

FUTURISM AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

INTRO

Welcome to the futurist manifesto, where futuristic ideas regarding society will be discussed. Even though “the future” sounds far away and irrelevant, it is quite the opposite. Without knowing what is to come and preparing for it, humanity would be entering the future like a maniac running wildly through a minefield.

PURPOSE

This text seeks to highlight major problems faced by mankind, then providing solutions for them. The solutions to the problems will often be unconventional and new, thereby futuristic. Futuristic ideas will play a large role in this text.

FUTURISM AND THE TRUTH

Futurism itself means only “an interest in the future”, which does little to describe any actual proposals for solutions. Instead, this text actually aligns itself with reality, reality usually being reflected by an interest in the future. “Futurism” is not so much a grand cause, but rather a logical reflection of the situation and options for mankind.

FUTURISM AND THE PAST

Turning to the past instead of finding new solutions is what futurism seeks to prevent. The answers created by past experts are too vague, or simply do not apply to the present scenario: They could not know what the present today would be like, the information was not available. Today, with the rise of internet and mass-media, that is no longer the case, and a study of the future shall commence.

GUIDE

If reading this on a machine, the underlined and non-boldened words should be clickable as links to access other pages.



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THE FREE WORLD

LIBERALISM

As a system of many names, it will here be called liberalism. It is based around the individual and granting them self-determination. This manifests for example by giving them power to approve of things, whether through voting or investing. Individualism, being focused on humans, allows liberalism to be classified as a type of humanism.

Since this was the prevailing idea of the cold war, society today is dominated by it.

COMPETITIVENESS

An example of competitiveness, would be China versus USA in the trade-conflict. By backing out of the conflict, China would have to stop the manufacturing of wares capable of competing with those of the US. Doing so, ensures US supremacy in that field, meaning all potential customers get drawn to the US instead of China. Continuing this trend, would lead to the weakening of China, and eventually lead to bankruptcy and collapse.

Competitiveness is therefore a manifestation of the path to efficiency.



HUMAN OBSOLETENESS

The main problem humans face today, is obsolescence. When our current society is built around humans still being relevant, society not only changes, but also leaves humans behind.

WORKPLACE AUTOMATION

There is a loss of work coming from employees becoming unemployable due to superior options existing. If a company spends all their money on employing humans who require expensive salaries, their rival, who spends their money paying robots costing pennies in electricity, will have a clear advantage.

ARTIFICIAL ABILITIES

Knowing whether robots can replace humans in every work field, can be done through seeing how replicable humans are. Humans currently replicate themselves through birth, meaning they definitely are replicable, at least with organic materials. Seeing if they are replicable in nonorganic ways, could be done through pattern-finding. What difference to an employer and customer makes a robot which is indistinguishable from the way a human acts? Saying humans do not have patterns, is saying humans are random, due to it removing the predictableness. Due to humans commonly being sighted as predictable, it can be concluded they are not random, meaning they do have patterns, resulting in them being understandable, thereby replicable.

With the “human code” in the process of being cracked, there will only be a question of time before it has finished, after which, humans will be useless.



HUMAN OBSOLETENESS 2

ROBOTS TODAY

Humans today, just like yesterday, are losing their purposes to robots. "Purposes", and not jobs, because they are being replaced in more than just the workforce. In the first industrial revolutions, robots took over manual labor. In the more recent ones, they began tapping into mental work. In this one though, they are taking over mental work, soon outcompeting humans at being humans. Robots today are not only becoming better at working than humans, but also at being humans.

HACKING A HUMAN

By gathering information regarding an individual, patterns can be found. Through the patterns of an individual, hackers will be able to predict behavior like responses to certain stimuli. Using a computer to run thousands of simulations of responses, allows them to find the most useful outcome for their agenda. The individual will thereby play chess against a computer that not only knows every move, but also knows what the individual will do in advance. Losing that game of chess means having been outcompeted in knowing themselves.

INFORMATION-GATHERING

All that cannot happen though, if the information of the individual never gets into the hands of the hackers. Today though, individuals are giving away their information, for example in exchange for cat-videos on online-media, or for example through watches capable of monitoring their heartbeat, and phones with cameras filming them. That is just the beginning though, with items like hormone-regulators and other products, all having benefits in exchange for information.



HUMAN OBSOLETENESS 3

CURRENT EVENTS

The debate in public regarding automation and hacking of humans, is only a niche, even though having had noticeable impacts. Even so, their impacts have not been extremely noticeable, especially not to the public, meaning this makes sense.

AUTOMATION TODAY

Humans today have mostly been okay with automation, since there always appeared new jobs after the previous ones were automated. Such will still remain the case in the next few years, but only being problemed the overall lowered amounts of jobs for humans, due to “the human code being cracked”. In the next few years, people would have to go through efforts to retrain themselves in order to stay viable, something which would fail looking at the current system, since there is a reason why taxi-drivers are taxi-drivers and not doctors.

