entirely new organisations into existence for nothing (or very little cost) which would, once upon a time, have required immense sums of seed capital along with an arduous fundraising process before the real work could even start in earnest.

In a bitcoin maximalist universe, all new projects would require the permission and support of bitcoin early adopters to raise the seed capital they need to get off the ground. In an altcoin universe, new projects could be started in a permissionless manner, with a few talented penniless people with a vision, faith in the value of that vision, and determination to turn that vision into reality is all that would be needed – and a practically unlimited number of new decentralized social media projects could spring into existence with only the strongest surviving.

And then there is email/private messages.

Obviously you can't store private messages on a public blockchain. But you can have secure, end-to-end encrypted email. And we already have secure private messaging systems. The key issue where decentralization comes in is: what happens if the government passes regulations that force all email providers to make all their emails accessible and readable to the state's intelligence agencies?

Here again, the core feature of a decentralized payment system being that a piece of computer code can act as a “boss” to coordinate human beings to engage in quite well-organized activities means that, even if running a private end-to-end encrypted email service was illegal the world over, a decentralized payment network could still facilitate the, quite considerable, level of organisation required to maintain a privately encrypted email system, and appropriately compensate each specialised worker who performed the tasks required to operate and maintain it. Paying people to do the tasks required to run a private email service could be coordinated on a blockchain, or other decentralized ledger, even if the actual emails are more appropriately stored on a private database.

DECENTRALIZED PRODUCTION

So long as the government controls the computer hardware then, at a pinch, if it *really* doesn't want people communicating, the government can shut down the internet. In principle, you could imagine a situation where some centralized oligarchy, that controls the computer hardware for the main internet, chooses to shut it down, so the majority of the population can't communicate, while maintaining a private network that approved elite controllers can use to talk among themselves.

Nevertheless, the economic cost of such a decision would be enormous, so it seems extremely impractical for the government to do this for a long period of time.

So, perhaps we can relax and assume that, once a decentralized payment and communication system is in place, then the general public, at least in democratic countries, will have the tools they need to be vigilant against any attacks the oligarchy might make on their freedoms.

...and yet...

If the oligarchy controls a small number of highly centralized production systems that produce **EVERYTHING** even the most basic essentials which people rely on to live...

...will people be really free to resist the encroachment of tyranny if they rely on the tyrants to supply their food, water, electricity, and heating?

One thing we have to watch out for is **the internet of things**. The ultimate dream of the internet of things is to acquire the power to centrally control **everything** through the internet. This will eventually result in a situation where, with the push of a button, some government bureaucrat can turn your light on and off, can turn off your fridge when you go out for a weekend trip so that, when you come back, all the milk is sour and the yoghurt is mouldy. Or open the door of your washing machine while it's in mid cycle spilling suds all over the floor.

Needless to say, central controllers already can cut off your electricity, heat and water supply, if they want to at any time.

Cory Doctorow wrote an interesting article entitled *About Those Ukrainian Kill Switched Tractors* which discusses the disturbing trend in large companies of selling products to customers that are

infused with “kill switches” that enable the producer to destroy, and render useless, the product they sold the customer, from a distance, simply through sending a remote signal to that product.

You may respond by saying that electricity companies, tractor companies, water companies etc., are all independent and it’s not like there’s a central oligarchy that controls everything. However, an analysis entitled: *The Network of global corporate control, Stefania Vitali, James B. Gladtfelder, Stefano Bastiston* revealed that a small, tightly knit “economic super entity” which consists of a handful of financial institutions, can exert corporate control over a vast portion of all the publicly listed companies out there. So there is at least the possibility that a lot of these control knobs that appear on the surface to be “independent” and “uncorrelated to each other” could, in fact, be operated in a highly coordinated manner by a handful of oligarchs working together to undermine their political adversaries and push forward any shared agenda which they may have.

I mentioned before the possibility that a AI linked to a surveillance system as well as a public record system could screw around with the:

- No fly lists
- Drivers Licenses
- Credit Ratings
- Bank Accounts
- Business license
- Passport
- Social media account

...of those expressing thoughts, opinions or hold affiliations, etc., that the dominant regime disapprove of.

With decentralised payment and decentralised communication, we can now eliminate bank accounts and social media accounts as something a centrally controlled AI can arbitrarily screw with on a massive scale. Perhaps with some kind of decentralised P2P lending, you could also not worry (or worry less) about the authorities messing around with your credit rating.

But on the flip side, when we list the ways some bureaucrat behind a desk (or even an AI) could subtly mess with many people’s to “let them know” it disapproves of what they said, who they voted for, or who they recently hung out with (without having to go through lengthy court proceedings or placing pressure on the capacity of prisons), once the internet of things has been fully implemented, you can add **personal appliances** to the list (including cars, motorbikes, tractors, computers, mobile phones, light switches, cookers, dishwashers, etc.,)

- No fly lists
- Drivers Licenses
- Business license
- Passport
- **Personal Appliances**

And, of course, if regulations forbid businesses from selling goods and services, in anything other than fiat currency, then all cryptocurrency transactions will have to be black market. Indeed, if every business operator needs fiat to purchase input from their suppliers, then, even if they aren't bothered about breaking the law, they probably still won't be eager to accept cryptocurrency – especially if the government closes down all the fiat on-off ramps. Although if you need cryptocurrency to advertise your product on decentralized social media, then some businesses may be willing to accept some cryptocurrency for goods and services in order to fund advertisements on decentralized social media to drive fiat sales – this could be especially true if the government eliminates on/off fiat ramps, as then straight barter will be the only way for businesses to get the cryptocurrency they need to run promotions and generate sales revenue (including fiat revenue) from the platform.

However, the possibility of having your business license suspended, or having the government use the internet of things to turn your home into a haunted house (or even mess around with your self-driving car on the motorway) could well be used to freak out the overwhelming majority of the population to the point where they were both afraid to:

1. Use cryptocurrency
2. Use decentralized social media

If the state were to target such things, this could, in turn, reduce the protection that both decentralized payment and decentralized social media could offer. If no one watches decentralized social media for fear of getting their passport and business license cancelled, then the protection it offers through alerting the population to gross misconduct on behalf of politicians will be diminished, as will be the public response...and with a smaller user base, the value of advertising on decentralized social media will also be diminished.

One way to guard against such things is to ensure that people, who are determined to be capable of resisting government tyranny during bad times, become independent of the centralized system of production during good times by:

1. Living off the land
2. Producing various important appliances and tools without ever touching the fiat system

Dumpster diving is allowed, but anyone who wishes to live independently of centralized government must only purchase products from producers which:

1. Only accept cryptocurrency and decentralized payment for the products they sell (I.e. will refuse payment in fiat)
2. Where every operation across the entire supply chain, of work that went into producing that product, occurred at a cottage industry scale

We need to know **the why** of decentralized production. The why of decentralized production is to create a dark economy that is capable of running in a permissionless manner (regardless of whether the state bans it or not, and regardless as to whether all crypto-fiat off ramps get shut down) in case the state:

- **Mandates that all manufacturers of certain product classes insert sensors to gather information, or effectors capable of being remotely controlled into specific product classes across the board**
- **Mandate that all, or certain, classes of business can only sell services to customers in exchange for fiat currency**
- **Create regulations that are virtually impossible for small businesses to adhere to for certain critical business classes. The oligarchy then insures that a handful of monopolists dominate critical sectors in the economy, it is then easy for wealth oligarchs to buy control and put “their people” in these critical organisations – which can then be used to leverage organisations both upstream and downstream in the supply chain, which, in turn, can be used to pressurize the population at large**

In other words the dark economy must be capable of operating illegally, and providing for the basic needs of dissidents (food/shelter/home maintenance/equipment to grow food/water/energy), in the face of laws that forbid it from existing – much like the illegal drug market does today.

- That means nothing big that can't be relocated
- That means no bottlenecks with a supplier somewhere in the chain that will only accept permissioned payments, that can be turned off by banks at the flick of a switch
- Finally, that means every supplier in the supply-chain must have **balls of steel** and must be sufficiently dedicated to: (a) be willing to accept cryptocurrency (b) refuse to contribute to the surveillance and control “smart” economy (c) continue to operate even in the event the government passes a bunch of ridiculous, unnecessary regulations – and to be willing to commit to a, b and c even in the face of severe (possibly capital) punishment from the state, in the event that said “dark producer” is caught

Adam Smith said that unit costs will be driven down by:

1. Specialization
2. Economies of scale

Since every manufacturer in the dark economy will need to be small and mobile, the dark economy will necessarily have less economies of scale than the official economy.

This means that dark economy products will be more expensive the establishment products.

However, decentralized databases will be able to facilitate:

1. Specialization
2. Quality Control

Pseudonymously and, hence, facilitate a level of manufacturer sophistication, product quality and cost reduction that, while more expensive than the establishment economy, will, nevertheless, be able to achieve a level of productivity that far exceeds what small communities (along the lines of “ecovillages”) could achieve operating under the radar using primitive systems of simple barter – which greatly restricts the length of supply chains (especially if you want to remain anonymous).

The fact that a dark economy will be uneconomic, compared to the established economy, means it will be **very challenging** to achieve. This is because, cottage industries across the entire dark supply chain, will constantly be tempted to purchase input components from established sources to shave a few pennies off their running costs to keep as extra profit for themselves. And those components, snuck in from established manufacturers, could have bugs and remote operation features surreptitiously installed inside them.

Indeed you would actually need to establish a “dark trade manufacturing standard”, (along the lines of the fair trade standard, vegan certified, Responsible Wool Standard, Forest Stewardship Council, etc.,) ... but with a twist, Dark Trade Standard certifiers might well need to be capable of operating illegally (in the event that a full blown Orwellian tyranny emerges) – this makes matters a good deal more complicated. Having a complex supply chain of pseudonymous cottage industries, along with pseudonymous standards certifiers, all constantly on the run from the law and relocating from time to time, is no easy thing to achieve.

And it will also be difficult to “sell” the dark trade premium to customers before there is broad awareness of what the internet of things really means and just how determined the oligarchy is to be able to remotely observe from, control, and be able to break everything you own with the flick of a switch. Most people won’t know what the point of it is: “Does it help the poor? No? Does it save the rainforest? No? Will it cure cancer? No? Then why should I pay a premium?” In the beginning, the dark economy will be a niche thing that only a small number of intensely committed pioneering individuals will participate in tough conditions throwing together improvised gear that constantly breaks while slowly, but consistently, refining the process to make it better.

A publicly viewable, pseudonymous, decentrally stored record will manage supply chain logistics, quality control, and let people know which wallet is doing what. Some public keys will represent manufacturers, some public keys will represent quality control inspectors, other public keys will represent B-2-B and B-2-C delivery merchants. By using your private key, you will be able to:

1. Pay others in the network
2. Privately message other public keys (both manufacturers and delivery men) to discuss orders
3. Advertise you inventory publicly
4. Leave a publicly accessible customer review of a product supplied to you by another public key

There will also be an inspector class to certify that the products truly meet the “dark trade manufacturing standard”, that the operation is sufficient small to have a reasonable chance of staying under the radar, that they treat their employees well, that they are not police informants, that none of the components they sell contain recording devices or remote controlled devices including “John Deere style” remotely activated kill switches. Inspectors will peer review each other and customers will gradually learn which public keys that represent the various different inspectors are most effective at securing quality control. Employees will be able to post reviews of their employer’s public keys, etc., assessing their work environment and employees treatment etc.,

And inspector would make their money charging manufacturers to have their operation inspected and certified. The better the reputation of the inspector, for both thoroughness and confidentiality, the more they could charge.

