

O'Malley, Obamacare And The Technocracy Myth

When Democrat Martin O'Malley announced his presidential bid, the media billed him as part of a new generation of talented technocrats. The former Maryland governor, as one outlet put it, "helped pioneer a data-driven approach that made government more efficient." These people have evidently forgotten the spectacular failure of Maryland's online Obamacare exchange, which crashed moments after launch because O'Malley and his administration studiously ignored ominous data provided by its technical experts. In other words, O'Malley's "data-driven approach" didn't involve looking at actual data. It consisted primarily of telling the media that Maryland's exchange would be a "model for the nation."

Meanwhile, the danger signs mounted. As the Washington Post reported at the time, "More than a year before Maryland launched its health insurance exchange, senior state officials failed to heed warnings that no one was ultimately accountable for the \$170 million project and that the state lacked a plausible plan for how it would be ready." And these concerns continued to be ignored right up to the go-live date. Even when the top information technology official resigned, O'Malley and his people

somehow failed to get the message. This avoidable debacle culminated last week in a settlement requiring the IT firm Noridian Healthcare Solutions to refund \$45 million of the \$73 million it was paid to bungle the project.

But the moral of this tale transcends O'Malley's obvious limitations and even the multifarious flaws of Obamacare. The meltdown of Maryland's exchange will help to explode the myth that a new breed of technocrats can deliver good government where mere politicians encumbered by inconvenient laws cannot. It was this fallacy that motivated the Democrat-controlled Congress that created Obamacare to cede much of its power to executive branch bureaucrats, and it is behind many of the illegal executive orders issued by the President. O'Malley's pratfalls are a useful reminder the hyper-competent technocrat is a myth. And the other state-run exchanges provide an equally telling catalogue of incompetence and waste.

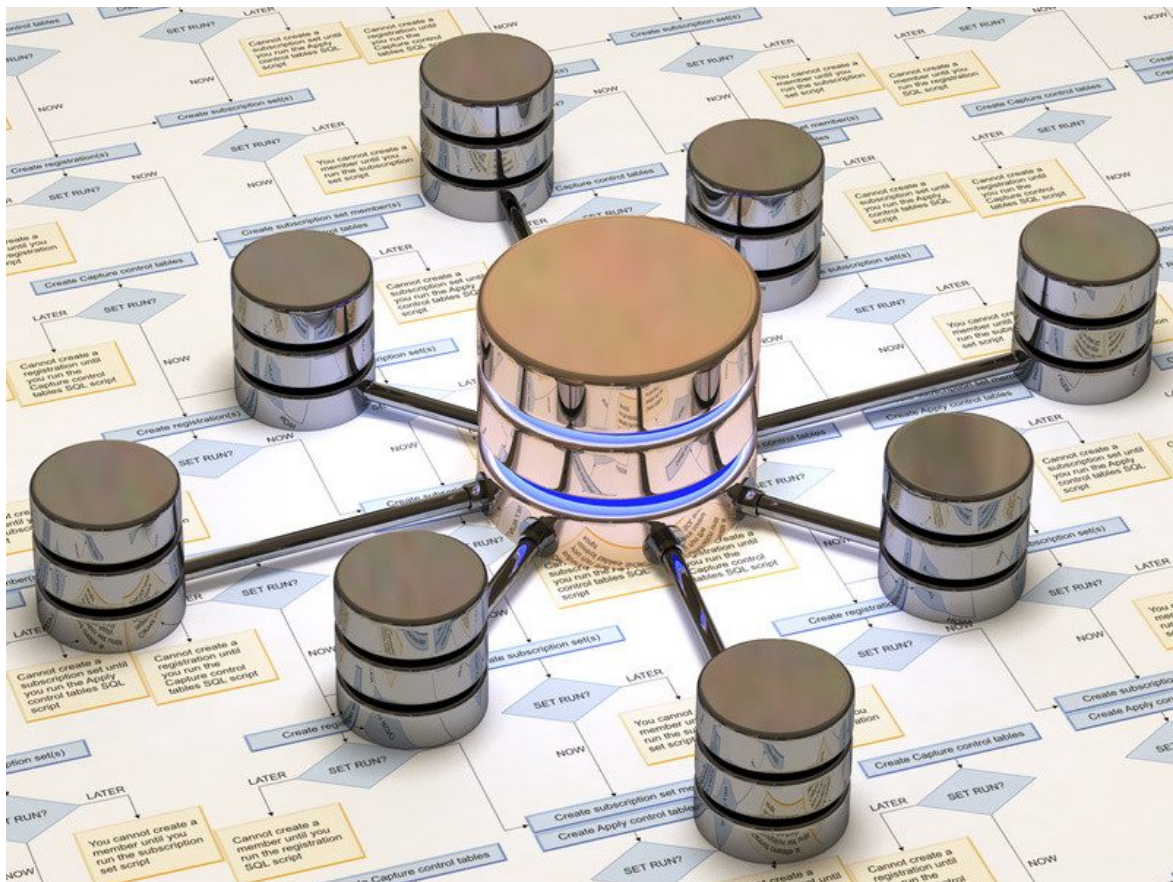
Despite having received billions of taxpayer dollars in federal planning grants, early innovator grants, and establishment grants, most of the states that elected to set up Obamacare exchanges have failed to get them completely up-and-running. As Reason points out, a draft report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) says most state-run exchanges are still unable to perform certain essential tasks: "Most states running their own exchanges under the law have yet to complete work on some critical exchange functionality, such as verifying eligibility for subsidies, paying insurers, and reporting data to the Internal Revenue Service." For this mess the taxpayers have paid out about \$5 billion in start-up grants.