HACKING OF HUMANS TODAY

Advertisements in the nature are attempts at hacking the human. In the past, these attempts were weak, since the advertisers had to guess who that wanted what in a very general manner. Today, nearly all businesses are extremely eager to ask for as much information regarding the customers as possible, evidenced by all the terms people have to accept when for example visiting a webpage. If businesses are doing this, it would means they are making money. If this makes money, then it means humans are successfully being hacked.





RISE OF CENTRALIZATION

CENTRALIZATION

Centralization is the act of concentrating data-processing power. An example of centralization could be a leader delegating responsibility to the workforce. Decentralization, would be the leader giving the task of delegating responsibility to secondary leaders.

INEFFICIENCY

Due to the nature of human brains, running too much information through them would result in them being overloaded, thereby making them horrible for centralization. To counteract this, the amount of brains can be increased, which theoretically would work. In practice though, another factor would have to be dealt with, namely corruption.

Corruption happens when the interests of literally everyone, especially the rulers are not aligned with the state. Unlike in decentralized liberal societies, the superior incentive of emotional adherence is not fulfilled through practice of loyalty to the state, thereby causing abuses of power, corruption.

In soviet Russia, many workers were lazy because it provided greater emotional satisfaction than working hard did. To counteract that, KGB agents were assigned to monitor everyone, as it would ensure nobody would get away with laziness. Since nobody were pressuring the KGB agents to work, they began becoming lazy too. That is why new KGB agents had to be assigned to monitor the previous KGB agents, but who would monitor these new agents? The Soviet-union never having found an answer to that, ended up becoming corrupt, contributing to their loss in the cold war.





RISE OF CENTRALIZATION 2

THE RISE

Today, with new technologies having been created, liberalism technically dug its own grave. This is because of computing-power advances, solving the major flaws of centralization. Firstly, computers are able to take in endless amounts of information, only causing them to overload if improperly designed. Secondly, computers only have the incentives they are programmed to have, rendering them incorrupt. All that is preventing governments right now from adopting such a system, is the lack of software to do it with; no government.exe has been invented yet.

TECHNOLOGICAL DICTATORSHIP

In such a society, the state could be run by a robot, the central database. There, information gathered everywhere is stored and processed. This way, the central database can for example know what the people want and the nation want, thereby making both popular and effective decisions.

RISE OF DICTATORSHIP

A rise of centralization is only dangerous for liberal societies, because it violates individualism. Where does the individual decide when a computer is the government, making all the decisions for them? Because of this, liberal societies might eventually find themselves too playing a game of chess, also being faced up against a robotic opponent which always knows the best moves.

Since for example Germany and Sweden would violate their liberal values by adopting a technological dictatorship, they would be left behind in the technological arms-race, with authoritarian states like China and Russia taking the initiative.





RISE OF CENTRALIZATION 3

PLUTOCRATIC COALITION

A fantasy of anti-capitalists, is how the elite of capitalist society could band together and enslave mankind. The elite previously would have little reason to do so, due to the inefficiencies of centralized dictatorships. Today, with the rise of centralization, that problem is no more, leaving only their willingness and abilities to be questioned.

NATURE OF THE ELITE

In liberalism, power is gained through approval, which is gained through providing something to approve of. When making something to be approved of, a concern for humans is only optional, and usually distracting. That way, the political and economic leaders of the world have a tendency of not caring about humans, aside from themselves. Additionally, searchable surveys show they tend to be psychopaths, sociopaths, risk-takers, and unempathetic.

THE COUP

Once word spreads among the elite of a coup being viable, the worst and the most radical of them might band together to make an “investment”, like they usually do. They can afterwards unleash a robot-army or hack people into accepting the new world order. That way, they can force people or robots to work on immortality and a paradise for them without any resistance, granting them a good end

NOT YET?

Why this has not happened yet could be because: 1, they are in the process of doing it. 2, the idea has not come to them yet. 3, they decided to renounce their pursuit of wealth and power and begun a dedication to mankind.



RETURN OF WAR

Recently, mankind developed explosives capable of destroying the world, causing a massive impact on the war-industry. Escalating conflicts before that development, would lead to possible gains. After that development, escalation would lead to assured mutual destruction, which is the biggest reason for major powers not waging direct war against each other.

COUNTER-WEAPONS

That development had helped cause an era of unparalleled peace. Soon though, war between majors will be viable again, due to a new addition to the armories, namely counter-weapons. These weapons do not kill the enemy, but disable their weapons of mass-destruction. There currently already are missiles capable of that task, seeking out incoming ballistic missiles to shoot down.