When dark economy delivery men, deliver the goods to customers from manufacturers, both the customer (whether a B-2-B or retail) and the delivery man will have a remote device with the private key and the public stored on it. There will be one button that you push to beam your public key over to the other person, a second button that you push that uses the private key, stored on the device to send a message to the public key that was just beamed over, and a small view screen that displays the public key of the person that just pinged you with their private key. This will allow you to verify the public key of the person who you are interacting with during a delivery. To verify they are who they claim to be and are delivering what they claim to be delivering (as opposed to something that's boobytrapped or bugged).

Although delivery people won't need to reveal much about their identity to customers, inspectors will need to know a great deal of details about the black manufacturing operations they inspect. Co-workers and employees will also likely know each other quite intimately. In principle, getting doxxed will be just one bad review from a disgruntled employee – or an inspector that sells out to the system. I suspect the black economy supply chain will be organised much like the illegal drug trade, with people knowing the people they work with directly, but not knowing too much about people further up or down the supply chain. You might know your co-workers by name, along with a few inspectors, possibly your immediate suppliers, but the rest of the supply chain, you would only know by the activities posted by each public key on the blockchain – with such a pseudonymous system, each manufacturer would have enough information about what's happening in the rest of the supply chain to operate effectively, but at the same time, hiding information that would leave them vulnerable, such as identity and location.

Presumably doxxing would be an enormous taboo in the community, and any public key that doxxed another public key (through posting a public review with personal information), would never be able to transact on the network again. In principle, anyone can always set up a new wallet, with a new public key...but you'd lose all the reputation you built up with the previous public key.

Still doxxing might still happen from time to time, either through informants infiltrating the system, or through participants giving up the names and addresses of co-workers, inspectors, etc., as a result of blackmail or torture from law enforcement.

Part of the dark economy will be about getting food, shelter, medicine and gear that isn't riddled with bugs to facilitate secure communication. But it seems likely that another part of the dark economy will be about securing false ID documentation in the "official" economy. Plastic surgery may also become one of the services offered by the dark economy. The only remedy for getting doxxed (i.e. having your official identity linked to your public key) is to both change your official identity, change your address, and then either:

1. Permanently sever all ties with everyone who knows you by face and name

or

2. Ensure that everyone who you associate with who you wish to continue to associate with also changes their official identity and address and permanently severs ties with anyone who knows them, but who is not willing to permanently change *their* identity and address

With the blockchain, however, although you may have to permanently sever all relationships with anyone who knows you personally, you will be able to maintain relationships with those who only interact with you through your public key.

In such a future, with plastic surgery, fake ID, fake passports, disguises, a continuous string of new aliases, your “official” persona, and any personal connections you make through that official persona, will be plastic, fluid and ephemeral – only your reputation on the blockchain will be constant and real. This may not be the ideal way to live one’s life, but in a war, sacrifices must be made. It is ultimately down to the conscience of each individual to decide, at any given time, whether such a war is worth fighting or whether the establishment isn’t so bad after all; whether you are willing to go along with the system for a quiet and convenient life... or whether you are willing to sacrifice all (or most) close personal long-term face-to-face relationships with other human beings* to avoid being constantly monitored, tracked, scrutinized and catalogued by an evermore intrusive system for social control.

There’s the matter of where you draw the line wrt inputs from the standard economy.

The key thing is to **never** procure components from official suppliers that are sufficiently high up the supply chain to have bugs inserted into them. Buying planks from lumber mills, or steel from refineries is probably acceptable...the closer to the primary commodity, the better. Furthermore, the producers of primary commodities (who also sell their wares in the official economy and are officially registered) would have to pass inspections by dark economy inspectors who would check that nothing they sell to dark suppliers is bugged or equipped with remote devices, and would validate them as suitable approved suppliers for the dark economy. These officially registered businesses would then trade their basic commodities for goods manufactured by the cottage businesses in dark economy – or services provided by dark suppliers. Such barter arrangements would ideally be made with the top level, owner or manager, but might have to be made “under the table” with a mid-tier manager instead. And these arrangements wouldn’t have to be made with the manufacturers themselves, there could be a small official contractor that purchases material from those manufacturer and then sells it on, with some inventory slipping into the dark economy. But it would be easier for the manufacturers (or even the lumberjacks who cut down the trees themselves, or the ore miners) to account for the disappearance of inventory from their official ledger. If it’s right at the base of the supply chain, then, arguably, you could just not put the ore, grain or lumber on the official ledger, submitted to the establishment, in the first place (or exaggerate the damage of a forest fire).

Then there’s land.

I previously said that dark industries would need to exist on a small cottage scale. But, ultimately, it takes land to grow food, and food to feed people. And it takes a lot of land to grow a lot of food to feed a lot of people. If participants of the dark economy cannot use the cryptocurrency they earn to purchase the food they need to survive, then it will have all been for nothing.

Thus, dark food production and dark food security is essential, so that if the government succeeds in forcing all registered food producers to only accept food for fiat, that there will still be sufficient food produced “under the radar” to feed the merchants in the dark economy. Of course barter with officially

registered food producers, restaurants, farmers, can always be a means to enable food to “leak” into the dark economy. Some industries will find it easier to account for the reduction of food inventories on their official fiat ledger than others, but the less parasitic the dark economy is on the official economy, the better. This is because a parasite-host relationship is a big problem for the parasite. The host is

***other than anonymous one night stands with hookers, who you’d pay with gold coins so as not to reveal your key – or maybe have sex with other public keys on the network in physical encounters located in neutral settings, such as hotels, where both parties are masked, armed with voice scramblers, and unrecognisable to each other**

constantly trying to kill the parasite, but the parasite cannot strike back at the host because it needs the host to live... for this reason, it would be very unwise for cottage manufacturers in the dark economy to utterly rely on a slipstream of food diverted from existing officially registered food producers, to supply all, or even most, of their nutritional needs. As, under such circumstances, a government crackdown on food producers doing business with the dark economy could literally starve every manufacturer.

The most secure way to produce “dark food” is to apply labour and capital intensive methods to marginal, low value land that’s not economically competitive for anything else. This too will require coming to an arrangement with the official owner of the land, but it is a much more secure arrangement because actual producers of food, could only let a small fraction of their food production “slip into” the dark economy without getting caught – but this, in turn, implies that trade with the dark economy will only ever account for a small fraction of their profits, meaning that, if the government really cracked down, many might suddenly decide it wasn’t worth it any more. However, an owner of large tracts of marginal land that has very little other uses might be earning a pittance from official activities, like renting out heath for sheep grazing etc., and, for such an owner, the dark economy might actually represent the lion’s share of their income. Also a growing operation that simply uses an official owner’s land, but with the labour and capital otherwise fully funded through the dark economy wouldn’t leave a trace on any official ledger.

One example of a labour and capital intensive operation on marginal land might be a Polytunnel located on a mountain heath to grow vegetables. That would not appear on any official ledger and if the police aren’t really trying to crack down on people secretly growing tomatoes on the mountains (you’d hope they’d have better things to do with their time) then one could envisage such operations in remote areas being left alone. However, in a truly dystopian scenario, you would go for labour intensive methods of producing food on land, rather than capital intensive methods. That means if the police do a raid on a “dark food production” cottage industry, the food producers can just run and take their labour with them. In a really dystopian future, **The Secret Garden Of Survival** by **Rick Austin**, the survivalist gardener, offers a great deal of insight into how to discretely produce high densities of food on a landscape that, to all intents and purposes, appears on the outside to be an unexceptional wild forest.

Food forests, grown according to **secret garden of survival** practices, could be a source of considerable volumes of food to feed the dark economy. Perhaps underwater seaweed growing operations, or underwater fish farms, could be another source of dark food.

In addition to permissionless food, permissionless housing, along with a permissionless housebuilding industry, will also be important. These houses will have to be modular and capable of rapid disassembly, relocation and reassembly in the event that authorities uncover and plan a raid on a

settlement of dark economy workers. The ability to generate and store energy off grid, in addition to heating and water, will also be a high priority.

Ultimately, if you can't use cryptocurrency to obtain food and shelter – what good is it?

Hence, in addition to developing privacy protecting technologies and systems, it will be critical for the dark economy to be capable of addressing people's basic survival needs – irrespective of any regulations passed by any central authority involving cryptocurrency bans, etc., refusal of the state to issue planning permission build new houses, as well as making it impossible to buy and rent houses with anything other than fiat etc., etc.,

Now lets move on to microchips and electronics.

Computers have extremely long supply chains.

I once previously said that the only way to resist oppression by centrally editable public record was:

1. To establish a barter economy with people you know that have the required skills to provide for each other's needs
2. To establish a parallel, pseudonymous record to record, who (i.e. which public key controller) has what skills, who has the ability and reputation for manufacturing high-quality gear that works, who is honest and delivers what they promise, etc., to facilitate extended tractions between large networks of strangers irrespective of what the government does in the way of sabotaging the official record of their ideological or political adversaries.

Clearly option (1) would be completely incapable of manufacturing computers. But if we break the manufacture of computers and electronics into enough small steps, I think there is a realistic possibility that each step could be carried out in some basement somewhere under the radar. Sure, the supply chain would be long, and it would involve many specialized cottage industries shipping their product to other cottages industries in an enormously long B-2-B chain. But a suitable decentralized ledger could work in tandem with a community to ensure quality control, manage logistics and inventories to ensure that, at the end of it all, computers, mobile phones, 3D-printers, etc., that were fully manufactured and assembled by the dark economy could come out the other end.

I remember, back in the early 2000s, I was taken on a tour of the Advanced materials building in Trinity College Dublin and on the top floor there was a microchip manufacturing room where students could manufacture micro chips to understand how the process works. Now obviously the microchips made in Trinity college would be far lower performance than those manufactured by commercial manufacturers, and the throughput would be millions, billions of times less. But the mere fact that a college could make some kind of microchip, with the use of etching chemicals, and the like, on one floor is testament to the fact that, if you're determined, and you're willing to sacrifice on price and performance, it is possible for comparative small operations – that could fit in a large basement – to engage in a meaningful manufacturing step when it comes to putting together electronic equipment. And with advances in robots and 3D-printers, etc., that have been made since the year 2000, the possibility of making reasonable standard electronics and electronic components in a decentralized way, in a series of covert basement facilities, all trading with each other on a pseudonymous decentralized public ledger, has only increased in feasibility.

And once you have a bunch of computers...and a bunch of transmitters... then you have what you need to create a parallel dark net, with hardware that has been entirely produced by the dark economy.

Of course, perhaps the first stage of building privacy protecting communication systems, such as the PinePhone, is to just order components which you know are good and right for the job, from the standard economy, i.e. microchips manufactured in large efficient labs, etc., But we have to entertain the possibility that, at some point in the future, many factory-produced electronic components may be bugged and have microtransmitters attached etc., An intermediate step would be to order electronic components from the standard large factories but to have cottage industries which remove microtransmitters and bugs. But even here, we are left with the problem of engaging in a parasite-host relationship with the official economy, where the host is constantly trying to kill the parasite, but where the parasite can't strike back because it needs the host. So, eventually, it will be imperative for the dark economy to be capable of manufacturing electronic equipment for communication and data processing **FROM SCRATCH.**

Perhaps it is worth considering how a pseudonymous transaction of goods might work in the dark economy. Mr. X logs onto the blockchain delivery system. He PMs public key rtyo35x and orders some onions and tomatoes (he knows the advertised price) and they send him an order code. Mr. X then PMs public key fgi4v97 and orders a government surveillance drone jamming device and they send him an order code for that. Mr. X then PMs public key wb9a23v and orders a can of paint as he feels that his residence needs a new coat, and they send him back an order code. Mr.X. then PMs the three order codes to public key t2y2gvp (a known provider of delivery services to customers) as well as a GPS location 500 yards from his residence. None of the PMs are publicly accessible on the blockchain, but, rather are an encrypted secure private messaging system maintained by another public key et6a2&w. t2y2gvp could, in principle, use the location Mr.X provided to partial doxx him, if not on the blockchain, then perhaps by DMing it discretely to law enforcement. However, the network has a dox analytics team with a reporting department to which any public key can report a suspected doxxing of themselves. The doxing analytics department then analyses the transactions of public keys that reported being doxxed and looks for overlaps. If Doxing analytics department find strong evidence that any public key has been doxing other public keys – that public key gets booted off the network and loses their reputation. Hence, it's highly unlikely that the delivery service 2y2gvp would use the location that Mr. X PMed over to dox him as that would likely end his career in delivery.

