



6G Will Combine AI With Real-Time Speeds Of 1 Terabyte/Sec.

If 5G is just a stepping stone to 6G, then hold on to your seat. AI plus instantaneous connections will enable ad-hoc networks of things and people to achieve unheard-of outcomes. □ TN Editor

Mobile-phone technology has changed the way humans understand and interact with the world and with each other. It's hard to think of a technology that has more strongly shaped 21st-century living.

The latest technology—[the fifth generation of mobile standards, or 5G](#)—is currently being deployed in select locations around the world. And that raises an obvious question. What factors will drive the development of the sixth generation of mobile technology? How will 6G differ from 5G, and what kinds of interactions and activity will it allow that won't be possible with 5G?

Today, we get an answer of sorts, thanks to the work of Razvan-Andrei Stoica and Giuseppe Abreu at Jacobs University Bremen in Germany. These guys have mapped out the limitations of 5G and the factors they

think will drive the development of 6G. Their conclusion is that artificial intelligence will be the main driver of mobile technology and that 6G will be the enabling force behind an entirely new generation of applications for machine intelligence.

First some background. By any criteria, [5G is a significant advance](#) on the previous 4G standards. The first 5G networks already offer download speeds of up to 600 megabits per second and have the potential to get significantly faster. By contrast, 4G generally operates at up to 28 Mbits/s—and most mobile-phone users will have experienced that rate grinding to zero from time to time, for reasons that aren't always clear.

5G is obviously better in this respect and could even replace many landline connections.

But the most significant benefits go beyond these headline figures. 5G base stations, for example, are designed to handle up to a million connections, versus the 4,000 that 4G base stations can cope with. That should make a difference to communication at major gatherings such as sporting events, demonstrations, and so on, and it could enable all kinds of applications for the internet of things.

Then there is latency—the time it takes for signals to travel across the network. 5G is designed to have a latency of just a single millisecond, compared with 50 milliseconds or more on 4G. Any gamer will tell you how important that is, because it makes the remote control of gaming characters more responsive. But various telecoms operators have demonstrated how the same advantage makes it possible to control drones more accurately, and even to perform telesurgery using a mobile connection.

All this should be possible with lower power requirements to boot, and current claims suggest that 5G devices should have 10 times the battery lives of 4G devices.

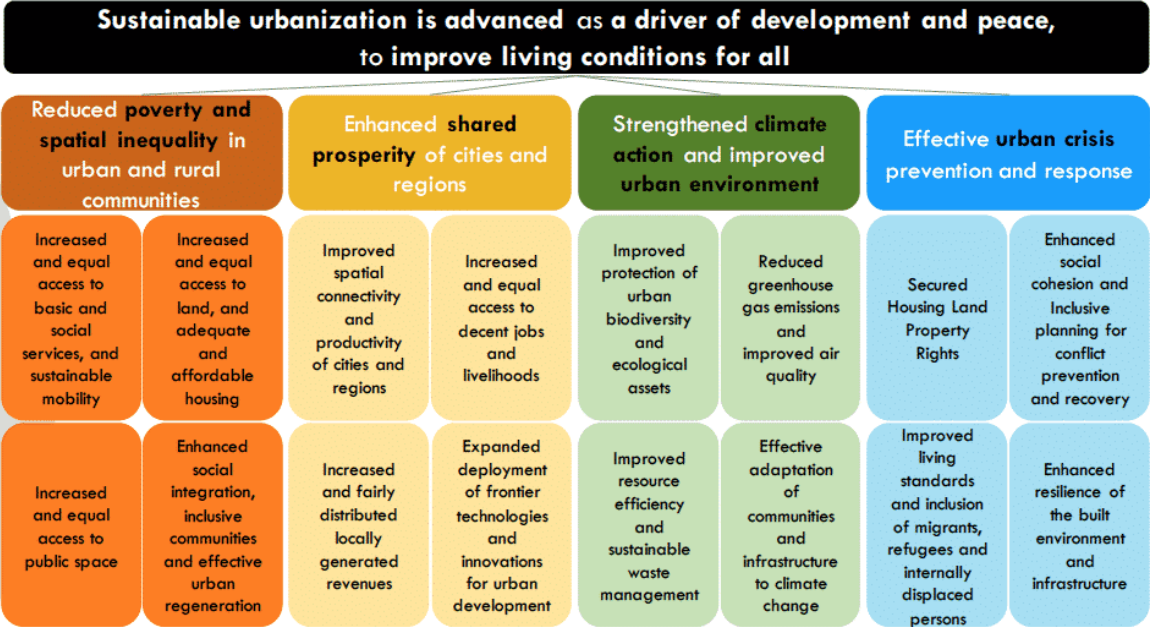
So how can 6G be better than that? 6G will, of course, offer even faster download speeds—the current thinking is that they could approach 1 terabit per second.