NANITES

Nanites count not only as nanobots, but also as other nanoscopic creatures, like bacteria and viruses. Those nanites could be given the information of a person to assassinate for example, then be distributed in an area with such people, finding them, then assassinating them with poison. Another possibility, is of them being programmed to be able to eat anything, and to build new nanites out of that. This way, they could overwhelm and eat the entire world.

They would be like a fluid destroying everything it touches, creating more of the “fluid” in the process. Such is called “gray goo”. If nanites are improperly handled, an accident where the gray goo destroys the world might happen. Nanites are no joke.



RETURN OF WAR 2

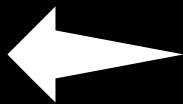
DATAISM

When hackers hack people, those people do not necessarily have to for example be related citizens. Instead, the hackers might for example be a rival government trying to seize control of the populace of their democratic rival, thereby being able to vote in a candidate sure to destroy their nation. If more control than that is held, that democratic nation would practically be a puppet at that point, becoming what is called a data-colony.

Governments are currently not declaring war on each other to defend their citizens from being hacked, likely since dataism not yet is an infamous idea.

NEW-AGE WARFARE

How warfare would be conducted in the new age, would primarily revolve around those nanites and dataism. All the world's nations would eventually be hacked by nations with the greatest ability to hack. The only hope of resisting that hacking, would either be to close the country, or to strike the hackers with mass-destruction. Unless globally respected regulations regarding dataistic practices are created, a complete shutdown of globalization and trade would happen, since no nation would want to be hacked. In such a status-quo, the weakest of nations would face certain doom later, whether through having their physical defenses broken, or through having their digital defenses breached. Building up a nanite swarm would therefore be vital for their survival. This would likely lead to extreme human suffering and death, not necessarily extinction though.





ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

We live currently in an era of ecological collapse. What this ecological collapse would look like, and why it is happening will be explained here.

SUPERBUGS

Anti-biotics are currently widely available, having multiple people take them recklessly, especially in the food-industry. This way, the bacteria the anti-biotics were supposed to kill gained the ability to resist them, simply because those unable to died from it. Already now, people are dying from superbugs.

There might one day be a bacteria capable of resisting all kinds of anti-biotics, possibly resulting in a plague like the black death, one which the infected could do nothing about. Such could be prevented though, due to new methods of killing bacteria being created. One of the greatest methods for this, are nanites. These have nearly endless amounts of kinds, while anti-biotics only have a few. This means superbugs can be prevented as long as technology advances faster than they do.

MORE NATURAL ARMS-RACE

In fact, bacteria are not the only type of being having adopted to human environments. Other creatures, like locusts have also been adopting. These locusts would fly around in swarms and eat everything they stumble upon, like crop-fields. Due to this being a viable strategy, their children would inherit their crop-eating strategies, thereby becoming better at the craft for every generation. Such happens very slowly though, especially in bigger creatures. This will not have too large of an impact.





ECOLOGICAL CRISIS 2

DEATH OF BEES

For multiple reasons, bee colonies have been collapsing. This is firstly due to natural predators, which have kept the bee-population in balance, but also due to human, who have been disturbing that balance. Humans have been using dangerous chemicals for various purposes. These chemicals would leak into bees seeking to pollinate, or coming straight into contact with a colony, playing part in the collapse of them. Humans also have been changing other parts of the environment, through cutting down trees and harming local ecosystems by settling in the areas.

The death of bees will according to some have a bad effect on the ecosystem. Without bees, many plants relying on them for reproduction would fail at doing so, resulting in them being rendered useless. These plants are very numerous, meaning this would be a large problem. Through genetically modifying plants to reproduce independently, modifying bees to die less, or just depending less on the local environments should be able to solve the adverse effects. This would be costly, but doable.

SPACE-JUNK

People today like having internet, satellite-imagery, and being able to conduct space-missions. Due to the problem of space-junk though, those things people like to do might soon be impossible. The space-junk accumulates in the atmosphere, orbiting the earth at extremely high speeds, causing them to be able to destroy objects like satellites and rockets. Currently, this is a very small problem, with only one satellite being destroyed a year. This problem will accelerate for every satellite destroyed though, eventually rendering the atmosphere unsuitable for satellites and rockets.



ECOLOGICAL CRISIS 3

UNCLEAN AIR

Burning wood and coal is known to create smoke. Such kinds of smoke have been created by massive fuel-burning contraptions like energy-generating ones and cars. The smoke released has had very adverse effects on humans, for example causing their death due to oxygen depletion, or brain damage due to the same reason.

BALANCE OF GAS

Those gases have not been known to seep out into space, due to the earth's gravity. So far, only plants have been known to remove such gases, which is not helped by humans burning down forests. The problem here stems from human intervention in the natural balance, where animals and other processes would naturally produce gases, which then would be turned into other less smoke-like gases by plants. Today, the creation of these smoke-like gases is greater than the conversion of, meaning a balance has been upset.