Even worse, the states that received all this grant money have not been able tell the federal government where it was spent. How can that be? Because the regulations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) haven't required them to keep track of it with any real specificity: "Rather than require states to report spending on specific products, CMS required states running their own exchanges to report spending on five general categories—IT contracts, IT consultants, IT personnel, IT equipment, and IT supplies." In other words, the states that "cooperated" with the Obama administration in setting up

Obamacare exchanges quite literally don't know where the money went.

One of the worst exchange disasters occurred in Hawaii, where Democrat Governor David Ige has been so closely identified with the word "technocrat" in the media that it is practically part of his name. Ige's fingerprints are all over the failed Hawaii Health Connector, which he co-sponsored as a state senator and that he helped make a reality by working closely with then Governor Neil Abercrombie. The fruit of Ige's labor was an exchange that swallowed up \$130 million of \$205 million in federal grants to produce an incredibly glitch-prone Obamacare exchange that enrolled only 37,000 people between 2013 launch and Ige's move from the state Senate to the Governor's mansion in January of this year.

Read full story here...



Data Dominance: Technocracy's Final Hurdle

Within the last week, stunning revelations prove conclusively that: a) an extensive and comprehensive, multi-faceted database already exists on all Americans and b) The specific purpose of the data is to control and micro-manage the entire population.

In *Technocracy Rising: The Trojan Horse of Global Transformation* I demonstrated that a comprehensive data monitoring system on the entire societal system is the holy grail of Technocracy, without which absolute control would not be possible.

On July 18, 2015, Paul Sperry wrote in the NY Post, Obama collecting personal data for a secret race database. It is important to note that the mere existence of data by itself does not imply intent. Intention and purpose are only revealed by humans when they seek to find answers to questions posed for whatever reason. In this case, Obama is sifting an existing database to find specific answers relating to race and diversity issues.

The same database could just as easily calculate everyone's carbon footprint, reveal political preferences and involvements, list supporters of Sustainable Development and Global Governance, and much more. Basically, once the data is collected, the sky is the limit as to the kind of questions that can be asked of it.

The scope of data mining revealed includes information on healthcare, housing, home loans, credit cards, employment and education. Other sources (i.e., Ed Snowden's revelations on NSA spying) reveal massive data collections of all emails, phone calls, text and chat messages, social media activity, vehicle license plate readers, facial recognition and energy consumption (via Smart Grid/Smart Meters).

Background

Technocracy was originally proposed and documented in 1934 as a replacement economic system for Capitalism and Free Enterprise, to be based on energy currency instead of monetary currency and supply and demand economic principles. Many observers then and now have concluded that if fully implemented, Technocracy would result in a totalitarian form of scientific dictatorship.

The fifth of the seven key requirements for implementing Technocracy was plainly recorded in the *Technocracy Study Course* in 1934: ***“Provide specific registration of the consumption of each individual, plus a record and description of the individual.”***

Control over what? *The Technocrat* magazine (1938) gave a succinct summary of Technocracy’s purpose and scope: ***“Technocracy is the science of social engineering, the scientific operation of the entire social mechanism to produce and distribute goods and services to the entire population...”***

The economic nature of Technocracy is revealed throughout their own documents, as well as it is today. For instance, the NYPost article notes Obama’s purpose as “racial and *economic* justice.”

Free Enterprise calls for the distribution of goods and services based on supply and demand depending on consumer preferences; Technocracy ignores the consumer and makes arbitrary decisions on which goods and services will be created, what they will cost, and to whom they will be distributed. To the technocrat, societal engineering is the ultimate expression of micro-management down to the very last minutiae of existence.

Purpose and Intention

Obama seeks to use the master database of personal information to answer questions about “racial and economic justice.” Sperry concludes,

“Obama is presiding over the largest consolidation of personal data in US history. He is creating a diversity police state where

government race cops and civil-rights lawyers will micromanage demographic outcomes in virtually every aspect of society."

Such are the unmistakable markers of Technocracy-in-process.

But the intentional use of data to manipulate society and the people in it is only *just beginning*.