But what kind of transformative improvements could it offer? The answer, according to Stoica and Abreu, is that it will enable rapidly changing collaborations on vast scales between intelligent agents solving intricate challenges on the fly and negotiating solutions to complex problems.

Take the problem of coordinating self-driving vehicles through a major city. That’s a significant challenge, given that some 2.7 million vehicles enter a city like New York every day.

The self-driving vehicles of the future will need to be aware of their location, their environment and how it is changing, and other road users such as cyclists, pedestrians, and other self-driving vehicles. They will need to negotiate passage through junctions and optimize their route in a way that minimizes journey times.

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Technocracy At Work: UN-Habitat's Strategic Urban Plan for 2020-2025

The United Nations met in Nairobi to give teeth to the New Urban Agenda adopted in December 2016. The new strategy lends full ideological support to the global Green New Deal movement. Every city on the planet will be inundated with the new propaganda. □ TN Editor

Sustainable urbanization is central to the realization of the global development goals as set out in the suite of global agreements signed in 2015-16, including, most importantly, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Agenda, and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Strategic Plan 2020-2025 focuses on the Agency's commitment and contribution to the implementation of these global development agendas. Through its normative and operational work, the Agency's objective is to: ***“advance sustainable urbanization as a driver of development and peace to improve living conditions for all”***.

UN-Habitat's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan creates a strong narrative of change, clearly articulating the relationship of sustainable urbanization with the overall notion of sustainable development. It is only with a clear transformative strategy, partnerships, and a fresh and innovative vision of development that it is possible to respond to persistent and new development problems, including extreme poverty, socioeconomic inequalities, slums, social exclusion and marginalization, gender-based discrimination, humanitarian crises, conflicts, climate change, and high unemployment, which are increasingly concentrated in urban areas. A holistic approach towards an urbanizing world, connecting cities and other human settlements, can help advance sustainable solutions for the benefit of all.

The Strategic Plan lays out a recalibrated vision and mission, and a

sharpened focus. UN-Habitat proposes to serve Member States, sub-national and local governments, and other key urban actors in the pursuit of four mutually reinforcing and integrated domains of change or goals:

1. Reduced poverty and spatial inequality in urban and rural communities;
2. Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions;
3. Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and
4. Effective urban crisis prevention and response

The realization of these outcomes is supported by a certain number of specific 'drivers of change' and 'organizational enablers.' Transformative change can only take place through a paradigm shift. UN-Habitat is cognizant of this, and proposes a clear framework that takes into account global trends and focuses on (i) customized solutions taking into account countries in different situations, aligning all efforts focused on the change we want to see; (ii) leveraging partnerships with sister United Nations entities, the private sector, and other development actors and stakeholders; and (iii) significantly enhancing integrated delivery through more effective collaboration across its country offices, regional offices, liaison offices, and the headquarters.

However, implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 equally requires organizational changes and a new model for financial sustainability to ensure that UN-Habitat resources are commensurate with its mandates and roles.

Once translated into action, this Strategic Plan will reinforce UN-Habitat's place as the global centre of excellence on sustainable urban development, offering solutions that help seize the opportunities presented by urbanization, while bringing about transformational change for the benefit of millions of people, ensuring that no one and no place is left behind.

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Customs Says Facial Recognition Use 'Is Not A Surveillance Program'

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have been using facial recognition systems in airports and at the border, but insists that it isn't a surveillance program. Legislators are finally starting to wake up to the fact that, Yes, it IS a surveillance program! □ TN Editor

Lawmakers and civil liberties advocates might be pressing law enforcement agencies to [scale back](#) their use of facial recognition software, but international travelers should only expect to see more of the tech in the years ahead.