GLOBAL WARMING

Having an abundance of smoke-like gases in the atmosphere has been said to retain warmth. This is all built on the idea of certain gases being able to absorb certain parts of the light-spectrum which the atmosphere usually cannot. The gases find those parts from the light the sun emits, absorbing it as warmth. Additionally, the gases can reflect light trying to escape back to the earth through the greenhouse effect, giving more chances for absorption. If the gases indeed can warm the globe, the scale of the warming effects of them should be calculatable through estimations of global gas-productions and conversion. Plenty of climate-scientists have done this already, with most concluding the warming is quite severe.



ECOLOGICAL CRISIS 4

OVERFLOWING WASTE

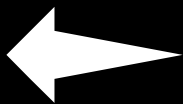
Not only is our atmosphere being cluttered with junk though, since the land and ocean also is. Every year, waste like used products and valueless biproducts are being thrown away, usually having it placed in the ocean. Even though the humans generate a lot of trash, the trash has surprisingly not been directly affecting the habitat of humans very adversely. In fact, it has mostly been affecting the habitat of other animals, killing a lot of them annually.

ACIDIC WEATHER

Many parts of product-creation requires acidic materials to be used. These acidic materials sometimes result in waste, which then is thrown away. Combining this with the placement of waste in the oceans, has turned the ocean slightly acidic. Lakes, ponds, and other waters are not excluded from this, with waste inside them also turning them acidic. Due to this, the rain created from those waters, has also been acidic. Since acid is known to be harmful for most creatures, it can be guessed it most likely will be harmful when rained down for example on drinking-water and agriculture.

RISING SEA-LEVELS

A common observation, is of sea-levels rising. This is usually ascribed to global warming having melted some of the ice on the planet. Problems here could be of coastal areas being more difficult to inhabit, along with flat-land nations like the Netherlands potentially being flooded. A large amount of people would not be affected by this, meaning the problem is more economical than direct.





INEQUALITY

Inequality is increasing, fueled much by technological development.

ANATOMICAL INEQUALITY

In all stages of history, the elite always were physically on par with their lower counterparts, even if they for example had more money or power. Soon though, that no longer will be the case, due to a variety of new technologies. This would for example include super-strong bionic arms, modified cells unable to become cancerous, and self-repairing telomeres stopping the aging process. What some call the transhumanist revolution, the revolution where humans transcend physical limitations, others call the extinction of the weak.

LEFT BEHIND

The argument against that, would be regarding the tendency of the new technology first to only be affordable by the upper classes, then having improvements to it make it affordable for the lower classes. Such will not be the case this time though.

Employment in the capitalist sense means providing something of value in exchange for something else of value. As technology advances, unemployment rates will accelerate, ending with those unemployed no longer able to do exchanges, thereby being able to get anatomical upgrades.

Another problem, would be of those able to upgrade themselves being the only people of value. By becoming super-strong, super-smart, and very fast learners, there would be no reason to hire a layman over them; they would further the inequality.





INEQUALITY 2

GLOBAL IMPACTS

Rich countries like the US could for example afford a basic income for their citizens, making for example certain anatomical upgrades free. Other countries though, like Bangladesh, when faced by this wave of new technology, could completely collapse.

UBI

Many rich countries today would be able to afford UBI, universal basic income, where everyone all citizens get an income, regardless of their usefulness for the country. This way, the citizens would be able to survive in an environment where they are useless, thereby solving the problem of survival. Other pressing questions though, like if anatomical upgrades count as “basic”, or how a plutocratic coalition is prevented, is not answered by this.

NATIONAL OBSOLETENESS

After waves of automation and new technology, robots would get cheaper and smarter. Better robots would in turn make jobs like human factory-work obsolete. That would be okay for rich countries, due to them having built the robots to begin with, but not for poor countries, who’s entire economies are built around human selling human labor. When it is cheaper to buy something from say a local source, why buy it from a foreign one? Those countries would be unable to sustain themselves, due to them no longer having anything to exchange for food or other products. What are they supposed to do when they as countries become obsolete? Is the UN supposed to implement a global UBI? Would the US pay Bangladeshi citizens for having made them obsolete? Seeing how countries tend not to be the most charitable, most likely, there would be mass-starvations until the local soil would be able to sustain those remaining.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

QUESTION OF SENTIENCE

A common belief among humans, is how robots with “sentience” will develop a reason to exterminate humanity, then doing so. Since giving robots “sentience” has not been tested yet, that might happen. What exactly defines “sentience” is unknown, making this fantasy difficult to explain. If “sentience” means randomness, then robots very well could exterminate mankind. If “sentience” means what we have, then there would be a very good reason to question the engineers, asking why they would give a robot the mind of a selfish mutated ape.