When the goods are ready, the delivery service 2y2gvp PMs Mr.X a pick up location, a nearby community swimming pool, and the public key of the locker where Mr. X's orders have been delivered to (re43f8n). Mr. X heads to the locker room of the swimming pool. Mr. X. checks the dark economy lockers that have been covertly placed in the locker room in the changing area of the public swimming pool checking the public keys displayed on each door until he sees the door with re43f8n. He then transfers his payment for the order to the locker's public key, which detects the origin of the payment (Mr. X's public key) and verifies that this was the public key which 2y2gvp provided to the locker and then redistributes the order payment to the public keys of all the various suppliers that manufactured the goods in question and also the delivery service 2y2gvp as well as the locker itself (which also collects a small commission). Needless to say, the quality control inspectors for the dark economy have thoroughly inspected the pickup location to ensure that it contains no cameras or other surveillance systems that could record Mr. X's transaction with the locker.

The locker door now opens, Mr. X collects his onions, tomatoes, surveillance drone jamming device and can of paint and heads home with his shopping.

In principle, of course, decentralized production could also have an ugly side and be used to produce bombs, biological and chemical weapons, illegal drugs as much as it can be used to produce onions, cans of paint, houses and mobile phones and household appliances that aren't riddled with bugs which allow the powers that be to spy on you and remotely control all your appliances whenever they want. However, we must remember that the decentralized production network is a network of parallel governance as opposed to no governance. In fact the whole thing is actually designed to enforce quality control and production standards pseudonymously on the dark economy to enable it to produce high quality goods for dark customers. Hence, the same mechanisms of inspection that ensure producers don't order goods from the standard economy that might have bugs in them, could also be used to kick people who are engaged in the manufacture of chemical and biological weapons, and the like, off the network. The same network that imposes a "dark trade manufacturing standard" could also impose environmental standards on producers and could even come to an arrangement of paying tax to the government in the form of cryptocurrency, *if it chose to do so*.

Manufacturing and trade standards are important. The point of these decentralized parallel recording systems is not to eliminate all standards. But to impose *better standards* and to impose *the right kind of standards*, in the event that the governments imposes the wrong kind of standards and creates regulations that promote cronyism and secure monopolies.

If, for example, we decide that we are not happy with how the health system runs and feel that standards for medical practice have been corrupted by moneyed interests to the detriment of public health, that doesn't mean we should do away with all medical standards. Rather we can use the same system that is used to coordinate and inspect decentralized production illegally to also enforce parallel medical standards and issue parallel medical qualifications on a decentralized record. The ultimate test as to whether the parallel medical standards and qualifications maintained by the dark standards network are better or worse than the official medical standards and qualifications will be the life expectancy of those who get their medical treatment in the dark economy compared to those who seek medical treatment in the centralized economy.

Ultimately, in the absence of all out war with the government, in a situation for example where the government isn't going out of its way to crack down on decentralized production, it would probably be a good idea for a decentralized production network to mirror as much official government legislation as possible, in terms of product safety, and prohibiting the use of polluting chemicals without proper disposal (as long as said regulations aren't so ridiculously anal that they make it impossible for small producers to run their businesses), prohibiting the production of illegal firearms, drugs, etc., as the less laws they break, the less resources the police are likely to devote to cracking down on them. The only line in the sand is:

- No tracking devices on products
- Producers on the network are only allowed to sell their goods and services for cryptocurrency (hence securing the ability of cryptocurrency to procure important goods and services)

Permissionless house building might be another line in the sand, as denying people the ability to put a roof over their head is unconscionable. Although maybe certain house construction standards should still be enforced to ensure that the houses are safe for the inhabitant with no toxic chemicals used in their construction. And also that the act of constructing a habitation in the dark economy does not pollute the environment to a greater extent than normal industry standards. And if the government starts passing laws that makes farming and food production more difficult, the dark economy should disregard these as well as no one should starve as a result of government regulation.

One of the most exciting things about decentralized governance, and decentralized payment through the use of decentralized record keeping, is the ability of these systems to enforce norms of social organisation in a manner that is relatively civilized compared to your typical illegal organisation. Because illegal organisations can't take people to court, when people screw each other over in a drug gang it's not unusual for murders, feuding, or even torture to result. But, much like centralized social media like twitter and facebook can do today, any decentralized record that is important for people to be able to transact with a community can enforce a code of behaviour through degrading the records of those who fail to adhere to the standards of the network and reducing their ability to fruitfully interact with the rest of the community.

This is the same basic mechanism that multi-national institutions use and also the mechanism described in "oppression by public record" except:

1. Multiple decentralized networks for organising decentralized production can exist in parallel, so if you don't like the rules of one network, you can invest in building up a reputation and transacting on a different network
2. Hopefully the decentralized nature of the record will be such that the rules will be relatively clear and constant and will only change when a broad swathe of the community itself votes for change (although whether this can work in practice and avoid issues like multi-accounting remains to be seen, I imagine this is not trivial and some networks will be gamed, but hopefully robust techniques to avoid being gamed by, say, farms of trolls paid by oligarchical interests, will eventually be developed)

Needless to say, there'll be some decentralized production networks, that will try to do things like organise the construction of bombs and the like. But, ultimately, a determined police effort will break these networks apart. Decentralized ledgers don't make people immune from the law, they just make it difficult to decapitate organisations. If the police were truly bothered, they could probably work out where the pick up points were for decentralized goods by finding lots of people suspiciously coming and going from swimming pool locker rooms (to use the previous example) without spending any time swimming. Many decentralized cottage industries would probably also leave all sorts of "tells" if law enforcement were truly bothered to crack down on it. But if all people are doing, is buying onions and tomatoes with cryptocurrency, the police would probably figure that interfering with such harmless activities was a waste of their time when more serious crimes were being committed elsewhere.

This is why it would generally be a good idea for any system that maintains a decentralised record to ensure quality control in a distributed economy to make a reasonable effort to mirror the general regulations that are present in the country in which it operates, if not perfectly, then roughly enough so as not to be extremely provocative, or create a problem which causes local law enforce to make a

deliberate policy decision to focus large quantities of resources on dealing with the dark economy as a high priority.

Finally, it's worth explicitly saying that the network for enforcing decentralized production should be an entirely different network to the network facilitating decentralized communication. This is because the purpose of each network is **the polar opposite** of the other. The purpose of the decentralized production network will be to constrain the producers on it to produce high quality goods that don't contain any government bugs. In other words, the purpose of the decentralized production network is to **control quality**. On the other hand the purpose of the decentralized communication network is **to prevent communication from being controlled**. This is because it is essential that the misdeeds and crimes of those in power be exposed, and yet, people who commit misdeeds, especially powerful moneyed interests, will tend to do everything in their power to prevent damaging information about themselves from escaping. Hence, we need a decentralized communication system that is structurally designed to resist all attempts to control the flow of information across it. This will give rise to its own problems, but these problems are worth it to secure the flow of truth – even truths that powerful interests would rather suppress. In the case of decentralized production, this is less of a priority. Partly because decentralized production systems will not be able to achieve economies of scale and so will not be cost-competitive with established products and hence will only have a niche boutique market as so won't be perceived as a great threat by established large manufacturers.

Hopefully, dear reader, you now have some sense of just **how much more** there is to creating a decentralized society, which is capable of resisting authoritarianism, than just software coding. Without a permissionless production system that is capable of providing for people's basic needs in exchange for cryptocurrency – irrespective of whether it is illegal or not – it will always be possible to make a decentralised payment system, such as bitcoin, irrelevant, through simply forcing centralized monopolist producers of vital products to only accept fiat in exchange for what they sell.

And creating a system which is capable of producing a range of important goods to secure survival and some degree of comfort, which can operate under the radar and be fairly difficult (although it will never be impossible) to shut down requires **major planning, effort and organization**. Not just among software programmers, but among a wide range of individuals with practical skills, whether they be manufacturing, building, home maintenance, growing plants, or rearing animals. Finding ways to do all these things underground, and also to link them altogether into a productive supply chain, capable of manufacturing sophisticated equipment from scratch, will involve a major effort.

So we can see that the community is as important as the ledger. Sociology, practical technology, and practical skill is as important as the decentralized ledger. A decentralised ledger will be an **essential tool** to facilitate a decentralized, underground production system of relative sophistication. Certainly a decentralized ledger will massively increase the sophistication that any underground system of production is capable of achieving. However, a sophisticated ledger on its own, will be completely useless. The decentralized ledger is ultimately just a tool for a community. Founding a community that can meaningfully and productively use that tool, is as challenging, if not far more challenging than developing the tool itself.

But if enough people can be found to dedicate themselves to the cause, then, in principle at least, a decentralized society can be developed that is capable of effectively stopping the emergence of an AI-driven Orwellian surveillance state.

Should a decentralized production network be run using bitcoin as currency? In the beginning, it will likely be very hard work to kick-start an underground productive economy. If people, who do not own vast quantities of bitcoin already, decided they wanted to found a new productive economy, then they might well chose to issue a new cryptocurrency, with a very low market capitalization, and invest a great deal of effort and sweat, for little immediate reward. By issuing a new cryptocurrency, the founders of a new and valuable underground productive economy could reap the rewards of their initial investment of time and effort, into making the community productive and valuable, through the appreciation of the coins that were native to the new network which they earned in the early days. In many respects, bitcoin maximalism might be regarded as the desire of bitcoin early adopters to collect rent from the activities and efforts made by the rest of humanity simply by virtue of the fact that they bought bitcoin early on.

In reality, the value of cryptocurrency is solely determined by the value **produced** by the **community** which uses it. Any group of people has the right to establish a new community, start a new cryptocurrency, and produce as much value through their activities, organization and transactions as they are capable of doing.

DECENTRALIZED DEFENCE

Through a combination of decentralized payment, decentralized communication and decentralized production it will be impossible for the state to find pissy, subtle little ways of making peoples' lives impossible, through denying them permission to interact with the official economy unless they: think the right thoughts, read the right materials, associate with the right people, allow the state to record and document their every move, etc., – as people will be able to find the support and help they need to survive by economically participating in the decentralised economy instead.

In other words, an emerging totalitarian state won't be able to do an end run around the police and the courts and still completely mess up people's lives through editing their records, so as to withdraw "privileges" in a completely unaccountable discretionary manner, unless people depend on the existing system and have no alternatives.

With decentralized payment, communication and production, the only remaining avenue for the state to impose oppression-through-centrally-editable-record on dark economy participants will be through:

- No fly lists
- Drivers Licenses
- Passport

And if there is a dark industry for counterfeiting these documents, then it might be possible to get around even these constraints – although you would probably also need to attack, and modify, the records held on the state's centrally editable database to de-cancel your documents digitally in addition to issuing the physical counterfeits.

However, in addition to messing around with people's documentation, there is always the possibility that the state might use **pure brute force** to suppress those who refuse to submit to its totalitarian ideology.

If we get to a point where squads of policemen and soldiers are trashing greenhouses filled with cucumbers, burning down secret food forests with napalm, stopping people from engaging in simple productive activities that they need to live quietly and independently, burning and seizing every simple possession they own which they worked hard their whole lives to build...at that point, we will truly be dealing with a force of evil, and organising a self-sufficient, peaceful, and independent economy will no longer be enough.