It's been almost two years since Customs and Border Protection began deploying facial recognition systems at U.S. airports, and despite the recent backlash against the software, the agency's efforts show no signs

of slowing down. But if you ask Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner John Wagner, the agency's use of facial recognition falls far short of the dystopian panopticon feared by many of the tech's critics.

"This is not a surveillance program," Wagner, who heads CBP's biometric entry and exit initiative, said in a conversation with *Nextgov*. "We are not just hanging a camera in an airport and randomly identifying people ... as they're walking through."

Under Wagner's program, CBP agents use facial recognition to compare real-time images of international travelers to the photos on their passports or visas. For arrivals, people have their faces scanned while officers review their travel documents, and for departures, the tech captures images right at the boarding gate.

Today, the tech is deployed in some capacity at 16 airports across the U.S, and by 2021, CBP expects to scale up the program to cover [more than 97 percent](#) of the people flying outside the country. Ultimately, officials anticipate biometrics could [render physical boarding passes obsolete](#).

The system is intended to help agents keep better tabs who is entering and leaving the country. Instead of relying on traditional flight logs and manual document inspections to monitor international traffic, using the tech, agents can now verify passengers are who they claim to be with more than 98 percent accuracy in a matter of seconds, Wagner said. The agency is currently testing facial recognition at three checkpoints in Arizona to identify people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

And officials are already seeing program bear fruit. Since August, agents have intercepted six individuals trying to [illegally enter](#) the U.S. through airports and another 125 "imposters" along the southern border, a CBP spokesperson told *Nextgov*. Wagner said the agency also identified more than 14,000 people who left the country after overstaying their visas, a violation that could prevent them from returning to the U.S. for up to a decade. The program has been so successful that the Partnership for Public Service nominated Wagner for one of its annual [Service to](#)

[America](#) awards.

Outside the Homeland Security Department, however, its reception has been mixed. The program came under fire last week on Capitol Hill as lawmakers and legal experts [bashed](#) law enforcement agencies for their often dubious use of facial recognition. During the hearing, Neema Singh Guliani, a senior legislative counsel at the ACLU, said she had “lots of questions and concerns” about CBP expanding the use of biometrics beyond airport terminals.

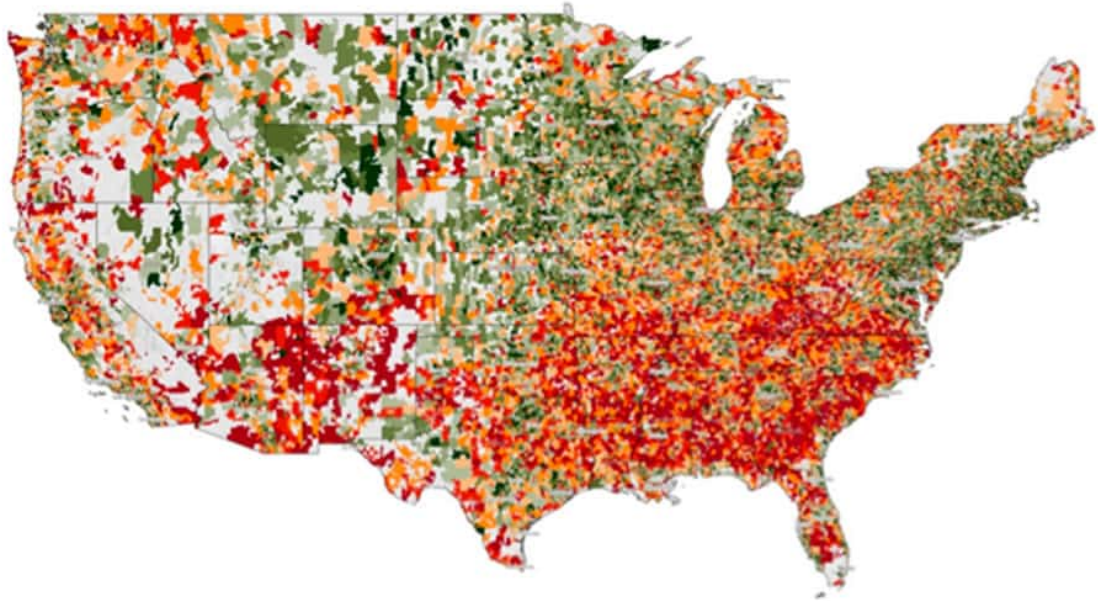
But compared to the sweeping and often covert applications of facial recognition by [the FBI](#) and other agencies, Wagner sees CBP’s operations as pretty tame.