HUMAN EXAMPLE

Instead, robots likely would be given a mind similar to the unconscious human one, one which is very complex, and known for not sporadically beginning to philosophize about its existence. Another method would be seeing how the beliefs of humans nearly always aids with their survival in some form, giving the robot a more perfected version of that. After all, the patterns in the human brain can indeed be copied.

Robots sporadically developing an agenda allowing it to destroy mankind seems unlikely. If they kill us, it will most likely be our fault.

IRRELEVANCE

Even if the intentions of robots we program are questionable, a question could be asked regarding if it even matters. Why have metal robots operate tasks, when an upgraded human could be doing it instead? Humans, unlike robots, are trusted by humans, even if irrationally so. Perhaps the question should not be whether robots can be trusted, but if they can be trusted more than humans.

DISTANCE OF THE FUTURE



EXPLANATION

People tend to claim the future is far away, with for example problems like sentient AI, automation, and climate-change being some 500 years into the future: these problems not being theirs. The only way of finding the distance of the future, is to construct reality, which is what will be done here.

CONSTRUCTING REALITY

It begins with a problem being identified and a solution being conceived. That solution then is tested and finally implemented afterwards. This is how technology is created. Today, there are a lot of ideas, but a lack of resources to test and implement them. The resources are not spent on testing the ideas, but rather on the production of already known ideas. Once that production phase of the technologies is widespread, the public will gain an awareness of the technology.

Due to the abundance of ideas, there only are the costs for those ideas left to know about. This can be known through looking at trends in technology and science investments, material costs, and estimates for the future. Such information is difficult to find though. Constructing reality to answer the questions will have to be a somewhat large project.

ACCELERATION

A trend to take note of however, is how technological development rates increase with time passing. This is due to the development of technologies making the scientific and technological processes easier like computers and equipment, along with a building of infrastructure and increased standards like literacy and education.



FALL OF LIBERALISM

A central tenet of liberal belief, is of the human being valuable. Nearly all systems today are built around this idea, like capitalism giving the individual the purchasing-power, democracy giving the individual the vote, or social welfare empowering the humans.

HUMAN OBSOLETENESS

When human value no longer is in the economic or political fields, but still in the moral field, liberalism collapses, but not humanism. Economics and politics are built on logic and competition, while morality is not, meaning no matter the objective conditions, humans will never expire morally. However, since liberalism does not delegate much power based on moral value, humans at that point would suffer. Without any reform, humans would not have the power to buy anything, along with being hacked into being subservient to their overlords. That would sound like a fantastical dystopia, because it would be.

RISE OF SOCIALISM

Responding to the beginning of the fall of liberalism could be through a return to the past, but for the more progressive-minded, socialism would be the immediate solution, like proposed by Andrew Yang and the climate-activists. Socialism would guarantee survival through a basic income where those unable to provide for themselves would be provided for by the state. This ensures those rendered useless by automation still could survive. Another aspect of socialism, would be increased state-control, meaning increased capacity to regulate. Such would be useful for example to slow down the ecological collapse, or regulating emerging technologies like nanites and artificial intelligence.





FALL OF LIBERALISM 2

THE PLUTOCRATIC THREAT

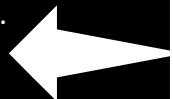
Limited state-control through socialism though, would not solve the threat of a plutocratic coalition. This would at some point have to be addressed, due to the current elite's motives being too questionable, along with human governments and power-hierarchies being infamous for their abuse and corruption. Reforms would have to create a benevolent and incorrupt elite, a difficult task having been attempted in all the world's history.

SHARED FATE OF MANKIND

Solving the return of war is not something a single country or organization could do; at least not without risk and destruction. Going the peaceful path would require international cooperation along with abolishing competitiveness. Such would be very radical and unlikely to happen, but would have to happen at some point, or else a progressing world could have a massive bloodbath. Worryingly, this would have to happen before the rise of dataism, due to the collapse of internationalism caused by the rise.

Additionally, other problems like the ecological crisis and the rise of world-endingly dangerous technologies like nanites and superintelligence also cannot be solved by a single country or organization. Any attempts at doing so would undermine the laws of competitiveness, not guaranteeing their rivals also carefully tread around the dangerous technologies.

Isolating individual countries only will lead to more suffering: the fate of humanity is shared. If nationalists truly love their kin and country, adopting globalism would be the responsible way forward.



EMOTIONALISM

A problem with the transition from liberalism to a futuristic society, would be emotionalism. Emotionalism is an adherence to feelings and emotions over reasoning and logic, which is both dangerous and ineffective.