When violent aggressors are out to destroy everything you have, the only answer is to either lose everything – or repel them.

We know how revolutions work.

During times of crisis, people tend to accept simple, despotic structures of governance. A single leader takes the initiative to lead the rebellion; there's no clear way to replace him. The replacement method is messy and ad hoc, either involving intimidation and consensual resignation, or assassination. The revolutionary forces frequently run low on supplies and must plunder local areas for the food and supplies they need. Sometimes locals welcome them in (given the alternative is a lot worse), and give the revolutionary forces the supplies they need, other times they are terrorized by the revolutionary forces who take what they need by force.

Generally, a leader must be pretty ruthless to successfully win a revolution and while there may be some principled exceptions, such as George Washington, revolutions against established governments generally result in the emergence of dictators, who are no better, and possibly worse, than the governments they replace. And there is often no orderly way to remove the victorious revolutionary leader from power who often ends up either being ruler for life, or getting defeated, and frequently assassinated in yet another revolution.

Revolutions will always have a nasty side to them. But it might be possible to make use of a decentralized ledger to at least make them a little less nasty.

To see how decentralized ledgers can be used to coordinate defence, the key thing to keep in mind is that:

At the most basic level, a government is public spending, in particular public spending on defence and enforcement.

Without public spending, the police go home, the soldiers go home, etc., and the government has no further power to protect its territory, or enforce any behavioural norms or collect taxes from its citizens.

Hence,

The leader of a nation is the man who ultimately has control over public spending.

A regular salary, is the regular receipt of money into your bank account, firing someone is ceasing to pay them money and, if they are a manager, ceasing to give them control over the employment of those who they manage.

Perhaps we can now begin to see how a governance system, in the most literal sense of the word, could be enforced by a decentralized protocol.

Imagine a decentralized productive economy. Public keys register themselves to do business with other public keys. Earnings in exchange for services are all kept on a decentralized ledger along with the transactions that generate those earnings. From this information, all stored on a public blockchain, it would be pretty easy to calculate income tax, indeed the protocol could be arranged to charge income tax, from private wallets to a public spending wallet.

The community of the network could vote to mint a given public key with a leadership NFT, the protocol would be designed to allow the public key with the most recently leadership NFT with the most recent mint date, could, in turn mint “general NFTs” and assign them to wallets the general could mint “Colonel NFTs” and assign them to wallets, the colonel could mint “captain NFTs”, the captain could mint “soldier NFTs” – you get the picture. The public spending wallet would then automatically transfer a regular crypto currency salary to public workers depending on the NFTs they hold (where the NFT title with the newest mint date gets the salary as well as hiring-firing powers, through the issuance of other salary-receiving NFTs to those below them on the chain of command).

Since people generally pay attention to keeping the people who are paying them happy, the power to issue salary title NFTs will generally determine who takes orders from who in the governance structure, and hence determine leadership.

An interesting side note is that you could have a situation where the leader of the country has the ability to hire and fire subordinates, by issuing title NFTs, but where the community votes on the tax rate. This voting process could involve everyone entering a suggested tax rate and the final tax rate would be determined by the average of the entries. Or perhaps, to maintain stability, the community would only be given 3 options:

1. Increase tax by 2%
2. Keep tax the same
3. Reduce tax by 2%

There are many possibilities for protocols that assign the decisions of different aspects of the governance size and organisational structure to different people.

You could have emergency votes of no confidence, where if 85% or more of the community makes a no confidence vote then all public spending ceases and the physically coercive aspect of governance also ceases.

Indeed, you could have a system that merely implements a decentralized production system, when people aren't bothering the producers, but, if producers start getting attacked can turn "on" a decentralized defence function. Where normally there is no leader, but if the community decides it needs protection, then it can mint a leadership NFT and vote in Taxation and public spending to fund a security force. At which point a fraction of the community would start working full time on repelling and deterring future assaults against the community's members.

Another possibility is that the community could vote to pay taxes in cryptocurrency to the official government of the country in which they live. And, again, this function could also be turned on and off, depending on how the community members vote.

If the community are careful to ensure that their production standards mirror the official regulations that are in force across the broader nation, and if the community set themselves up to pay taxes in their native crypto-currency to the government of the nation state in which they live, then it's possible that a cordial co-existence between the community of decentralized producers and the nation's police force could be maintained. Perhaps, some nations may tolerate the decentralized production of harmless standard goods and services, so long as the producers pay the taxes they owe and don't blatantly run foul of important national regulations.

Under such circumstances, if someone who runs a decentralized cottage industry gets assaulted, raped or their property gets vandalized by criminals, they would be best advised to simply report the matter to the official police force and there would be no need to organise any "decentralized defence" whatsoever. Furthermore, if the official laws governing the country are sufficiently liberal, and its inhabitants are left alone by the government to say, read and think what they please, and there are no instances of ideologically motivated public record sabotage, then it would be advisable for any decentralized production network to also boot out anyone who manufactures fake ID as well.

However the other possibility is that in less liberal, more oppressive countries an irreconcilable animosity develops against the nation's authorities and the the community of decentralized underground cottage manufacturing operations.

This could pose the following problems:

1. Police could outright vandalize the property of those running underground operations that don't have the "permits" and "paperwork" the state demands
2. Police could imprison operators
3. Police could fail to investigate crimes perpetrated against a decentralized cottage manufacturing operation

The first defence is mobility. Any business will reveal itself eventually through its activity: through what goes in and what comes out. Through when it goes in and comes out, through who comes in and out and how long they stay. An undercover cheese manufacturing operation located underneath a pub, for example, will cause the pub to have an unusual smell of cheese. There will always be something

unusual about an underground operation. It may take a long time to be discovered, but eventually it will be. So the best defence is to have a semi-regular relocation plan as well as access to intelligence within enforcement. That way, by the time enforcement has gathered enough evidence to identify the manufacturing operation with sufficient certainty to plan a raid, the operation will have moved on. **This is another advantage of the pseudonymous ledger**, locations can be changed but communication with customers and suppliers maintained.

In the event that public keys fall victim to serious crimes on a concerning frequent basis and the police do not look into it, then it maybe necessary for the decentralised network itself to support a defence force to investigate and deliver retribution for crimes that are perpetrated against their members.

If there are widespread instances of oppression through centrally editable public record in the form of restricting movement through the use of things like no fly lists, or arbitrary driver's license revocation, in a way that is politically motivated and unrelated to any driving incident, or either revoking or failing to renew the passports of members of society which the state disapproves of, but who have not been found guilty of anything in court, then that would certainly justify and underground industry for counterfeiting IDs along with plastic surgery, perhaps, as part of the process of changing your alias. Yet, I'm inclined to think if law enforcement were to break into an illegal ID counterfitting operation and arrest and imprison its members, the appropriate response would be to say: "Bad Luck" and leave it at that. However, if law enforcement starts frequently breaking into operations that make high quality food and sell it for cryptocurrency, or other basic, harmless, underground businesses like selling mobile phones, or household furniture, etc., at that point a line has been crossed and a decentralised defence force must be mobilised to let the state know that there will be consequences for imprisoning honest producers that wish to operate discretely and preserve their privacy.

A suitable response to imprisoning a manufacturer that did nothing other than work productively and permissionlessly selling harmless legal, high quality wares (such as food or furniture) to customers would be to kidnap a member of law enforcement (maybe by using a tranquilizer dart), ideally one involved in the arrest of the businessman in question, and cuff him and lock him in an anonymous basement somewhere, and refuse to release him until all the charges are dropped against any businessmen who operated and pay taxes on the network who engage in activities that are otherwise legal but just exchanged them for cryptocurrency rather than fiat. If the prison sentence of the businessmen in question runs its prescribed term after which the businessman is released, then the law enforcement which is held hostage should also be released – as this may incentivize the legal system to pass shorter sentences for harmless activities like growing and trading vegetables or furniture pseudonymously.

If things start to escalate, then the next obvious thing to do would be to attack the surveillance system. On the whole, it's important not to draw blood and kill anyone unless the other side kills first. But if they start engaging in violent raids, one tactic would be to gather intelligence on an occasional planned raid, by state enforcement, and amass a group of heavily armed defenders in hidden positions around the target which enforcement authorities plan to raid, to repel them and send a clear message that violent police raids on innocent businessmen are not consequence free.

Yet another tactic could be to offer cryptocurrency pensions, and guaranteed jobs, in the decentralized economy to law enforcement officers who quit on principle, in opposition to attacks on innocent farmers growing food and minding their own business.

The goal should not be to topple the centralized authority. The goal should be to assert basic minimal demands to be left alone, by that authority in reasonable ways – irrespective of whatever intrusive, oppressive laws and regulations politicians may pull out of their arse from time to time.

It's possible that there may be several different networks of decentralized producers. Both networks may have defence forces. Some networks may be using anonymity to engage in activity that is deeply unethical such as say, sex slavery. The networks which enforce higher ethical standards should generally be willing to help the police to identify truly criminal individuals (as in people engaging in deeply immoral activities) that attempt to operate within their own network and within less ethical networks, and distance themselves from such people – in exchange for a peace treaty, or a coexistence arrangement with the members of the nation's law enforcement.

Of course we must also acknowledge the very real possibility that the military and law enforcement will double down and enforce whatever laws their leaders write to the letter...irrespective of how immoral they are...this has certainly happened in the past, and it's happening as we speak in many parts of the world in the present. Certainly there were and are countries, such as North Korea, in which law enforcement and the military are not a force of good...but rather a force of evil, and we cannot complacently take for granted that politicians and law enforcement and military officers in countries which are currently run fairly well, will never become corrupted or deteriorate, even at some point in the far future.

In the event that both sides keep upping the ante, the result will be a civil war prosecuted asymmetrically through the use of guerilla tactics. And will likely involve explosives and assassinations as well as cyber war and other forms of sabotage. The result will be horrible for everyone and let's hope it doesn't come to that. It's not worth going into the details, there's plenty of historical examples of what happens to societies during all-pervasive guerilla combat. What I will say, is that the large scale centralized systems of production, which power the industry and infrastructure of today's nation states, may be more powerful and more efficient than the community of decentralised producers, however, in a full scale guerilla war, the official centralized production network and infrastructure of existing nation states is far more vulnerable to catastrophic sabotage and attack compared to the decentralised production infrastructure which will be smaller, more mobile, better hidden and more resilient. Central authorities may feel they can use powerful AI to root out terrorist and use drone swarms to find them and kill them, but if that AI gets hacked, or the central database which guides it gets hacked by their decentralist adversaries, it may well end up turning on its centralist creators. Certain nation states have nuclear weapons, but the most effective defence against a nuclear weapon is to live in the same city as the person with the launch codes.

Finally, as a generally rule, every piece of sweeping infrastructure which the centralists use to impose totalitarian control on their population, will also make the centralist society extremely vulnerable to decentralist attack during an all out war. For example:

1. A CBDC that allows centralists to suspend or zero out, the bank accounts of dissidents, ultimately involves giving someone, somewhere, a username and password, or some other access method, to get editing powers over the entire database of bank accounts. If said username and password leaked out to decentralist forces, they could use it to zero out

everyone's bank account across the entire system and bring the entire centralist economy to a screeching halt!

2. Central editing powers over social media accounts, similarly could give decentralists the ability to cancel mass accounts or, alternatively use a botnet to cause massive numbers of centralist social media accounts to make posts that are deliberately designed to trigger the totalitarian AI to cancel everyone's business license, driver's license, bank account, passport, credit rating, and zero out the social credit score of everyone in the country simultaneously so that no one can do anything!
3. Any totalitarian social-credit-type AI with sweeping powers to access and edit all the important records of people in a coordinated manner in order to mess up the lives of dissidents must have some kind of control panel that some government bureaucrats can access, to input the kind of behaviours they consider to be undesirable, and what kind of people to identify as political enemies. However, if the decentralists gain access to the master control panel for the giant social credit AI, by getting the username and password (or whatever other access mechanism there is), then they can instruct it to mess with ALL of the records of everyone across the board, so that even the loyal followers of the regime, including the owners and employees of monopolist corporations, have their bank accounts frozen, and their passport and driver's license cancelled
4. An "internet of things" which the centralist elites design to mess around with people's household appliances, to freak dissidents out and make their life hell, if hacked into by the decentralists, could cause household appliances everywhere to go crazy and make life in centralist societies impossible.