People are always aware their picture is being taken, and U.S. citizens have the ability to opt out of face scans, at least for the departure process, he said. The tech is also only used in sections of the airport where people would already need to show identification, he said, and the image itself is only compared to passport and visa photos that already in the government’s possession.

“The biometric really becomes as simple as validating the information we’ve already received,” Wagner said. “There’s no new information we’re requiring of a person other than taking their photograph and comparing it to a photograph they’ve already given us.”

Instead of running images against a single trove of government IDs, the agency compares them to custom databases created for each individual flight, which significantly reduces the risk of misidentification, Wagner said. Those new airport photos are also deleted from CBP’s systems within less than a day, he added.

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Opportunity Zones: A Technocrat Deception To Plunder America

How much more financial plundering can Americans endure before America is declared an outright Oligarchy and the middle class declared dead?

The Trump Administration has aggressively teamed up with Big Tech billionaires to diversify their fortunes into “underserved areas” by allowing tax deferment on realized capital gains derived from liquidation of their core investments. This is a massive Public-Private Partnership operation that could push as much as \$6 trillion of “unlocked capital” into areas that would be turned upside down, and worse, inundated with Smart City technology designed to create a data extraction extravaganza for years to come.

In short, this is an operation of Big Tech, for Big Tech and by Big Tech, but President Trump has aided and abetted their efforts to manipulate government rules for their own self-interest. Undesired consequences will most certainly follow.

Introduction

When President Trump signed the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017* in December 2017, few read or understood the small print authorizing the creation of Opportunity Zones. One year later on December 12, 2018, Trump created and signed an Executive Order titled, [*Executive Order on Establishing the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council*](#), which created a highest-level committee that includes the very top leadership of the Administration: the Secretaries of the Treasury, Agriculture, Interior, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Transportation, Energy and Education; the Administrators of the EPA and the Small Business Administration; the Chairmen of the Council of Economic Advisers and the Council on Environmental Quality and a few other assorted big-wigs.

The EO instructs the Council to “work across agencies” to “assess the actions each agency can take under existing authorities to prioritize or focus Federal investments and programs on urban and economically distressed communities, including qualified Opportunity Zones.” The object is to “minimize all regulatory and administrative costs and burdens.” Furthermore, the EO uses the phrase “public and private investment” no less than six times and then stresses that the Council must evaluate,

*“whether and how Federal technical assistance, planning, financing tools, and implementation strategies can be **coordinated across agencies** to assist communities in addressing economic problems, engaging in comprehensive planning, and **advancing regional collaboration.**”*

There are three immediate problems with this Executive Order. First, Public-Private Partnerships have developed over the years as a mainstay of the United Nations to finance Sustainable Development and in particular, infrastructure that supports its Sustainable Development Goals. Second, blanket cross-agency coordination can be a dangerous vehicle to create policies that represent no agency in particular, and that no single agency would ever create by itself. Third, the term *collaboration* is a buzzword for *collaborative governance* that brings

many types of stakeholders to the table to make binding decisions outside of traditional citizen representation or accountability. Furthermore, *regional* collaboration adds an additional dimension that promotes regionalism, which is patently unconstitutional. Article 4, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution states that “The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government.” Regionalism is not a Republican Form of Government, period.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017

Opportunity Zones [were created](#) in Section 13823 of this 131 page bill, the summary of which states:

This section authorizes the designation of opportunity zones in low-income communities and provides various tax incentives for investments in the zones. Taxpayers may temporarily defer the recognition of capital gains that are invested in opportunity zones. Investments in opportunity zones or opportunity funds that are held for at least five years are eligible for capital gains tax reductions or exemptions, depending on how long the investment is held.

The governor of each state is given authority to define the Opportunity Zones within their state boundaries, which are then submitted to the Department of the Treasury for automatic certification. Zones are supposed to be low income or under-advantaged communities, but several governors have stretched the definition to include prime development areas as well.