MANIPULATION

Unlike the truth, emotions can be manipulated. Adhering to reality is adhering to one unchanging set of rules, while adhering to emotions is adhering to a constantly changing and easily influenced state of mind. With the rise of information-technology, plenty of room for the manipulation of the populace by the elite would be reserved.

EMOTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Emotions fulfill the purpose of advancing the agenda of natural selection. They do this through representing reality and aiding in decision-making. Without emotions, creatures would feel no difference between a piece of food and a pile of garbage. Without emotions they also would have no reason to seek out that piece of food. In this instance, emotions could be useful for advancing for example the humanist agenda, since living humans are more useful than dead ones. In other scenarios though, like those where the environment human emotions were designed for is very different, emotions become more of a hinderance than help. Such would for example be during surgery, where the emotions tell the patient the pain is a bad sign, while logic and reasoning would explain how removal of the intruding object is necessary to survive. Using emotions to run a modern society would be as ridiculous as having an ape operate a passenger-plane.



EMOTIONALISM 2

EMOTIONALISM TODAY

A major force in politics and economics today is emotionalism. People buy products based on what they believe will make them feel better, and give their votes to the candidates they believe will make them feel best. The amount of emotionalists today could be estimated to be nearly all of the population, especially in western capitalist societies, where consumerism and anger are both widespread and accepted. People also commonly greet with: "How are you?", which is a sign of rampant emotionalism, due to greetings usually reflecting what a culture considers important. Emotionalism will definitely impact the fate of humanity.

EMOTIONALISM AND SOCIOLOGY

Emotionalism in small doses usually cannot be avoided, meaning people always will use emotions as decision-making authorities to some extent. Minimizing this in the case of society-building is important though. Failures at this is common.

Among the many prominent emotionalist ideas, one of them is of "returnism": a want to return to a glorious past. Movements advocating for such have the advantage of nostalgia-fueled morale, but nothing more than that. In fact, that increased morale comes as a tradeoff where the truth is compromised. Instead of conforming their emotions to their situation, nostalgia-fueled peoples end up conforming the situation to their emotions. Attempting to conform reality to one's viewpoint is not possible though, leading to what others observe as delusionality and denialism.



NATURAL THREATS

Even though the earth is naturally hospitable, multiple forces could still pose a threat to mankind. Some of the most relevant ones will be listed here. These are not too relevant though, due to how far they are into the future. I have not looked comprehensively into the research behind this, meaning this is more of a reading-list than a statement.

ASTEROIDS

A few million years ago, an asteroid wiped out the dinosaurs. Some asteroids of similar scale are believed to hit the earth in a few million years too. These are still unlikely, few, and far away, along with most mass-extinctions not having been caused by asteroids.

NATURAL CLIMATE-CHANGE

According to this source, our interglacial period will end around fifty thousand years into the future, after which a new ice-age will happen. Such an ice-age would be unrelated to human actions, and would reduce the food available, possibly resulting in famine.

EXPIRATION OF THE SUN

When the sun grows hotter, it will do some things resulting in 99% of life dying. This would not end well for humans living while that is happening.

A very long while into the future, and the sun becomes a red giant, expanding rapidly and swallowing everything it touches. The earth is expected to be swallowed during that process.



NATURAL THREATS 2

ALIENS?

Some futurists believe aliens might interfere with human society. That would be unlikely though, due to how none have been discovered after looking at millions of planets and stars.

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

Volcanoes are expected to erupt and cause damage at some point.

GAMMA-RAY BURSTS

Very big stars dying emit gamma-ray bursts. These are lasers capable of exterminating all life on Earth if they hit it. This is unlikely though, as there are very few stars in a distance capable of such, along with the stars having to actually hit the earth with the bursts, which would require precision.



ACCEPTING THE BRAVE NEW WORLD



The Unabomber once said humans would adjust their bodies to suit their modern lives to relieve all the suffering coming from it. Such suffering would include: obesity, depression, unhappiness, sickness, dissatisfaction, and addiction. Those wanting to relieve the suffering through technology are called “transhumanists”.

TRANSHUMANISM

Transhumanists today are a sizable community, with most futurists being transhumanists. The main argument they use is a promise of paradise and how nearly all human religions promise such paradises too. Many transhumanists are okay with being automated away and care more about pleasure than meaning.

SURVIVALISM

Techno-survivalists are futurists who do not seek to upgrade themselves with technology. Instead, they only want to survive, many to pursue some other goal, like going back in time or living life as described in a book. Most though, find transhumanism off-putting, due to their distaste for technology and meaninglessness.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Today, most people are a mix of transhumanist and survivalist, with most being for the normalization of the weak, but not the upgrading of the healthy. The transhumanist side of the global demographics seems to be increasing over time, especially since seventy thousand years ago this would have been seen as ridiculous. This might be due to old people dying off, due to them being unaccepting of technology. A trend forward could be of this continuing, since they would be more inclined to refuse life-extension technology.