It's true that decentralized networks can also be gamed and manipulated. But at least decentralized systems are *designed* with the intention of making them hard to manipulate. Centralised systems, on the other hand, ***are actually designed to be easily manipulated by a single central controller*** thus centralized systems all have points of massive vulnerability, which implies that, even if the decentralized forces are fewer in number with less impressive looking weapons, it's still entirely possible that in a war between centralists and decentralists, the decentralists might win due to the fact that decentralized systems are designed to be as invulnerable to attack as possible, while centralized systems will always be more vulnerable to attack and contain far more weak points which, if effectively targetted, can cause them to collapse.

As an interesting aside, the last few pages described a kind of non-governmental decentralized rebellion against a centralised government. But, in addition to internal rebellions, in a nation-on-nation cyberwar, a government that deliberately makes its information infrastructure decentralised would likely defeat a nation that designed its computing infrastructure to be centrally controllable. For example lets assume Japan designed its information economy, governance, communication and production system, to be decentralized, while China designed its entire communication and information system to be centrally controlled by whoever was leader of The Communist Party. Lets assume that both Japan and China both build up formidable cyberwarfare army battalions filled with highly-skilled hackers. Under such circumstances, if an all-out cyberwar broke out between Japan and China sometime in the future, the Japanese cyberwar battalion would likely be able to reek absolute havoc on the centralised Chinese information infrastructure and economy, while the Chinese cyberwar battalion would likely have a much harder time damaging Japan's decentralized information system and economy.

For this reason, some nation states might actually voluntarily decide to decentralize their information infrastructure *by design* in order to defend themselves more effectively against an aggressor nation during a cyberwar. So decentralization might become a feature of a cyber arms race between nations.

It is worth saying, that if the protocol works as intended, then, in the event that the decentralised economy triumphs, or at least a peace agreement of some kind is arrived at following a significant war, that the community will be able to use the protocol to automatically dethrone the leader, and possibly replace soldier's salaries with unconditional pensions, so that there is no pressure to take orders from anyone and also to make sure that a revolutionary leader will not turn into a tyrannical despot.

Hopefully, decentralized defence will not be needed and, it will be possible to sustainably support decentralized payment, decentralized communication and decentralized production in a manner that either is officially lawful and tolerated by politicians and law enforcement authorities, or, in a way that is officially not allowed, but where dealing with it is low down on the priority of law enforcement. In which case, in practice, if the community of decentralised producers stays out of the way and remains nimble, the interference they get subjected to will be at a low enough level to allow the decentralized productive economy to continue to operate.

If it is possible for a decentralized society to exist and be tolerated within a nation state without developing a decentralised defence force, then such a decentralized society should focus on production and free communication rather than defence.

There's also the question of how do you debug a decentralized defence protocol without having to start an actual civil war? The theory of how a defence protocol should work is that the community should elect a leader, through minting a leadership NFT into the chosen leader's wallet as described and that the community will be able to get the protocol to automatically "turn leadership off" when the emergency is over by eliminating the leader's ability to control public spending and soldiers' salaries and, at that point, the leader of the revolution will then automatically cease to be a leader. However, there are at least two big questions:

1. Can a small number of wealthy interests on the network make use of botnets, or paid troll farms to control an election's result so that the wealthy interest controls who becomes leader of the network as opposed to it being a decision that is evenly represented across all the members of the network?
2. Can the victorious leader of the revolution, find some way around the protocol to stay in power, maybe some reliable way to exert influence or pressure on the community to ensure they would never vote him out or tell the protocol to "turn off" the government – and, by so doing, remain leader for life?

One way to test these hypotheses without starting a real civil war would be to design a Massive Multiplayer Online game that uses the same protocol proposed in reality in a game that simulates a civil war between the a decentralized production network and a centralized state, hell bent on cracking down on it. Can the wealthy players, in practice, control who gets elected leader of the decentralised forces? Can the police of the centralised state successfully infiltrate the decentralized forces and actually control the election of the leader, thereby turning the decentralised forces into a kind of controlled opposition? Can the leader of the decentralized forces stay in power, and remain leader

indefinitely, by manipulating circumstances in such a way as to ensure the community never turns the government off after the war is over?

If lots of video games were played in parallel using the same protocol that is intended also for use in real life, then we might get at least some idea as to whether the protocol would be likely to work or whether it needs modifications – at least some failure modes could be uncovered by incorporating it into a computer game and testing it that way.

There are also several relatively peaceful ways to implement decentralized defence. One might be to start a political party called “The Blockchain Party”. The party would have a manifesto to run all the institutions governing a country, including the military, the police force, the central bank etc., using a decentralized protocol (hopefully debugged and resistant to botnets) that will automatically implement the will of the people in a transparent manner for which the entire decision-making process is transparently recorded on a public ledger available for anyone to see. If the Blockchain Party won an election, and they could then peacefully implement the changes and decentralize the governance structure of any nation state they were elected to govern.

Another way to implement a system of decentralized defence, in such a way so as not to destabilize the country where it is implemented, would be to implement it in a country that is already at war such as: Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan or Ukraine (among others). After all, one way to avoid destabilizing a place is to go somewhere that is already so incredibly unstable that nothing could destabilize things any more than they already are.

Now we move on from the how of a decentralized society, to discussing the why at the most essential level. Why create a decentralized society? What are we trying to achieve? This is discussed in the next chapter.

THE FIVE KEY INALIENABLE RIGHTS

Decentralized ledger recording systems are very effective at creating organizations that are immune from decapitation, but ultimately:

1. The existence of any decentralized ledger that has no effect on human beings organizing in the real world is completely irrelevant
2. And any people who engage in any detectable activity (and the overwhelming majority of activities *are* detectable with sufficient effort) can be detected and hunted down

Anyone who thinks that using a decentralized ledger system to act illegally will somehow make them magically immune from the law, may, at some point, get a very rude awakening. It’s possible that certain low level, harmless activities that are basically legal but where the participants didn’t file the paperwork and operate pseudonomously may be ignored, or at least de-prioritized by law enforcement, if the effort required to enforce said regulations is extremely high, and if the public benefit is extremely low. However, if people looking to commit serious crimes start using decentralized ledger systems (trafficking illegal weapons, sex slaves, child prostitutes, crystal meth, organising flash mobs to loot jewellery stores, etc.), then it is almost certain that law enforcement will make cracking down on the use of decentralized ledgers to organise illegal activity **a very high priority indeed**, perhaps even their

top priority. If this starts to happen, then there may come a whole slew of draconian regulation which restricts people from using decentralized ledgers to organize any unlawful activity whatsoever. Or, even, legislation that imposes severe punishments on anyone that makes use of decentralized ledgers that are unapproved by the state – at this point all the state then needs to do is only approve ledgers that aren't really decentralized, aren't really blockchains and are really databases which they can surreptitiously control, through making sure “their guys” hold the majority stake in the network. At this point all they've done is put lipstick on a CBDC, and most non-software developers probably won't notice and will believe it's independently controlled...

There are some very serious questions that need to be answered:

If criminals start using decentralized ledgers to organise evil, harmful and revolting activities that disgust and outrage the overwhelming majority of the population...

...how will those individuals who wish to use decentralized ledgers to merely resist government overreach (which may also involve unlawful activities) distance themselves from the criminals that may use decentralized ledgers to not only organise themselves to act unlawfully, but also unethically?

If animosities begin to develop between independent communities, who wish to coordinate their economies pseudonomously on a decentralized ledger, and a particular nation state, how will such animosities be resolved? How will the situation de-escalate?...

...Or will it simply devolve, through tit-for-tat, into increasingly extreme levels of violence and destruction, until the members of the decentralized communities become so radicalized, that they see the central government as an unmitigated evil, and become determined to completely destroy every last vestige of central government, while, meanwhile, the central government begins to view decentralized communities as a kind of vermin which must be eradicated down to the last man, woman and child?

And, finally, if government intelligence agencies manage to “hack” the decision-making process of a given decentralized ledger system, and get “their people” into the right positions (or use a bot net which they control), to hold the right stake, or do the right work, to gain control over the future evolution of the protocol, or the governance decisions made by the community...

...how will the community be able to clearly and unambiguously evaluate that the network they are participating in has become irreparably compromised, and hence, that they need to abandon it and establish a new, uncompromised network from scratch...

...and what criteria could they use to make such an evaluation?

The instant any community of people begins to venture outside the umbrella of the law, that community is sure to attract some of the worst kind of scum imaginable. For this reason, it is crucial for any community that decides to take a bold stance to operate outside the law, as a matter of principle, to be **crystal clear** about **exactly** what rights they are fighting for, and also exactly what they are not fighting for, and to distance themselves from groups and individuals that just want to do anything they feel like doing, including activities that are grossly unethical.

In this chapter, I propose that there are five **inalienable rights** which we cannot compromise on for, if we allow any one of these five core inalienable rights to be violated, we could open the door to enabling some central controllers, either government, corporate, or some revolving door combination, to bypass the court system and make the life of anyone they wish hell anytime they choose, without trial by jury or any representative to defend them. However, by upholding these rights, The Rule Of Law can still be maintained in spirit as well as in letter. I propose, that, provided these rights are respected by the government, any decentralized society that organizes its activity through the use of a decentralized record of information, should ensure that its members adhere to all the other laws of the land that don't violate these rights. And the extent to which a decentralized society should ignore the laws of the nation in which it lives should only be to the extent that it **needs** to break the law to uphold these five inalienable rights:

- **The Right To Produce**
- **The Right To Mutually Consenting Trade**
- **The Right To Pay Tax In Income Received**
- **The Right To Choose Property**
- **The Right To Sanctity Of One's Person And Possessions**

THE RIGHT TO PRODUCE

The right to produce all that is required to meet one's needs, and one's ability to live a normal life, for one's self

Imagine the government passed a law that mandated that everyone must wear a metal collar around their neck that contained a small charge of high explosives. Would we say: "Well the law passed through a legitimate Parliamentary process, so as a socially responsible, law-biding citizen I guess I'll just comply and put on the neck collar with the high explosives that can be remotely activated. After all, the government has assured me they will only use it in a responsible manner, so I'm sure they won't abuse that power." Or would we respond with outrage and say "Hell no! I don't care how many parliaments pass that law, I'm not putting on that GOD DAM EXPLOSIVE NECK COLLAR! It's an outrageous violation of my rights! The government is **NOT** entitled to demand that the people give them the ability to kill them at the push of a button!" What if the government issued permits that allowed people not to wear the neck collar with the high explosives attached? Permits which the government could refuse to grant people at its discretion? Would you fill out the paperwork and apply for a permit not to wear the explosive neck collar, post it to the "application for exemptions"

department of the “national high explosive neck collar agency” – or would you refuse to even file the paperwork, refuse to wear the explosive neck collar, break the law on principle and stick it to the system?

How low would you stoop in order to comply with the law? To the level of granting the government the power to kill you at their discretion?

Not giving the government the ability to arbitrarily choose to kill us at its discretion, even if they don't use that ability, seems like a good place to draw the line and say: “*THIS* is the boundary between legitimacy and tyranny. *THIS* is the point at which I will cease to comply!”