Micromanaging Travel: A Smart Meter For Your Car

On 7/12/2015, Leo Hohmann wrote in WND, "*Feds want to track your every move on road*", which detailed Oregon's new "Vehicle Miles Traveled" tax, or VMT. VMT is predicated on placing a discrete GPS tracking device in every vehicle that will report wirelessly your exact travel route during the reporting period. You would then be sent a tax bill for your "share" of the road.

A University of Iowa study revealed the Devil in the details of how individual taxation will take place. A customized tax rate will be applied to each vehicle based on its owner's "carbon footprint". How would they know what your carbon footprint is? Well, your master profile has all the information needed for the calculation:

- How many and what type of vehicles do you own?
- Do you ride to work on a bicycle or mass transit?
- How much electricity and gas do you use in your home?
- How large is your home?
- Where do you live? In the country? Suburb? Urban dweller?
- How efficient are your appliances?
- How many children do you have?
- How many plane flights do you take?
- How much waste/garbage does your household produce?

The VMT is comparable to a "smart meter" for you car, and is being rolled out by Federal mandate, in similar fashion to the kickstart of Smart Grid in 2009. Twenty-nine states are already proposing legislation to follow in Oregon's footsteps, and the Department of Transportation is

already working within all fifty states to accelerate acceptance.

Hohmann concludes, *“If this sounds like a line straight from the United Nations’ sustainability agenda, that’s because it is.”*

Conclusion and Endgame

So here we have two concrete examples of how data from multiple sources is being combined to force policy issues regulating all of society.

Data is being collected at an unprecedented rate in all of world history. Virtually every piece of digital information in existence is being stored in Federal systems, such as the massive NSA facility in Utah that has capacity to hold 100 percent of all data on the planet. The full societal impact of current data stored has not yet been felt because data analysis technology has not kept pace with storage technology. In fact, current computer technology is completely and permanently inadequate to analyze such volumes of data in a timely fashion.

This is rapidly changing, however, and the recent advent of quantum computing technology should become fully operational within a 2019-2021 timeframe - that’s just 4 to 6 years away from now! Quantum computers operate at the molecular level and can potentially speed up data operations by several orders of magnitude. One writer states that even first generation quantum computers make the fastest desktop computer seem like an abacus by comparison.

Although universities and large computer companies are working non-stop on developing quantum computers, the NSA and DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) are leading the charge, fully expecting to receive the first benefits on behalf of the emerging Technocracy.

Technocracy’s final hurdle is data domination. When completed, Technocracy will assert itself over every facet of existence in America. There will be no turning back. Resistance will be punished. Freedom and Liberty will permanently sink back into the dark ages of history.

Will Americans recognize the threat and respond? This writer certainly

hopes so, but thus far the response has been minimal.

Special Note

The *only* book in print today that addresses historic and modern Technocracy is ***Technocracy Rising: The Trojan Horse of Global Transformation***. It is highly recommended to purchase and read this book immediately, and then to distribute copies to everyone you know.



Encyclical: Pope Francis Speaks Technocracy

Pope Francis recently released his promised Encyclical Letter on Climate Change titled, *Laudato Si' of the Holy Father Francis On Care For Our Common Home*, which specifically seeks to influence the

outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held from November 30 through December 11 in Paris.

The exact purpose of the Summit is to “achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a **binding and universal agreement on climate**, from all the nations of the world.(1)” [Emphasis added] In fact, this is the most important convention ever held by the U.N., intending to cement Sustainable Development and Agenda 21 policies into place all over the world.

Pope Francis’ contribution to the global consensus is only 98 pages long, but it is a pithy call for Sustainable Development and global governance to enforce it. He sees the United Nations as the clear choice to promote both.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has set up a special news site to track ongoing developments. The following statement appears on the home page:

These new front pages and focus sections capture news of climate change and stories about the groundswell of climate action by governments, companies, cities, the UN and civil society around the globe.

The Pope’s analysis of the current status quo, as most damaging to the ecology, is that technocracy is mostly to blame. He writes in Paragraph 194, for instance,

*It (talk of sustainable growth) absorbs the language and values of ecology into the categories of finance and **technocracy**, and the social and environmental responsibility of businesses often gets reduced to a series of marketing and image-enhancing measures.*

In the next paragraph, he proposes the orthodox U.N. position of the “green economy”:

The principle of the maximization of profits, frequently isolated from other considerations, reflects a misunderstanding of the very concept of the economy. As long as production is increased, little concern is

given to whether it is at the cost of future resources or the health of the environment; as long as the clearing of a forest increases production, no one calculates the losses entailed in the desertification of the land, the harm done to biodiversity or the increased pollution. In a word, businesses profit by calculating and paying only a fraction of the costs involved. Yet only when “the economic and social costs of using up shared environmental resources are recognized with transparency and fully borne by those who incur them, not by other peoples or future generations”, can those actions be considered ethical.