Thus far, over 8,700 of these Zones have been established nationwide. (An interactive map can be seen [here](#) and the IRS Q&A page is [here](#).) Obviously, this is no small undertaking. According to [Smart Growth America](#), currently designated OZs represent 10 percent of America’s landmass, containing 30 million people. It [adds](#),

*The newly created Opportunity Zones program will likely go down as the **largest and most significant federal community development initiative in U.S. history**, with **trillions of dollars***

in new private investment about to start flowing into pre-designated low-income communities around the country.

It is noteworthy that [one survey](#) of state Opportunity Zone designation procedures revealed that less than 10 percent of states published their draft selections for public comment and only one-quarter of states formed a citizen advisory panel. Thus, the public has been largely left in the dark.

The IRS issued its first set of rules in early 2018 with little fanfare or public interest. However, when the second set of rules were released in October 2018, the barn doors were thrown open and the free-for-all began. *The New Orleans Advocate* noted on May 19 that “It’s like the Wild West out there now”. The article elaborated:

*It’s not only the last-minute rules-setting that has given the Opportunity Zone scheme a sense of anarchy: Literally anyone can set up a qualifying OZ fund, and **there is no formal way yet for the government to track them and determine if they’re directing investment to truly deprived areas as intended.***

The Economic Innovation Group

The brains and lobby effort behind the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017* is now known to be **The Economic Innovation Group** ([EIG](#)), which, by its own admission, was the original creator of the Opportunity Zone concept in a 2015 paper titled [Unlocking Private Capital to Facilitate Economic Growth in Distressed Areas](#). EIG boasts that “the idea has since been championed by a wide-ranging coalition of investors, entrepreneurs, community developers, economists, and other stakeholders.”

Subsequently, Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) introduced Senate bill S.293, the *Investing in Opportunity Act* into the 115th Congress on February 2, 2017. Matching legislation was introduced in the House by Rep. Patrick Tiberi (R-OH). While both bills were stuck in committee, the key provisions were slipped into the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017* which was passed and then signed into law by President Trump.

Such a skillful, persistent and successful lobbyist effort begs the question, “*Who are these people, anyway?*” I’m glad you asked.

The Founder and Executive Chairman of EIG is **Sean Parker**, a well-known black-hat hacker in his youth who co-founded Napster at age 18 to illegally share copyrighted music for free, without authorization from the creators. At age 25, Parker joined Mark Zuckerberg in 2004 when Facebook was only 5 months old, and became its first President shortly thereafter. Parker is credited with convincing Zuckerberg that Facebook could one day be something “really big”. Forbes Magazine lists Parker as a venture capital investor and philanthropist.

Other members of EIG’s Founders Circle include:

- **Ted Ulyot** - General Council of Facebook from 2008 to 2013
- **Ron Conway** - Founder of SV Angel and included in 2010’s Vanity Fair 100 most influential people in the Information Age
- **Dan Gilbert** - Founder and Chairman of Quicken Loans, Inc. And a leading venture capitalist specializing in technology companies
- **Rebecca Lynn** - Ranked #23 out of 100 top tech investors on Forbes 2015 Midas List
- **Joseph Sanberg** - Private and public-sector entrepreneur and investor; he is a board member of the Sierra Club Foundation
- **Dana Settle** - Former investment banker at Lehman Brothers, she is a leading venture capitalist specializing in high-tech startups.

In short, every one of these people are key players in the Big Tech/venture capital world, especially on the West Coast.

Furthermore, they have close connections with some top economists who are listed on their [Economic Advisory Board](#):

- **Jared Bernstein, PhD** - Chief Economist and Economic Adviser to Vice President Joe Biden, executive director of the White House Task Force on the Middle Class, and a member of President Obama’s economic team.
- **Austan Goolsbee** - Former chairman of President Barack

Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, cabinet member and chief economist for the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board

- **Kenneth Rogoff** - Former Chief Economist at the International Monetary Fund
- **Matthew Slaughter, PhD** - Professor of International Business at Dartmouth, Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, advisory committee member of the Export-Import Bank of the United States and advisor to the McKinsey Global Institute.

The EIG Policy Council generally follows the same lines as the Founders Circle but for this discussion, it has one noteworthy member: **Chris Camacho** of Phoenix, Arizona.