Now consider the government saying to its citizens: “You are not allowed to produce food or create a shelter for yourself without a permit. And we reserve the right to discretionarily refuse to issue you with a permit. You can, of course, buy food or rent shelter any time, but you can only buy food or rent shelter anytime from large corporations with permits using government approved CBDCs. Oh and, by the way, we can turn off your CBDC account anytime we want at our discretion. I guess you'd better be careful not to do anything that we don't like or else, with the flick of a switch, we can throw you out into the cold and starve you to death!”

The government can legitimately prescribe how people go should about producing what they need to live, for the sake of, say, sustainability and land stewardship. But these prescription must be realistic and straightforward to implement. And producing what people need, whether it be food or housing, in a manner which is outlined to be acceptable by the law is something people should be allowed to do **by default**, without requiring any permit to be granted before the fact. If people engage in some kind of prohibited activity that causes damage to the environment, or risks human health, the onus is on the government to prove that said activity was in violation of some law or other that was written to protect the environment and not simply charge people with: “Producing food or furniture without a permit.” Someone without tolerable accommodation has the **inalienable right** to build accommodation for themselves on land that they own **by default**. If the neighbours, or the local council, do not wish to permit someone to live on a plot of land that they own, **then the are obliged to provide them with another plot of land for free where they are explicitly permitted to live**. What this implies is that, while the government may deny someone the right to build immovable accommodation for themselves without a permit. **At the very least**, people have the **inalienable right** to build one form of mobile accommodation for themselves, if they don't already have accommodation, **without permission**, and, if they situate that accommodation on land they own and the government don't like where they are living, then the government may only instruct them to move by giving them ownership of another plot of land, purchased at the government's expense, and explicitly grant them permission to live there indefinitely. Furthermore, if the individual living on the land was planning to start a homestead, then the new land the government gives them to live on instead (assuming they refuse to permit them to live on the first plot) must be equally suitable to homestead on and to produce enough food to live.

The same applies to the right to produce any appliance which people normally and legally use.

Ultimately, whether any given regulation truly is practically accessible and implementable or whether it is sufficiently convoluted to justify violating, is a matter of conscience for the members of the decentralized community. However, while every decentralized community has the **right** to produce **everything** its members need to live a reasonable standard of life, in the event that said community

forms the view that a given set of regulations is too onerous for its member to be capable of practically adhering to, they should set quality control standards which, if laxer than those of the government's, nevertheless, try to approximate the spirit of the law behind the government's regulations, without being so onerous as to prevent the community from providing for its needs.

Without the **inalienable right** to produce what one needs to live, there is no meaningful security of person.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person

Being one CBDC account suspension away from starvation is not security of person.
Also with respect to article 25

Article 25(1): Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age, or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control

And given that article 4 prohibits slavery, then article 25(1) must therefore imply the right to production. The right of people to work in nature, using freely available capital, or capital they have legitimately procured, to provide for their own basic needs without government interference.

There's a reason why one of Mahatma Gandhi's most famous act of Civil Disobedience was the Salt March. Gandhi recognised the inherent injustice of forbidding people to direct their own efforts to address their own basic needs. When walking to the sea to evaporate salt is a crime, the law is no longer worth respecting.

THE RIGHT TO MUTUAL CONSENTING TRADE

The right for mutually consenting individuals, who both expressly state a willingness to risk purchasing faulty products, and who are both willing to expressly absolve themselves of any legal recourse which may result from such a purchase, to transact with one another. This includes the right to sell any legal product without requiring any license or permission issued or granted by the state to a buyer that expressly accepts all the risks involved in making such a purchase

Human beings are social creatures to the very core of our being. The essence of humanity is mutual aid. A kind of give and take between people that brings society together and forms the basis of most meaningful relationships at some level. While the voluntary choice of who to interact with and how to interact with them, enables people to optimise their relationships with others so as to truly prosper. Any government that unduly interferes with a community by preventing their members from aiding and voluntarily transacting with one another in any way they please, provided it does no harm, is acting immorally.

At some level, the inalienable right of one person to produce what he requires to meet his needs without government interference, is inseparable from the right of a tightly knit group of people to work

together and aid each other to produce what they require to meet their needs as a community without government interference.

Of course regulations which govern manufacturing are important for consumer protection, and it is important to ensure that people don't end up purchasing goods that damage their health, or which don't do what the producer claimed and get ripped off, losing their hard earned savings as a result. However, there's always a grey area between regulating to protect consumers and regulating to protect monopolies against new entrants.

The only clear way to protect small businesses against the steady encroachment of monopolies is to have some procedure where, if the good being transacted is normally legal, and if the consumer very clearly and explicitly states that they are willing to accept all risks associated with buying the product and absolves the seller of all liability, that producers and consumers can transact any generally legal class of thing they want without the law interfering – even if the manufacturer has no licenses whatsoever.

There is an argument to be made, that if the government has to pick up the pieces from unsatisfactory transactions, in the form of lengthy, expensive, time-consuming court battles, that the government is entitled to introduce pre-emptive systems of licenses and regulations to ensure that producers are following best practice with their manufacturing process.

However, if the consumer in the transaction clearly and explicitly absolves the producer of all risk and liability and states they are willing to accept any risk that follows from purchasing the product, then unlicensed producers have the **inalienable right** to sell to such people. Perhaps in order to become an unrestricted consumer, you should have to pass a test, like a driving test that makes you aware of the serious dangers that badly made products can produce such as toxic fumes, deadly bacteria, flammable material that can burn down your house, etc.,

In practice, I imagine very few people would opt to become unrestricted consumers, and most people would prefer to just stick with purchasing safe products.

However, if there is a process, however bureaucratic, that enables producers and consumers to legally exit the standard regulatory regime for manufacturing, then this opens up the possibility to experiment with parallel quality control reputation-based systems (such as those that may be organised through a decentralized ledger). It is, of course, entirely possible, that many parallel, alternative, reputation-based, quality control standards may result in customers suffering from all the problems that regulators were trying to protect them from in the first place. However, a few quality control reputation-based systems might produce better results than existing regulations. These “experiments” made by brave consumers willing to take risks, could occasionally produce useful evidence-based information to help regulators draft better regulations in the future.

Either way, so long as both parties are willing to accept all the risks that follow from such a transaction, people have a right to, broadly speaking, exchange whatever they want with each other, as long as the items exchanged fall into broadly legal categories that are generally sold in shops.

Article 20(1) asserts:

Article 20(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association

Those who advocate for this manifesto would assert that, not only do human beings have a fundamental right to form associations, but we also have the fundamental right to form **materially productive associations**, whose members address each other's needs, without requiring permission by the state.

THE RIGHT TO PAY TAXES IN INCOME RECEIVED

The right of individuals to pay taxes denominated in the assets they receive as income.

The purpose of tax is for people to pay an affordable fraction of what they make to contribute to the running of the state.

The purpose of tax is **NOT** to drive people into destitute poverty.

The purpose of tax is **NOT** to turn people's lives upside down and unduly interfere with their fundamental ability to live according to their chosen livelihood.

Thus, while a government may certainly charge its citizens tax to raise revenues for important public programmes, governments have **no right** to tax their citizens in assets they don't have.

If someone, living self-sufficiently on a homestead grows onions, lettuces and tomatoes, but doesn't sell them for money, the government may tax them some onions, lettuces or tomatoes. In which case, if they hand over some vegetables at the tax office – that's their taxes paid. But, if they don't have any U.S. dollars and don't make any U.S. dollars, the government has no right to tax them U.S. dollars.

It's completely unethical to tax someone something they don't have and don't earn.

Similarly, if some public key working in the dark economy earns cryptocurrency, but does not have or earn a fiat currency, such as U.S. dollars, then while a government can legitimately tax them in the cryptocurrency they earn, that government has **no right** to tax them U.S. dollars.

When a government taxes someone for something they don't have and then throws them in prison for not paying, that's the equivalent of arbitrarily arresting them, which violates **article 9** of the universal declaration of human rights which states:

Article 9: No one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest detention or exile.

Punishing someone for not paying something they don't have is **arbitrary punishment**. Imagine a law that stated, "everyone who fails to pay a tax of two Zaphian Bobble beads to the government will face 10 years in prison." If Zaphian Bobble beads don't exist, such a law basically implies the police can arbitrarily sentence anyone they want to 10 years in prison. A law that taxes people in currency they don't have and don't make is similar. At the very least, it grievously discriminates against poor people.

THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE PROPERTY

The right of individuals to hold their property in any medium they may choose, other than prohibited materials which are harmful to human life.

Basically people have a right to possess, as property, anything they create or obtain through voluntary trade with, or as a voluntary gift from, others which is not unusually harmful to human life, property or to the environment.

When I say “unusually” I mean more harmful than anything people are already allowed to own. (As people can obviously confabulate that anything is ever-so-slightly harmful if they want to ban it)

If a given item poses no unusual harm, then the government has no reason to specifically seize it, or ban people from possessing it.

People are sentimental. We form attachments to things, ideas and people. For a government to gratuitously sever such sentimental bonds that people have formed with their property, and with their community, would be an act of gratuitous cruelty.

Therefore people have an **inalienable right** to possess **anything** that is not unusually harmful, whether that be precious metals, NFTs, cryptocurrencies, etc., The government can tax a fraction of what people make, or perhaps even own, but to tax, seize, or ban one harmless asset class while enabling another harmless asset class to remain legal, or taxed relatively little, is to arbitrarily discriminate against people for having a particular preference – which is clearly unethical.

And what does possession mean, if one moment you own a bunch of collectibles, perhaps pokemon cards, which you play with, with other members of a gaming community and the next moment the governments says, everything you worked so hard to amass, which has great sentimental value for you, and links you to a community, is now illegal. Clearly, if the asset is harmless, then its seizure (unless proportionate to the taxation on all other asset classes) could only be interpreted as **arbitrary**.

And **Article 17(2)** of the universal declaration of rights states:

Article 17(2) : No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property

THE RIGHT TO SANCTITY OF ONE’S PERSON AND POSSESSIONS

The right of the individual not to be forced to have anything inserted into his body that could either conceivably cause him harm, compromise his liberty through exerting unwanted behavioural influence or collect his personal data

and

Not to be forced to own possessions which are designed to have the capacity to self-destruct, be remotely controlled by third parties, or collect data – such as through regulations that impose manufacturing standards on all items of a particular product class, that people frequently use as part of everyday life, with the intent of conferring them with any of these characteristics.

This right really should be immediately self-evident at a glance but, given the way things are going, our situations seems to have deteriorated to the point where the sanctity of one's person and possessions now explicitly needs to be justified and defended as an **inalienable right**.

This gets back to the hypothetical mandatory neck collar with high explosives. The government does **NOT** have the legitimate right to demand that we give it the ability to kill or injure us, at the push of a button. There is a reason why the term important personal data is common place today. Because certain identifying data can be used to cause us harm. Your physical location, is one of the most important pieces of information that a murderer first needs in order to murder a particular person. If you don't know where they physically are, it's unlikely you'll be able to kill them. Medical information, such as peanut allergies, can also be used to cause harm. Other identifying information can be used by attackers to masquerade as victims and damage their reputation – or even unload a custodial account.

Hence the idea of a government forcing its citizenry to insert tracking devices inside them, or forcing manufacturers to insert bugs into everyday equipment to allow the government to spy on its citizens is utterly repugnant and the citizens of the nation are fully within their rights to resist, and do whatever it takes, to prevent the government either putting tracking devices inside of them or their possessions, by breaking whatever laws they need to break to ensure it doesn't happen. This would involve refusing any government mandates to have a tracking device inserted inside them in addition to supporting a parallel manufacturing economy to make the devices, required to live normally, without the government-mandated bugs, even if manufacturing said devices is illegal.

The right of people to refuse any medical procedure that could harm them, and the right for people to own property that is not manufactured to be capable of either being damaged or of harming the owner as a result of receiving some kind of remote signal should also be clear and straightforward.