In earlier paragraphs, the Pope opines about “a **technocracy** which sees no intrinsic value in lesser beings coexists with the other extreme, which sees no special value in human beings.” He further stated, “Politics must not be subject to the economy, nor should the economy be subject to the dictates of an efficiency-driven paradigm of **technocracy**.”

Are you confused by his positioning of the word **technocracy** yet? Well, you should be!

While the Pope rails against the “efficiencies” and cold-heartedness of **technocracy**, he recommends running straight into the arms of **Technocracy**, which is the very heart of Climate-Change, Sustainable Development and Agenda 21. (For a full discussion of Technocracy and its relationship to these topics, please refer to *Technocracy Rising: The Trojan Horse of Global Transformation* by this writer)

This is most clearly seen in this statement from Paragraph 111: “Liberation from the **dominant technocratic paradigm** does in fact happen sometimes, for example, when cooperatives of small producers adopt less polluting means of production, and opt for a non-consumerist model of life, recreation and community.”

Pope Francis’ chief science advisor, who is largely responsible for the crafting of this Encyclical, is Hans Schellnhuber, who is a pantheist (a form of atheism). Schellnhuber believes in Gaia, or Mother Earth, as being a living, self-aware and self-regulating organism to which man is responsible. This is a polar opposite position of the traditional Catholic

belief that God gave the earth to man for his sustenance and enjoyment.

If it was indeed Schellnhuber who introduced the concepts of *technocracy* and *technocratic paradigm* into the Encyclical, then he has done the Pope a great disservice, painting him to be ignorant of history and ignorant of the current nature of Sustainable Development. On the other hand, Schellnhuber has identified himself as a *master of dis-information* against this author who is trying to expose the historical and modern tyranny associated with Technocracy.

Whatever Schellnhuber's intent, it is interesting to note that he did indeed write about technocracy at the same time when the only recently published book on technocracy and Technocracy is this author's work, *Technocracy Rising*.

Endnotes:

1. "Issues and reasons behind the French offer to host the 21st Conference of the Parties on Climate Change 2015". Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 22 May 2013. Retrieved 31 January 2014.
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Exposing technocracy - the mindset of industrial capitalism

TN Note: Ironically, some writers on ecology recognize the early roots of the technocracy paradigm, but they do not identify Sustainable Development as the ultimate expression of Technocracy.

Technology is crucial to all the big issues, but criticism is hampered by mythologies and structures of power, writes David King. Designed by and for corporate interests, modern industrial technologies embody a 400-year old technocratic philosophy of control of nature and people which must be confronted.

Isn't it funny that although practically every big issue about the future of global society hinges on technology, mainstream politics barely acknowledges them?

Even on the verge of climate and biodiversity catastrophe, how much

were issues of technology politics discussed in the election campaign?

Governments come and go, but if the shadowy world government so beloved of conspiracy theorists really existed, you can bet that its main priority would be steering the development of technology, not stopping or starting wars. For no matter which political clique is in power, technology determines the material structure of the world, and defines what is possible.

The fundamental basis of any society is its relationship to nature, and that relationship is articulated through technology. So, as the green movement first began to argue around fifty years ago, it is the technological system of our society - industrialism - that is just as much to blame for the current crisis as the capitalist economic system.

Technological mythology

In order to stop us really getting to grips with this problem, the powers that be have developed mythologies that stop us thinking critically about technology. Technology, we are told, is “just a neutral tool”, the development of which always creates progress. In any case, they tell us there’s nothing we can do about it because, “you can’t stop technology!”

But, as anyone who has been involved in campaigns like those against fracking, GM food or nuclear power can tell you, those dogmas have more of religion than of fact about them. What the campaigns have taught us is that the corporate-military-industrial complex designs technologies to suit their interests, not ours. It would be weird if they didn’t.

From GM crops designed to boost sales of Monsanto’s herbicides to software designed to steal your personal secrets from all-pervasive planned obsolescence to the unending drive to eliminate people’s jobs through automation, the use of technology as a tool of corporate power is fairly obvious.

At a deeper level, the fundamental business plan of capitalism for the last 250 years has been to undermine subsistence with cheap industrial goods, in order to make us dependent on technologies they control.

Of course technologies have brought genuine benefits, but what gets developed is far from inevitable, and the progress is invariably bought at a huge cost - but one that only becomes known once the cat is well out of the bag.

Breaking the Frame

Now, a group of techno-heretics going under the name Breaking the Frame has decided to tackle those myths head-on. Nothing less than a fundamental reassessment of technology is needed if we are to get to grips with the environmental crisis.

What we have been exploring is the even more alarming notion that technology is fundamentally not neutral, that it in fact has a politics of its own, which we are calling 'technocracy'. To be more precise, technologies developed within the regime that began with the Scientific Revolution of the 17th century create and embody their own power system.

Other human societies have developed large-scale technological systems that have been compatible with human flourishing and ecological sustainability. But what developed in 17th century Europe was an explicit ideology of the control of nature through technology, without any limit, and a worship of the machine.