ACCEPTING THE BRAVE NEW WORLD 2

SIMULATED PARADISE

Today, there is 'virtual reality' technology where people use cutting-edge equipment to immersively view software like videogames. That technology is very primitive though, with the end result being indistinguishable from reality. Experiences in the human brain are created from electrical signals, with things like chemicals triggering the signals. If for example an AI understood how to manipulate those electrical signals, creating simulated experiences would be possible.

PRIME-STATE

Due to genetic code being very customizable, many transhumanists would like to use it to achieve perfect health. Such would include: no negative conditions, no aging, no cancer, no sickness, super-endurance, super-strength, non-negatively reinforcing pleasure, and so on. This is all possible via genetic code, since most of these traits have been observed in animals at some point. Adding synthetic things like metal and binary code should make the possibilities even larger.

UNDYING SPACESHIP

Any structure controlled by a superintelligence would be near-invulnerable, due to the intelligence always calculating to put the structure in the best position possible.

TELEPORTATION PROBLEM

Many transhumanists are against mind-uploading and teleportation devices in fear of their consciousness not being transferred on use. This is known as the teleportation problem.



TECHNOLOGICAL THREAT TO FREEDOM



With the rise of new technologies, our old societal models become obsolete. They are replaced by the two new societies, namely the techno-totalitarian and techno-anarchist society.

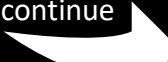
DATAISM AND ANONYMITY

Techno-totalitarians have the state centralize everything, information included. Meanwhile, techno-anarchists decentralize everything, meaning information will remain stagnant. Privacy is considered a luxury, luxuries being a part of freedom, which in turn is part of the techno-anarchist agenda. Unprivatized information, “free” information on the other hand, is better for efficiency. If a central database has access to more information, conclusions with more certainty would be made, allowing better guesses of what is efficient and what is not, unlike the solitary techno-anarchists. For the techno-anarchists to counteract this, they would too have to centralize information, thereby becoming like their enemies.

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

When there is no hierarchy, people become somewhat equal in strength. If people begin allying with each other though, cliques with higher degrees of strength begin forming. The most powerful clique would eventually go on to conquering all the other cliques, thereby starting a new hierarchy.

Such would also apply for a techno-anarchist society, where people have powerful tools, but no responsibilities. Those forming cliques, or using their technology to gain power would become the strongest, thereby forcing everyone else to adapt or be outcompeted. In such a scenario, not gaining power would be death. This would continue until the most efficient system conquers all the others.





TECHNOLOGICAL THREAT TO FREEDOM 2

TECHNO-TOTALITARIAN INEVITABILITY

The trend in general, will always be of all societies which are not techno-totalitarian eventually becoming that way, one way or another. This is due to all other societies having the possibility of collapse and reform, because of intrinsic weaknesses, while a technological dictatorship cannot. All other societies have to firstly contend with corruption in some form, secondly having to also contend with decadence.

Corruption comes from the delegation of power to non-state entities, those entities having their ulterior motives, thereby the possibility of corruption. If a power-consolidation game is started by anyone supposedly subservient to the state (or the agenda), the system has the chance to become a dictatorship afterwards. Unless this is programmed out of the mental capacities of people, the system will eventually collapse. Programming it out of their mentality would not be optimal either, since why not have a technological dictatorship at that point?

Decadence has its roots in human ability to make mistakes, fallibility. Due to this, regulatory systems always inevitably fail in human societies. Plato talked about a society where the leaders were wise and benevolent philosophers. The leaders would only increase their size by recruiting people just as wise and benevolent as themselves. Great leaders (golden souls) would make mistakes, sometimes recruiting inferior souls. These inferior souls would then go on to make even more mistakes, resulting only in fewer and fewer golden souls being part of the ruling caste. Eventually, the decay of competence would have the society collapse, reforming with slight differences to ensure a better society.



TECHNOLOGICAL THREAT TO FREEDOM 3

TECHNO-TOTALITARIAN STABILITY

In techno-totalitarian societies, the amount of information processed allows the society to predict the future. This way, it would always be able to make the best choices, meaning the society would have ultimate stability. If an asteroid is a threat, imagery of the surrounding area would have told the system of it already, allowing it to destroy it, or dodge it. If the system has a malfunction, the system also would have predicted that, building for example backup functions to make the chance for the malfunctions compromising anything low enough to be non-existent. A technological dictatorship can only be destroyed by another technological dictatorship.

Due to this stability, once this society exists, there is no going back. This means the first attempt at it has to succeed, or else the reachable universe will be doomed to forever be under that regime.