Finally, people have the **inalienable right** to refuse the insertion of anything into their body which could alter their behaviour. Not only could altering behaviour lead to self harm, the alteration of behaviour, mood and thought, could, for example, be used to suppress protective behaviour and perhaps ultimately be used to engineer people's behaviour into docilely accepting sterilization, or even death. But the mandatory imposition of treatments designed to alter the behaviour of the citizenry is an **unacceptable and direct affront to individual liberty and human dignity**.

People have the right to control their bodies and their possessions. And any law which violates, or runs counter to that right in any way, is not worthy of respect and the citizenry have the right, nay **the duty**, to resist and bypass any such laws however they can.

In a free society, while the state does have a monopoly on violence, there are frictional procedures that are deliberately added (i.e. the courts, citizen's rights, etc.) to make it difficult for the state to exercise that monopoly. This serves to ensure that the state only exercises violent in instances where doing so is absolutely necessary.

In a tyranny, the exercise of violence by the state upon the citizenry is frictionless, easy and frequent.

Any effort to design a frictionless system to enable the government to harm citizens in a manner that bypasses the standard court procedures, which are intentionally in place for the specific purpose of

adding friction, and reasonably limiting a state's ability to harm its citizenry, should be resisted at all costs.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person

Any violation of the right to sanctity of one's person and possessions clearly violates Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as **Article 12**

Article 12: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

When I spoke of the right to produce, I said that any decentralized ledger system should try to enforce quality standards that are similar (even if only in spirit) to the laws of any country it operates in. The object being to violate the law to the minimum extent necessary to preserve the privacy of the various participants who participate as public keys in the dark economy.

The right to sanctity of one's person and possessions is the obvious exception to this. If the state should pass codes mandating that in order for manufacturers to be legally allowed to make product X, they must insert a tracking device into each item they manufacture for sale, then it behoves the Dark Economy to resist such regulations with all its might and manufacture parallel products without the tracking devices and without the bugs which listen into private conversations.

Perhaps a final summary of what a decentralized society is fighting for:

Those who LIVE a decentralized lifestyle, irrespective of whether they do so with the blessing and tolerance of the state, or whether they do so in face of intense state opposition, harbour the absolute conviction that ALL people have the inalienable right to privately work and transact with one another to meet their basic needs as human beings without being forced to submit to the humiliation of being, documented, licensed, recorded, registered, catalogued, numbered, bugged, implanted, tracked, medicated, or otherwise gratuitously treated like cattle and controlled by the state as a condition to undertake the basic activities they require to live as free people, with equal rights, upon this world we all share.

We RECOGNISE the state may prescribe what can and can't be done WITHIN REASON but the state may not legitimately license, restrict or otherwise demand that communities of people "ask for permission" to engage in the necessary activities required to live normal lives with the necessities and comforts that are properly recognised as rightfully due to all people. That if a particular activity is prohibited, charges must be pressed after the fact and that any such prohibition may NOT legitimately be used as a pretext to impose a sweeping system of permits that restrict members of a community from conducting important economic activities as a matter of default (i.e. in the absence of possessing the required government-issued permits)

We, furthermore, ASSERT that communities of people have the right to set up and manage their own system of ledgers and records to facilitate trust and commerce with fellow members using whatever framework and infrastructure their members feel most secure using, and that nation states have no legitimate right to interfere with that process, so long as it doesn't facilitate activities that are BOTH illegal and unethical. A government may require that the better off members of its society contribute tax to aid in the running of the country, however, it is the right of everyone to pay and calculate tax in whatever currency they use to conduct their day-to-day transactions. A government may not legitimately demand that its citizens pay tax in a currency they neither earn nor own.

While the emergence of tyranny is a danger which past historical events demonstrate as being very real indeed, it is important to remember that the government is a mixed bag and performs a mixture of useful functions in addition to oppressive functions. Indeed even oppressive regimes will usually protect their citizenry from criminals, murderers and thieves even as they drag political dissidents off to be tortured for expressing views that run counter to the dominant totalitarian ideology, or for associating with the wrong person, or maybe just being anonymously reported by someone under duress during a purge.

Many activities are prohibited for a reason. Many are unethical, but even prohibited activities that some may plausibly argue to be ethical may, nevertheless, be broadly disapproved of by the wider population.

Decentralized ledgers make organisations impossible to decapitate, and thus allow people to organise a resistance against the state that cannot easily be knocked out. If a disorganised population is 30 times less effective per capita, compared to an organized state police force, a population which is organised through the use of a decentralized ledger might be 3 times less effective. Let us not be unrealistic, the police and military of sovereign nations is a mighty and awesome force not to be trifled with, but a decentralized organisation could at least acquire the capacity to give it a bloody nose in the event that the nation's police force truly came down upon it like a ton of bricks – and if a sizeable portion of the population sympathized with the decentralists, then the sheer force of numbers, combined with the impossibility of decapitation, could make the decentralists a truly unstoppable force.

But transgressing the laws of a nation is not something to take lightly – and actively resisting enforcement authorities even less so (indeed the latter action really should only be reserved as an absolute last resort when all other options to secure basic rights are completely exhausted). It would be extremely foolish to impudently break laws right left and centre and assume that one will get away with it. Rather, those who advocate for a decentralized society should adhere to the law to the very limit that their conscience allows and only transgress laws to the extent that they can't in good conscience comply without compromising their fundamental rights, and the fundamental rights of the other members of their community – including the right to privacy – without violating the law in the process.

Any political movement must be clear on what it stands for, on the principles it is not willing to compromise on, and compromise on all else.

That is why we must stand by these 5 inalienable rights, defend them as peacefully as possible, if legitimate political avenues exist which allow this, but nevertheless defend them at all costs – or else risk losing, perhaps all of, our basic hard won rights and liberties forever.

RESISTING THE CENTRALIZED SYSTEM OF CONTROL

In addition to payment, communication, production and defence, most sovereign entities have extensive intelligence agencies that can be deployed to project soft power and subvert their enemy's capacity to act against them.

One might think, if you are a decentralist that disagrees with centralized state enforced power, that the last place you would want to get a job would be in the military or the police. But infiltrating centralized institutions of power will be critical to both (hopefully) reduce animosity and ensure that there are pro-decentralist voices in as many decision-making and policy-setting discussions within centralized institutions as possible. It also reduces the ability of centralist power centres to conduct operations that suppress and cause harm to decentralists who are quietly trying to go about living their lives.

Decentralist infiltrators within the police and military could tip-off the decentralist communities to any planned raids, for example.

Another issue is bottlenecks, such as border control, airports, and the like. If there are certain decentralist sympathizers that work in border control, or work in airports, that could help decentralists who were put on no fly lists, or had their passport cancelled and needed to get a fake one issued and change their alias. Such decentralists, travelling under an alias, might choose to make sure that when they leave or enter the country with a fake passport, they go through a particular barrier that is manned by a border-guard that is a decentralist sympathizer so that, even if they detect the passport is faked, they will let them through anyway. They would connect with appropriate borderguards by messaging their public keys on the blockchain. Public keys kept by someone in the dark economy advertising on the ledger that they have contacts with decentralist sympathizers who work on the inside in border control. Other public keys which have accrued a suitably high reputation, or some other proof or appropriate reference that would make it unlikely for them to be informants, would be able to DM them and get instructions as to which gate to pass through, and at what time, in order to ensure the decentralist sympathizer has a shift when you are booked to pass through.

As things become more automated, it's possible that there may be less and less policemen and more and more police robots. Under such circumstances, the key institutions to infiltrate would be the software developers, maintenance and management people running the social credit AI, debugging the code, deciding the flagging criteria for dissidents/undesirables or manually checking those who get flagged

by the system. Inside infiltrators (who have either secured jobs with key access positions, or managed to have intimate affairs with people in key access positions) might be able to acquire key passwords, or other access protocols, to critical systems to enable vast swarms of decentralist hackers to get inside and start messing with the code, either to bring down the whole system, or possibly to subtly adjust things such as through modifying a specific automatic border gate so as to allow people without state-mandated tracking implants through without flagging them and sounding the alarm.

A big issue is that a lot of work which police do is very important in preventing crimes that are genuinely extremely harmful to society. The issue is when centralist controllers start editing the records that police use to identify criminals, to include people they don't like, or consider to be ideologically unaligned with their regime. Under such circumstances, there maybe some value in maintaining a decentrally stored parallel record that includes genuine criminals but which also very clearly separates people who have been unfairly placed on the record simply due to the view, or political sympathies, they have, or the people they associate with, but who haven't actually committed any crime. Many police may care about catching criminals but have concerns about the politicization (hypothetically in the future) of their institution to weaponize it to persecute dissidents, or people for simply holding opinions which the state disapproves of. In such instances, a decentralized parallel record might give such policemen an opportunity to do their real job, and catch criminals, without unjustly interfering with people's freedom to speak and think what they wish, within reason.

As the centralists try to make the system become increasingly totalitarian, more and more people will adhere to it purely out of fear. As the system becomes increasingly corrupt, the police and military will find it harder and harder to entertain any illusions that they are being patriotic, or defending justice, freedom or any other high principles. Consequently, many enforcement officers will become increasingly demoralized, and will merely follow orders from on high for a paycheck and nothing else.

Once everyone in the enforcement institution ceases to believe their institution is a force of good, and just works for a paycheck, it will become very easy to use cryptocurrency to modify their behaviour. If law enforcement officers start to hate their job, and only do it because they need the money, then a big cryptocurrency payday, big enough to live for the rest of your life, for helping an unjustly imprisoned decentralist break out of jail, might convince someone on the inside to do it, grab the crypto, and then disappear into the anonymity of the dark economy. There they could spend the rest of their life sipping dark cocktails on a quiet beach, while holidaying in high end underground hotels, and taking submarine holiday cruises, forever more. Other than breaking key people out of prison, other things you could bribe enforcers on the inside to do would be to:

- Destroy Evidence
- Tip off decentralists to raids planned against their cottage industry operations
- Get the police to raid the wrong establishment
- And, ofcourse, besides police, decentralised ledgers could offer extremely generous cryptocurrency paydays to any centralist insiders that release important access codes of centrally controlled systems to decentralist hackers

While bribing policemen would be a serious crime, if a decentralized algorithm did it automatically, there'd be no one to arrest.

In any case, you get the picture of how an oppressive system ruled by fear, where the people doing the oppressing don't believe in the system and just work for a paycheck, could be profoundly disrupted by a decentralised cryptocurrency programme designed to bribe the right officials in a manner carefully coordinated to “de-fang” the capacity of centralist enforcement to persecute dissidents. Thus, reducing its ability to maintain a Stalinist-like atmosphere of total fear in the process.

Infiltrating and de-fanging enforcement may well be highly important. The problem with using parallel manufacturing to avoid the internet of things, and to avoid having tracking devices and behavioural control devices implanted to enable society to monitor all your activities is:

- If everyone else has a car with a tracking device and you're the only person driving a car without a tracking device, you'll stick out like a sore thumb
- If phones that relays all the information to the government become mandatory, then people who choose not to use phones, or whose phones do not relay the necessary information, will be easy to detect – and punish, if the state wishes to do so
- If everyone else has a tracking device under their skin then it will be easy to identify the people who don't with the use of a simple government scanner – ditto with brain implants

So, cultivating a situation where police don't arrest people for not having a tracking device in their car/body/etc., (such as by having a staking system where enforcement officers can earn super-high interest rates in their crypto-currency assets so long as they don't enforce Orwellian, privacy-restricting regulations, but where their stake gets slashed if they do) is very important. It may become necessary (in the event that tracking chips in people/cars/ID cards becomes mandatory and their absence becomes an arrestable offence) to design tracking chips that can be turned off, or perhaps implants you carry round with you but which can be removed, or turned off, for brief periods when you don't want to get tracked (such as engaging in dark transactions with people whose keys you don't want to reveal to the authorities) or which output bogus information, so the system doesn't get access to personal information, but won't flag you or set off an alarm either.