That ideology, which our society calls 'rationality', treats nature as nothing more than a set of resources to be extracted without any restraint and produces technologies of total suppression of nature, such as pesticides.

It is this underlying politics of western technology that, just as much as the capitalist drive for unending growth, has landed us in the mess we are in now. The idea of technocracy also explains attempts to control society by controlling human nature through, for example, eugenics and the pharmaceutical mental health system.

The intensification of technocracy, through the Industrial Revolution, Fordism and our current computer surveillance-based 'post-Fordism' shapes capitalism and our whole society. The apostle of 20th century

technocracy, Frederick Taylor, put it simply:

“In the past the man was first. In the future the system will be first.”

Primitivism? Hacking?

The realisation that there exists this underlying politics of technology means that we have to rethink our existing responses to it.

One natural response, anti-technology primitivism, misses the point that it is not ‘technology’ itself that is to blame, but ‘technocracy’: the particular politics, economics and legalities of technology that have dominated western society for the last 400 years.

Technocracy allied with industrial capitalism has, over the last 250 years, done more than all previous human societies put together to destroy planetary ecosystems. But we must be sceptical of the claims of those who want to ‘hack’ industrial mega-technologies such as information technology.

IT deeply embodies the system-centred technological control philosophy whose product is cybernetics, and thereby shapes our minds, disseminating the technocratic mentality beyond its usual realm of scientists, engineers and managers to everyone.

Are you using IT for your purposes or is it using you?

No green technofixes!

The green movement is also susceptible to this tendency. A hallmark of technocracy is the propensity to believe in technofixes – the habit of framing and understanding problems in technical terms, so that they can be solved technologically.

Technofixes always purport to be politically neutral, but because they ignore social and political understandings of the problem they are actually nearly always serve the interests of the powerful. For example, if the problem of world hunger is not about inadequate crop yields but poverty, then the solution is not GM crops but economic and political

system change.

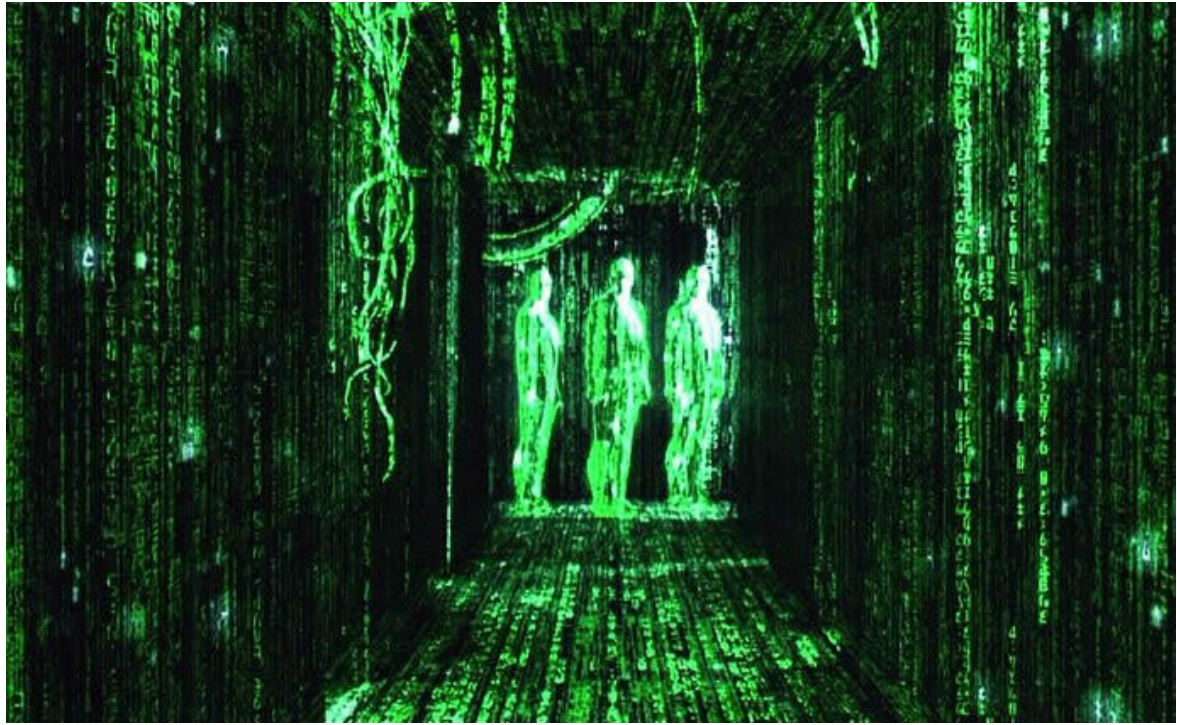
Is 'the energy problem' a merely technical issue of producing enough low-carbon energy? If we ignore the issue of whose interests they serve and what social forms they imply, our best alternative technologies turn into monstrous nuclear power stations, hated industrial wind farms, and corporate biofuel landgrabs.