Camacho is President and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC), which he has used to spearhead a public-private partnership called **Smart Region Initiative** (SRI). This is a three-way collaboration between [Arizona State University](#), [GPEC](#) and the managing partner [Arizona Institute for Digital Progress](#).

Camacho is a hard-nosed business development expert and an unequalled promoter of unconstitutional regionalism. One Phoenix journal [reported](#) Camacho as saying,

"No one market across the country has unified multiple jurisdictions. There's been strategies to do smart cities in various places, but we're talking about, 'how do we connect the entire region.'"

Indeed, the **Smart Region Initiative** is being billed as the very *first* national attempt to create a regional authority to implement uniform smart city technology across 22 cities and 4.2 million people. National and even global eyes are watching to see what happens next in the Valley of the Sun, and if this regionalism takeover is successful here, it will be used as a model for similar public-private partnerships all across America and around the world.

While this writer intends to thoroughly cover the Smart Region Initiative movement in a separate report, it is important to see the potential

connection between Opportunity Zones and Smart Region Initiatives. Both are full of venture capitalists specializing in Big Tech initiatives like the Internet of Things, Smart City surveillance technology and most importantly, *data*, which many are calling the “new oil” of the 21st century. Both are new, riddled with Public-Private Partnerships and promote similar unconstitutional practices.

The Counter-Argument

Some will undoubtedly argue that these billionaires and venture capitalists are simply acting as benevolent benefactors who are sharing their wealth with poor communities; or that they are merely seeking to diversify their investments.

This is a logical absurdity and terribly naive. For high-velocity money extracted from Big Tech, there is no return on buying real estate or starting businesses in poor communities. Investors always put their capital into the areas of highest possible returns.

On the other hand, if data collection is the target, which *is* high-return, then Opportunity Zones fit the bill perfectly.

Who will manage the OZ Funds?

For the most part, every Opportunity Zone Fund will typically have a managing partner that makes all decisions for investment, structuring and accounting. Investors will simply pick a fund or fund manager in which to invest. Who are these fund managers? One needs to look no further than EIG’s [Opportunity Zones Coalition](#) page to get the idea: This page lists 49 such would-be managers with names like Reinvestment Fund, Riaz Capital, Newark Venture Partners, Ur Opportunity, KeyBank, Institute for Portfolio Alternatives, Fund for Our Economic Future, Calvert Impact Capital, Bridge Investment Group, etc. Some of these will very likely end up with tens of billions under their direct management.

Case Study: How Erie, PA Uses Opportunity Zones To

Fund Its Smart City Makeover

On March 4, 2019, *Government Technology* [reported](#) that *Erie, Pa., Wants to Overlay Security Tech into Its Smart City*. The article states,

Eight “opportunity zones” throughout the city could soon see new smart city technology equipped with license plate-reading cameras and facial recognition capabilities. Officials say the goal is to boost safety and spur investment.

Additional security cameras, LED lighting and free public Wi-Fi were introduced to downtown Erie in 2018 as part of a pilot program for what’s known as smart city technology.

Mayor Joe Schember’s administration and other local officials want to bring the same technology to local neighborhoods targeted for reinvestment under the federal Opportunity Zone program.

Schember, in an interview last week, said his administration — working with the Erie Innovation District and others — is working to bring “secure smart city” equipment and technology over the next 12 months to the eight Opportunity Zones in the Erie region that have been designated by Gov. Tom Wolf’s office and certified by the U.S. Treasury Department.

*According to Schember, that would include **security cameras that could read license plates and have facial-recognition capabilities; energy-efficient LED street lights; and free Wi-Fi in public spaces** throughout the Opportunity Zone tracts. The intent is to make those areas safer and more attractive for investment.*

*“It’s kind of an aggressive goal. ... But let’s get these areas done and within the next three years, **I’d like to see that technology throughout the entire city,**” Schember said.*

Needless to say, Erie got the message of how Opportunity Zones could best serve its pressing need to get someone else to pay for its Smart City makeover. Once a beachhead is established in a lower-income area,

which can hardly protest anything the city does, rolling out to the rest of the city will be a cake-walk. Furthermore, the early city “partners” (tech providers and investors) will have their foot in the door and will be eager participants.