TECHNO-TOTALITARIAN LIFE

Life under a humanistic techno-totalitarian society would be in a prime-state, while also being in a happy simulation or a happy trance. That way, the humans would not be able to cause any disorder, while also being happy and alive. This would consume few resources, hence its implementation in this case.

This would also be indistinguishable from a techno-anarchist life, due to the simulation being able to simulate anything a techno-anarchist would have liked to do in reality.



REFORM VS. REVOLUTION

Whether society needs to be changed or not is certain. Whether the change should come slowly or quickly though, is not so much. Since no side is the definite best in the discussion, arguments for both sides will be listed.

GRADUALISM

Extremism is off-putting. By committing extreme acts like violence, popular support is lost, reducing the chance of a democratic takeover.

Development of new technologies could be dangerous. Recklessly creating nanites or superintelligence could lead to an existential threat. There still is no definite proof AI can be trusted, for example.

ACCELERATIONISM

The ends justify the means. Due to how grim the situation is, no means should be off the table. This does not mean acting stupidly though, like committing anti-liberal acts in a liberal society.

Suffering is shortened. Any pain felt while transitioning to a better world would be outweighed by possible gains from such a world. Life-extension technologies also would save many lives, especially since futuristic governments might develop them faster.

Popular support will be obsolete. With the rise of new technologies, there will only be a question of time before people either become too useless to be useful, or too hacked to be reasoned with. Popular support ultimately will not be as useful as beginning the arms-race.



DATAISM



An integral part to fueling a techno-totalitarian state is removing privacy, or “freeing information”. Such an act seems extremely alien, but has a multitude of benefits.

PRACTICE

Societies where all information is free are dataistic ones. Extremely dataistic societies would have everything capable of recording information send that information to a central database, for example phones and cameras uploading information to the internet.

EVERYTHING IS SEEN

When freedom of information is the norm, any attempt at concealing information will be looked at suspiciously. Corruption, crime, and other malpractices will easily be spotted. Having eyes and ears everywhere leads to the system easily being able to create profiles of everyone, thereby additionally allowing the system to make accurate estimates, even catch people before they commit a malpractice, for example giving them extra care to make sure they remain innocent.

Whether the entities utilizing all this information will be well-intent towards those surveilled, will not be guaranteed. Even if the surveilors are surveilled by the people, this still does not equate to the people holding any actual influence over the surveilors.

Dataism might not give directions to those practicing it, but can help ensure the practitioners remain incorrupt. As long as those holding the most influence remain true to their agenda, rooting out corruption in the lower ranks becomes easy, with the profit-minded people having to contend with corruption no longer being viable.



DATAISM 2

ANTI-COPYRIGHT

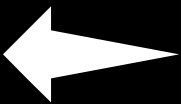
As a part of “freeing” information, copyright could be abolished. This would apply the most to patents and “knowledge monopolies”.

Without patents, there would no longer be a monetary incentive to create and document new ideas. In a world where money is among the primary driving forces, such could be disastrous for innovating. If there were incentives to be creative anyways, like being a robot programmed to do so, this would no longer harm innovation.

Some information today is privatized, requiring payment to be viewed. This would be abolished under dataistic governance, allowing for example medicinal papers to be viewed, potentially saving millions of lives. Abolishing copyright as said would have the negative consequence of abolishing incentive. If incentive no longer would be a problem, capitalism, the root of privatization would become obsolete.

CULTURAL ADAPTION

Leaving information free could result in discrimination. People fear this due to most people having shameful information preferably hidden from the view of others. Since most would have such shameful information, discrimination based on it would be difficult due to all the potential sympathizers. Eventually, culture would adapt to become more accepting of shameful information, creating a more open and honest environment.



THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE



FATE OF SOCIETY

While liberalism expires, society will gradually have transition to a totalitarian socialistic, or “leftist” one. In essence, this means society has to become communistic. Doing this would encounter plenty of problems, the biggest being the corruptibility of humans.

FATE OF THE PLUTOCRATS

If they are ousted quickly enough, they at some point will think of a plutocratic coalition against mankind, with at least some attempting it. They might realize they are in danger, and make a preemptive strike to secure their future.

FATE OF NATIONS

All nations will have to cooperate to ensure their own future. During the cold war, such cooperation was done to prevent mutually assured destruction. This must now happen again, but on an even greater scale.

FATE OF HUMANITY

There are currently two ways humans are becoming useless. First, is how their influence is being lost. Second, is how their will is being lost. For people to hold power in a democratic society, their will must be free. For people to hold power in an authoritarian society, they must have influence. Once the workers no longer can seize the means of production, revolutions cannot happen. Once the people have their lives dictated for them, democracy becomes a façade.

The days left for humanity are numbered. Unless humans strike while the iron is hot, while they still can, their fate will be sealed.