These are some of the issues that we'll be discussing at the Breaking the Frame gathering in a few weeks with leading thinkers from campaigning green groups and other radical social movements.

Putting technology issues at the centre of politics means we'll be thinking about what democratic control of technology might look like and what technologies we need for the transition to a sustainable and economically just society.

Dr David King is a former molecular biologist who has been writing and campaigning about issues related to biotechnology and other technologies for 25 years. He is the main organiser of the *Breaking the Frame* gathering.

This article first appeared here...



Welcome to the Matrix: Enslaved by Technology and the Internet of Things

“There will come a time when it isn’t ‘They’re spying on me through my phone’ anymore. Eventually, it will be ‘My phone is spying on me.’” — Philip K. Dick

If ever Americans sell their birthright, it will be for the promise of expediency and comfort delivered by way of blazingly fast Internet, cell phone signals that never drop a call, thermostats that keep us at the perfect temperature without our having to raise a finger, and entertainment that can be simultaneously streamed to our TVs, tablets and cell phones.

Likewise, if ever we find ourselves in bondage, we will have only ourselves to blame for having forged the chains through our own lassitude, laziness and abject reliance on internet-connected gadgets and gizmos that render us wholly irrelevant.

Indeed, while most of us are consumed with our selfies and trying to keep up with what our so-called friends are posting on Facebook, the megacorporation Google has been busily partnering with the National Security Agency (NSA), the Pentagon, and other governmental agencies to develop a new “human” species, so to speak.

In other words, Google—a neural network that approximates a global brain—is fusing with the human mind in a phenomenon that is called “singularity,” and they’ve hired transhumanist scientist Ray Kurzweil to do just that. Google will know the answer to your question before you have asked it, Kurzweil said. “It will have read every email you will ever have written, every document, every idle thought you’ve ever tapped into a search-engine box. It will know you better than your intimate partner does. Better, perhaps, than even yourself.”

But here’s the catch: the NSA and all other government agencies will also know you better than yourself. As William Binney, one of the highest-level whistleblowers to ever emerge from the NSA said, “The ultimate goal of the NSA is total population control.”

Science fiction, thus, has become fact.

We’re fast approaching Philip K. Dick’s vision of the future as depicted in the film *Minority Report*. There, police agencies apprehend criminals before they can commit a crime, driverless cars populate the highways, and a person’s biometrics are constantly scanned and used to track their movements, target them for advertising, and keep them under perpetual surveillance.

Cue the dawning of the Age of the Internet of Things, in which internet-connected “things” will monitor your home, your health and your habits in order to keep your pantry stocked, your utilities regulated and your life under control and relatively worry-free.

The key word here, however, is *control*.

In the not-too-distant future, “just about every device you have — and even products like chairs, that you don’t normally expect to see technology in — will be connected and talking to each other.”

By 2018, it is estimated there will be 112 million wearable devices such as smartwatches, keeping users connected in real time to their phones, emails, text messages and the Internet. By 2020, there will be 152 million cars connected to the Internet and 100 million Internet-connected bulbs and lamps. By 2022, there will be 1.1 billion smart meters installed in homes, reporting real-time usage to utility companies and other interested parties.

This “connected” industry—estimated to add more than \$14 trillion to the economy by 2020—is about to be the next big thing in terms of societal transformations, right up there with the Industrial Revolution, a watershed moment in technology and culture.

Between driverless cars that completely lack a steering wheel, accelerator, or brake pedal, and smart pills embedded with computer chips, sensors, cameras and robots, we are poised to outpace the imaginations of science fiction writers such as Philip K. Dick and Isaac Asimov. By the way, there is no such thing as a driverless car. Someone or something will be driving, but it won't be you.

The 2015 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas is a glittering showcase for such Internet-connected techno gadgets as smart light bulbs that discourage burglars by making your house look occupied, smart thermostats that regulate the temperature of your home based on your activities, and smart doorbells that let you see who is at your front door without leaving the comfort of your couch.

Nest, Google's \$3 billion acquisition, has been at the forefront of the “connected” industry, with such technologically savvy conveniences as a smart lock that tells your thermostat who is home, what temperatures they like, and when your home is unoccupied; a home phone service system that interacts with your connected devices to “learn when you come and go” and alert you if your kids don't come home; and a sleep system that will monitor when you fall asleep, when you wake up, and keep the house noises and temperature in a sleep-conducive state.

The aim of these internet-connected devices, as Nest proclaims, is to make “your house a more thoughtful and conscious home.” For example,

your car can signal ahead that you're on your way home, while Hue lights can flash on and off to get your attention if Nest Protect senses something's wrong. Your coffeemaker, relying on data from fitness and sleep sensors, will brew a stronger pot of coffee for you if you've had a restless night.

It's not just our homes that are being reordered and reimagined in this connected age: it's our workplaces, our health systems, our government and our very bodies that are being plugged into a matrix over which we have no real control.