But, why would anyone be eager to pour money into low income or *underserved* areas? There are three good reasons. First and foremost, the value of data collection is found in all living human beings, regardless of their socio-economic status. Second, the early-bird gets the worm for the rest of the data plundering operation in other parts of the city or region. Third, once embedded, the data stream continues to pump into the coffers of those who “own” the collection infrastructure.

Conclusion

It's time to face the dark reality of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017*. The promised tax cut for individuals was largely a myth. Conversely, tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations were ostentatious. A just-released [report](#) by the Congressional Research Service confirms this: “the main consequence was that real tax rates for corporations fell by nearly half while individual income taxes barely budged.” The key sentence in the report states,

“From 2017 to 2018, the estimated average corporate tax rate fell from 23.4% to 12.1% and individual income taxes as a percentage of personal income fell slightly from 9.6% to 9.2%.”

Thus, a Republican-led Congress betrayed the American people, and President Trump offered no rebuke to get it right. Instead, he eagerly signed the Jobs Act into law and subsequently created an Executive Order to insure the streamlining of its provisions throughout all levels of government agencies.

It should be duly noted and with alarm that this kind of globalization transcends the ideological labels of Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative, left-wing or right-wing, etc. Technocrats are apolitical on one hand, but will use or manipulate any convenient political platform to advance their own goals.

After realizing that the door was open for the rich to get richer with the Jobs Act, one can almost picture the resulting feeding frenzy of lobbyists to get their favorite loophole into the text. The Economic Innovation Group was able to claw their way into the mix to ensconce Opportunity Zones on behalf of their super-rich Big Tech/venture capitalist cronies.

To repeat the question, how much more financial plundering can Americans endure before America is declared an outright Oligarchy and the middle class declared dead?



College Students Secretly Photographed For Facial

Recognition Research

Partially backed by government funding, the Professor blew off the critics of his research claiming it was being used for the 'greater good'. There are ethical and legal considerations that are being blown off as well, giving others encouragement to ignore the law. □ TN Editor

A professor at the University of Colorado's Colorado Springs campus led a project that [secretly snapped photos](#) of more than 1,700 students, faculty members and others walking in public more than six years ago in an effort to enhance facial-recognition technology.

The photographs were posted online as a dataset that could be publicly downloaded from 2016 until this past April.

While professor Terrance Boulton and CU officials defended the project and its efforts to protect student privacy, a University of Denver law professor questioned whether this is an example of technological advancement crossing ethical boundaries.

"It's yet another area where we're seeing privacy intrusions that disturb us," said Bernard Chao, who teaches the intersection of law and technology at DU and previously practiced law in Silicon Valley for almost 20 years.

The [CU Colorado Springs project](#), first reported last week by the [Colorado Springs Independent](#), began in 2012 with funding from a variety of U.S. intelligence and military operations, including the Office of Naval Research, Special Operations Command and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. It was not clear how much funding the project received from government agencies.

Boulton's research originally was intended to analyze facial-recognition algorithms to determine whether they were up to snuff for use by the U.S. Navy. But it turned out the technology wasn't as efficient as the Navy wanted.

"It was solved if you wanted to match two passport photos where the person is facing forward in good light, but not if you wanted to recognize

someone 100 meters away,” Boulton said.

Boulton and his team did more advanced research to try to improve the facial-recognition technology.

“The study is trying to make facial recognition better, especially at long range or surveillance applications,” Boulton said. “We wanted to collect a dataset of people acting naturally in public because that’s the way people are trying to use facial recognition.”

Facial-recognition technology is being used more and more, including for things such as enabling Facebook to tag people in pictures, in helping government agencies to check passports or visas, and beyond.

To conduct the study, Boulton set up a long-range surveillance camera in an office window about 150 meters away from the West Lawn of the Colorado Springs campus, a public area where passers-by would not have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

The camera surreptitiously photographed people walking in the area of the West Lawn on certain days during the spring semesters of 2012 and 2013.

The candid shots caught students as they looked down at their phones, blurred in motion or walked out of frame altogether.

More than 16,000 images were taken, producing 1,732 unique identities. To protect student privacy, Boulton said, he waited five years to release the dataset publicly. That way, people were unable to look at the pictures and figure out a student’s whereabouts in case of a domestic violence concern or a clandestine military placement, he said.