In the last few chapters, a great deal of thought has been devoted to what an effective decentralized response to a maximally aggressive, coordinated attempt by all centralists to stamp out all decentralized opposition (or at least render it incapable of posing a serious threat, or significantly undermine their centralist agenda) would look like. And we have considered some dark possibilities – including what could only really be described as an all-out war between centralist sovereign nations, and decentralist networks that have achieved de facto sovereign capability.

However, the situation might be considerably less dark and considerably more peaceful than this. Firstly, many countries possess a wide variety of political mechanism that a sufficiently determined political movement can use to peacefully implement change. I previously suggested that the democratic election of a “Blockchain Party” could be used to peacefully incorporate decentralized governance, privacy, etc., into the running of the state at the most official level. Perhaps even write a constitution, that governs the nation, into code computer code, with elections on the blockchain, leadership NFTs, crypto-legal tender, and all the trappings of blockchain governance described in the chapter

Decentralized Defence. It's probably excessively ambitious to assume that a political party could implement so many radical changes and overcome the organizational inertia of an entire political system over the course of a 4 years term.

It's extremely difficult for a political party to implement sweeping and radical changes to an established bureaucracy. However, it's much easier for a political system to allow the development of parallel systems. So The Blockchain Party might instead campaign on the platform of ensuring the official political system respects the right of parallel decentralised communities to practice the **five inalienable rights** without government interference.

Even if the Blockchain Party only secured 5-15% of the vote, that still might be sufficient to induce a major political party to adopt key elements of its platform into their own platform, or establish a coalition with the Blockchain Party.

Another possibility is that once decentralized communication platforms, that are impossible to shut down (unlike parlor), take root then, if such platforms can amass enough decentralist supporters, during election time any politician that threatens decentralized communities will cause decentralists to mobilise across large decentralised platforms to unrelentingly attack them, not only causing them to lose the decentralist vote, but digging up dirt on them to turn their standard voter base against them as well. Thus, even in the absence of a blockchain party, a robust decentralized social media platform, combined with a continuously growing community of pro-decentralists, might be sufficient to ensure that no politician in any country with a democratic government dares to persecute self-sufficient communities of decentralized producers. This will hopefully enable a peaceful decentralized society, where privacy is respected and where no one can zero out your account or institute some kind of social credit system, to exist even in the absence of any paramilitary-style decentralized defence.

Another possibility is that the relationship between national governments and decentralized entities could become far more nuanced than either simple cooperation or simple conflict. National governments might recognise the potential of some decentralized networks to subvert both their political and financial power but, at the same time, also realise that decentralized networks can be far more resilient to cyberattack when compared to centralized systems and, hence, consider incorporating a degree of decentralization into their information infrastructure as a critical pillar of their national defence strategy – to protect them from being absolutely defeated by a more decentralised foe during a cyberwar against an enemy nation with a decentralized information infrastructure.

The military of nations might also consider decentralized production to be another capability that is of key importance to national security, and a feature that is capable of rendering the infrastructure within their nation far more resilient in the face of both cyber attacks, convention kinetic attacks, and maybe, even, nuclear attacks by adversary nations.

This may cause the leadership of many nations to scratch their heads and have thoughts along these lines:

- “Cryptocurrency undermines our ability to issue fiat currency and debase everyone's saving by stealth while allowing our favoured elite to get rich through the cantillon effect, it also prevents us from monitoring and tracking the transactions made pseudonomously by the citizenry, or to zero out and suspend their bank accounts at our discretion and generally monitor and control every aspect of our citizens' lives – we don't like that!”

- “However, decentralized data storage, protocols, and even production, could give us a major edge against a foreign adversary in the event of a cyberwar, or even a kinetic war – we like that – so we can’t afford to fall behind or ignored decentralized information systems”
- “Unfortunately, the best software developers in this space are fanatical crypto-anarchists, so if we come down on cryptocurrencies (which we don’t like) too heavily, they’ll emigrate to work for our foreign adversaries and help them to develop a resilient decentralized information infrastructure and leave our own information infrastructure riddled with vulnerabilities...”
- “So I guess we’ll just have to grit our teeth and tolerate cryptocurrencies, up to a point, or risk falling behind in the cyber arms race. In any case, the true identity of the public key of anyone who isn’t a freaking genius or insanely careful, is, in practice, usually pretty easy to reveal. So, in practice, even with cryptocurrencies, we’ll still be able to track the transactions of nearly everyone on the public ledger. The permissionless aspect of the payment system is still annoying, but I guess we’ll just have to grit our teeth and put up with it, for the sake of getting the talent we need to develop a secure information infrastructure”

It’s even possible that national intelligence agencies might attempt to make use of the subversive aspects of decentralized ledger technology to incite revolutions in countries with government that interfere with their foreign policy objectives, sort of along the lines of Pinochet, or the Sha of Iran. Intelligence agencies might begin to cultivate assets who possess influential stakes in key decentralized networks and recruit them to destabilize certain other nations that harbour an adversarial relationship towards them.

Under such circumstances, a status quo might arise where many cryptocurrencies, and their accompanying decentralized networks, are, strictly speaking, illegal, but where enforcement agencies turn a blind eye to networks manned by influential members who are prepared to act as assets and work with the corresponding national intelligence agencies to further their foreign interests, by fomenting dissent within foreign countries which they consider to be enemies, while restraining their members from fomenting political dissent domestically. Under these circumstance, making many decentralized networks, strictly speaking, illegal could be used as a tactic to ensure that key stakeholders with positions of influence within those networks play ball with the intelligence agencies – or face arrest on charges of transacting on an illegal network.

There could then be a delicate balancing act, where influential members of a network have their own anarcho-capitalist anti-government agenda, but still have to act as assets for their national intelligence minders in order to protect the other members of the network and prevent law enforcement from targeting them.

It’s also highly likely that national intelligence agencies will, in practice, be able to work out the true identities of most pseudonomous public keys within many decentralized networks through careful hard work. However, because starting a new network from scratch with completely new public keys is simply a matter of making a copy of the protocol and generating new wallets and public keys. Law enforcement likely won’t prosecute everyone who breaks minor laws on the network for fear of alerting the other members to how deeply they have compromised the network. Also, if the identity of members gets blown, such members might procure new fake identity documentation, get plastic surgery and change their address to, once again, break the link between their public keys and their real world

identity. Hence, law enforcement would probably only use their knowledge to persecute the worst offenders.

However, a compromised network in which law enforcement, in practice, know the identities of the participants but where they only occasionally enforce the law against the worst criminals for fear of losing their intelligence (as a result of members changing their alias or switching to a different network) is still **an infinitely better situation** to a situation in which there is a single, centrally controlled social credit system, which everyone adheres to and goes to great lengths to comply with every little detail of The Party's requirements, and where the slightest deviance from government-enforced ideology results in the system coming down on you like a ton of bricks.

So, it's likely that, in practice, a decentralized future is far from ideal and will harbour its own problems. There has never been any political system, in all of human history, that was all sunshine and rainbows.

But the main point is: a complex world, with a complex ecology of various powerful decentralized networks which have de facto sovereign capabilities, will be a world in which it will be impossible to institute a single, all-encompassing, global, totalitarian social credit-like infrastructure. It will also be impossible for central controllers to arbitrarily choose to suspend, or zero-out, your cryptocurrency wallet.

The Ancients Greek believed that one should practice moderation in everything – and avoid excess at all costs.

If decentralized networks can moderate the progressive accumulation of control and power in the hands of a tight global elite...

...if decentralized networks can protect people from having their accounts zeroed out at the arbitrary discretion of central controllers...

...if decentralized networks enable people to store key aspects of their reputation (transactional honesty, skill-sets, etc.) on an immutable, eternal, append-only decentralized ledger that ensured that, even if the Social Credit AI thoroughly sabotaged their official public record (perhaps as a result of them “posting the wrong tweet”) that there would still be one trustworthy unofficial record they could still use to verify their reputation to strangers – even if all their official records were sabotaged...

...if decentralized networks enabled the permissionless, pseudonymous coordination of complex supply chains that could ultimately facilitate the permissionless manufacturing of a range of products, enabling people to work productively, transact with others, and earn a living, even in the absence of government-issued business licenses, suitable permits, etc., etc.,...

Then this would massively contribute to liberating humanity from the grasp of a handful of central controllers that acquire the power to arbitrarily isolate anyone they wish from the ability to transact with others in any way. Including the ability to procure even the most basic essentials required to live through transacting with their fellow man.

And even if a world filled with a wide range of decentralized organisations, or more likely, a patchwork of centralized and decentralized organisations remains far from ideal, it is still **infinitely better** than the abject slavery implied by a world where everyone needs a government permit, which they must constantly renew, to be legally allowed to perform even the most basic activities, whether it be communicating, working, travelling, or even buying food or living in a house...and where all of these permits are presented as “privileges” which it’s totally acceptable to revoke without any trial by jury or all the other tiresome procedures that needlessly slow the process of punishing people down.

One key problem with centralized systems of control is that they are vulnerable to being controlled by other centralized systems of control.

In other words, centralized systems are both easy to control and easy to hijack the control of.

If the leader of centralized system A, can put a gun to the head of the leader of centralized system B, then system A can effectively control system B in its entirety. Hence centralized systems tend to fuse, through mergers, acquisitions, conquests and other processes, to become fewer and fewer and fewer. And, with the current technological infrastructure, that facilitates global communication and global coordination, at some point, it seems likely that a single, centrally run, global governance monopoly will form that will consolidate evermore power, evermore tightly, until there is no possibility for disagreeing, deviating, or successfully rebelling against whatever agenda the global oligarchy wishes to pursue.

Perhaps it is now clear how important effective decentralized networks are to gum up, slow down and resist this progressive accumulation and consolidation of ever greater amounts or centrally controlled dictatorial power.

Today we live in an age where the culture of freedom and liberty, which America (however imperfectly) represented, is waning. As we move into the 21st century, the totalitarian, authoritarian ideals of China seem to be gaining traction and admiration. There has never been a time, since the 1930s, when there has been greater scepticism, among the intelligensia, of the merits of democracy and of the merits of free speech than there is today. Respect for human rights, by governments the world over, is waning fast and time is running out.

However, the decentralized infrastructures, communities and social arrangements, described here, do not yet exist and will require a great deal of effort to build and bring into existence. And to build, one needs the freedom to build without excessive interference.

One can only build a fortress, when one is unchained during periods between battles.

And once the full centralized control infrastructure is rolled out across the whole world, it will then become impossible to build the decentralized infrastructure which is required to resist the all-encompassing system of Orwellian surveillance, propaganda and permission.

If we prevail, we will have created a system so effective at resisting authoritarianism, that no authoritarian system, no matter how tight, will be capable of ruling without the consent of the broader population. Humanity the world over, across North Korea, China, Africa and the Middle East will use decentralized systems to organize and rid themselves of their oppressors. And the only centralized systems that will remain will be those which can secure the broad support of their citizenry.

If we fail, the various different centralized systems of:

- Nations
- Supra National Organisations
- Multi-National Corporations

Will merge and fuse into a single monopoly, amorphous though it maybe, controlled by a small oligarchical elite, with access to highly sophisticated technology relating to:

- Surveillance
- Behavioural Influence (through propaganda, drugs, nudges)
- Mind Control
- Medical Procedures that change the very essence of our humanity

And they will use this technology, if allowed to develop it unhindered, to secure their control over the masses so tightly, that the bulk of humanity (assuming we are “allowed” to retain our humanity) can never break free again.

So we must act now or lose the freedom of future generations forever.

We must act to protect the future freedom of our children.

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