Moreover, given the speed and trajectory at which these technologies are developing, it won't be long before these devices are operating entirely independent of their human creators, which poses a whole new set of worries. As technology expert Nicholas Carr notes, "As soon as you allow robots, or software programs, to act freely in the world, they're going to run up against ethically fraught situations and face hard choices that can't be resolved through statistical models. That will be true of self-driving cars, self-flying drones, and battlefield robots, just as it's already true, on a lesser scale, with automated vacuum cleaners and lawnmowers."

For instance, just as the robotic vacuum, Roomba, "makes no distinction between a dust bunny and an insect," weaponized drones—poised to take to the skies en masse this year—will be incapable of distinguishing between a fleeing criminal and someone merely jogging down a street. For that matter, how do you defend yourself against a robotic cop—such as the Atlas android being developed by the Pentagon—that has been programmed to respond to any perceived threat with violence?

Unfortunately, in our race to the future, we have failed to consider what such dependence on technology might mean for our humanity, not to mention our freedoms.

Ingestible or implantable chips are a good example of how unprepared we are, morally and otherwise, to navigate this uncharted terrain. Hailed as revolutionary for their ability to access, analyze and manipulate your body from the inside, these smart pills can remind you to take your

medication, search for cancer, and even send an alert to your doctor warning of an impending heart attack.

Sure, the technology could save lives, but is that all we need to know? Have we done our due diligence in asking all the questions that need to be asked before unleashing such awesome technology on an unsuspecting populace?

For example, asks *Washington Post* reporter Ariana Eunjung Cha:

What kind of warnings should users receive about the risks of implanting chip technology inside a body, for instance? How will patients be assured that the technology won't be used to compel them to take medications they don't really want to take? Could law enforcement obtain data that would reveal which individuals abuse drugs or sell them on the black market? Could what started as a voluntary experiment be turned into a compulsory government identification program that could erode civil liberties?

Let me put it another way. If you were shocked by Edward Snowden's revelations about how NSA agents have used surveillance to spy on Americans' phone calls, emails and text messages, can you imagine what unscrupulous government agents could do with access to your internet-connected car, home and medications? Imagine what a SWAT team could do with the ability to access, monitor and control your internet-connected home—locking you in, turning off the lights, activating alarms, etc.

Thus far, the public response to concerns about government surveillance has amounted to a collective shrug. After all, who cares if the government can track your whereabouts on your GPS-enabled device so long as it helps you find the fastest route from Point A to Point B? Who cares if the NSA is listening in on your phone calls and downloading your emails so long as you can get your phone calls and emails on the go and get lightning fast Internet on the fly? Who cares if the government can monitor your activities in your home by tapping into your internet-connected devices—thermostat, water, lights—so long as you can control those things with the flick of a finger, whether you're across the house

or across the country?

As for those still reeling from a year of police shootings of unarmed citizens, SWAT team raids, and community uprisings, the menace of government surveillance can't begin to compare to bullet-riddled bodies, devastated survivors and traumatized children. However, both approaches are just as lethal to our freedoms if left unchecked.

Control is the key here. As I make clear in my book *A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State*, total control over every aspect of our lives, right down to our inner thoughts, is the objective of any totalitarian regime.

George Orwell understood this. His masterpiece, *1984*, portrays a global society of total control in which people are not allowed to have thoughts that in any way disagree with the corporate state. There is no personal freedom, and advanced technology has become the driving force behind a surveillance-driven society. Snitches and cameras are everywhere. And people are subject to the Thought Police, who deal with anyone guilty of thought crimes. The government, or "Party," is headed by Big Brother, who appears on posters everywhere with the words: "Big Brother is watching you."

Make no mistake: the Internet of Things is just Big Brother in a more appealing disguise.

Even so, I'm not suggesting we all become Luddites. However, we need to be aware of how quickly a helpful device that makes our lives easier can become a harmful weapon that enslaves us.

This was the underlying lesson of *The Matrix*, the Wachowski brothers' futuristic thriller about human beings enslaved by autonomous technological beings that call the shots. As Morpheus, one of the characters in *The Matrix*, explains:

The Matrix is everywhere. It is all around us. Even now, in this very room. You can see it when you look out your window or when you turn on your television. You can feel it when you go to work... when you go to church... when you pay your taxes. It is the world that has

been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth.

“What truth?” asks Neo.

Morpheus leans in closer to Neo: “That you are a slave, Neo. Like everyone else you were born into bondage. Born into a prison that you cannot smell or taste or touch. A prison for your mind.”



About John W. Whitehead: Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. His award-winning book *A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State* (SelectBooks, 2013) is available online at www.amazon.com. Whitehead can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.

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Trilateral Ashton Carter to Head Defense Department

Nobody questions the importance and power vested in the Secretary of Defense, which controls the most potent and advanced military forces in the world. The largely unexplained resignation of Chuck Hagel from this position on November 24, 2014, left many observers scratching their head. Insiders first claimed that Hagel was fired over disagreements with Obama, but then Hagel forcefully refuted those charges by December 4. "This was a mutual decision based on the discussions that we had," he said, "I don't think there's ever one overriding or defining decision in situations like this, unless there's some obvious issue, and there wasn't, between either one of us."

What forced Hagel to resign? Was it the failure to contain ISIS in Syria and Iraq? Was it his inability to restructure America's declining military forces while continuing to honor existing commitments? Perhaps it was perceived that Hagel's overall leadership was headed in the wrong direction.

I suggest that the answer to Hagel's departure is instead found in his chosen replacement rather than in his own conduct. Obama's announced candidate is **Ashton Baldwin Carter**, a member of the Trilateral Commission and Technocrat extraordinaire. If confirmed by the Senate, Carter will join his fellow Trilateral Commission member and longtime friend, **Susan Rice**, who currently serves as Obama's National Security Adviser.

Is this just a coincidence that yet another member of the Trilateral Commission finds his way into a top-level position in Obama's Administration? Hardly.

I just performed a new detailed analysis on the current Trilateral Commission membership list, which consists of roughly 375 individuals from North America, Europe and Asia. Although the Commission's website states that the U.S. member "quota" is 97, I counted 107

members. In examining the 107 U.S. members, at least 14 are in their late 80's and simply too old to hold public office. Another 16 are high-powered corporate executives who have not been open to any public office. Furthermore, there are 11 members directly affiliated with media companies, who do not hold public office. I also found another 15 members involved in academia or foundations who have never held public office.

This leaves 51 North American members who *might be* chosen for public service. However, these are roughly split between Democrat and Republican, leaving a pool of possible appointees of around 25 for either party.

Trilateral Commission members currently serving Obama include **Susan Rice** (National Security Adviser), **Lael Brainard** (Under Secretary for International Affairs, Department of the Treasury), **Sylvia Burwell** (Director, Office of Management and Budget), **Michael Froman** (U.S. Trade Representative). Others who have recently served Obama include **Thomas Donilon** (National Security Adviser), **Adm. Dennis Blair** (Director of National Intelligence), **Austan Goolsbee** (former Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers), **Michael Chertoff** (Secretary of Homeland Security), **John Hamre** (Obama's Transition Team), **Steven Koonin** (Undersecretary for Science, Energy Department), **Judith McHale** (Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs), **Celia Rouse** (Obama's Council of Economic Advisers), **Anne-Marie Slaughter** (Director of Policy Planning), **James Steinberg** (Deputy Secretary of State), **Ellen Trauscher** (Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs), **Melanne Vermeer** (Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues), **Philip Zelikow** (Intelligence Advisory Board), **C. Fred Bergsten** (Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations), **Stephen Bosworth** (U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy), **Kurt M. Campbell** (Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs), **Diana Farrell** (Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, Presidential Task Force on the Auto Industry) and **Michèle Flournoy** (Under Secretary of Defense for Policy). This list is *not* exhaustive.

Add **Ashton Carter**'s name as Secretary of Defense to the above 22

persons, and you have just reviewed almost 92 percent of the available (Democrat) U.S. membership that Obama might have appointed.

Another key Trilateral Commission operative is **John Podesta**, who currently serves as policy adviser to the President on climate change policy, and is actively creating Executive Orders for the President to sign. Podesta founded the Center for American Progress in 2003, an ultra left-wing Washington think-tank that was originally funded by George Soros. Until recently, Podesta was listed as a member of the Trilateral Commission, but the most recent list omits his name.

In 1979, I interviewed a then-prominent member of the Trilateral Commission who suggested that the reason for President **Jimmy Carter's** (also a Trilateral) appointment of their members to top Administration posts was merely because they were the best qualified for the selected positions. However, that was just as statistically ludicrous then as it is now.

The Trilateral Commission and its members are executing a coup right under our noses and nobody says a word.

Furthermore, I have carefully documented in my upcoming book, *Technocracy Rising: The Trojan Horse of Global Transformation*, that the Commission's so-called "New International Economic Order" is being specifically expressed as a Technocracy - that is, a replacement economic system to Capitalism run by scientists and engineers.

Ashton Carter is a perfect fit for Technocracy. As a Rhodes Scholar, he earned a doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford University and then became a postdoctoral fellow at Rockefeller University and MIT.

According to the *New York Times*,

*"In Ash you have a poster child for the guy who discovers that science and technology are the major drivers for some of the most important events in international affairs, and sometimes are the sources of the solutions," said **Graham Allison** [Note: Allison was also a Trilateral Commission member], who recruited Mr. Carter in the early 1980s to come to the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at*

Harvard's Kennedy School. "Here was a guy with a physics background who was fascinated by ballistic missile defense."

Unfortunately, a very smooth confirmation process is expected when Carter appears before the Senate.