[Read full story here...](#)



DARPA: Funding Wearable Brain-Machine Interfaces

Technocrats at DARPA are intent on creating a non-surgical brain-machine interface as a force-multiplier for soldiers. The research will require “Investigational Device Exemptions” from the Administration. □
TN Editor

DARPA has awarded funding to six organizations to support the Next-Generation Nonsurgical Neurotechnology (N³) program, [first announced in March 2018](#). Battelle Memorial Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), Rice University, and Teledyne Scientific are leading multidisciplinary teams to develop high-resolution, bidirectional brain-machine interfaces for use by able-bodied service members. These wearable interfaces could ultimately enable diverse national security applications such as control of active cyber defense systems and swarms of unmanned aerial vehicles, or teaming with computer systems to multitask during complex missions.

“DARPA is preparing for a future in which a combination of unmanned

systems, artificial intelligence, and cyber operations may cause conflicts to play out on timelines that are too short for humans to effectively manage with current technology alone,” said [Al Emondi, the N³ program manager](#). “By creating a more accessible brain-machine interface that doesn’t require surgery to use, DARPA could deliver tools that allow mission commanders to remain meaningfully involved in dynamic operations that unfold at rapid speed.”

Over the past 18 years, DARPA has demonstrated increasingly sophisticated neurotechnologies that rely on surgically implanted electrodes to interface with the central or peripheral nervous systems. The agency has demonstrated achievements such as [neural control of prosthetic limbs](#) and [restoration of the sense of touch](#) to the users of those limbs, [relief of otherwise intractable neuropsychiatric illnesses](#) such as depression, and [improvement of memory formation and recall](#). Due to the inherent risks of surgery, these technologies have so far been limited to use by volunteers with clinical need.

For the military’s primarily able-bodied population to benefit from neurotechnology, nonsurgical interfaces are required. Yet, in fact, similar technology could greatly benefit clinical populations as well. By removing the need for surgery, N3 systems seek to expand the pool of patients who can access treatments such as deep brain stimulation to manage neurological illnesses.

The N³ teams are pursuing a range of approaches that use optics, acoustics, and electromagnetics to record neural activity and/or send signals back to the brain at high speed and resolution. The research is split between two tracks. Teams are pursuing either completely noninvasive interfaces that are entirely external to the body or minutely invasive interface systems that include nanotransducers that can be temporarily and nonsurgically delivered to the brain to improve signal resolution.

- The Battelle team, under principal investigator Dr. Gaurav Sharma, aims to develop a minutely invasive interface system

that pairs an external transceiver with electromagnetic nanotransducers that are nonsurgically delivered to neurons of interest. The nanotransducers would convert electrical signals from the neurons into magnetic signals that can be recorded and processed by the external transceiver, and vice versa, to enable bidirectional communication.

- The Carnegie Mellon University team, under principal investigator Dr. Pulkit Grover, aims to develop a completely noninvasive device that uses an acousto-optical approach to record from the brain and interfering electrical fields to write to specific neurons. The team will use ultrasound waves to guide light into and out of the brain to detect neural activity. The team's write approach exploits the non-linear response of neurons to electric fields to enable localized stimulation of specific cell types.
- The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory team, under principal investigator Dr. David Blodgett, aims to develop a completely noninvasive, coherent optical system for recording from the brain. The system will directly measure optical path-length changes in neural tissue that correlate with neural activity.
- The PARC team, under principal investigator Dr. Krishnan Thyagarajan, aims to develop a completely noninvasive acousto-magnetic device for writing to the brain. Their approach pairs ultrasound waves with magnetic fields to generate localized electric currents for neuromodulation. The hybrid approach offers the potential for localized neuromodulation deeper in the brain.
- The Rice University team, under principal investigator Dr. Jacob Robinson, aims to develop a minutely invasive, bidirectional system for recording from and writing to the brain. For the recording function, the interface will use diffuse optical tomography to infer neural activity by measuring light scattering in neural tissue. To enable the write function, the team will use a magneto-genetic approach to make neurons sensitive to magnetic fields.
- The Teledyne team, under principal investigator Dr. Patrick

Connolly, aims to develop a completely noninvasive, integrated device that uses micro optically pumped magnetometers to detect small, localized magnetic fields that correlate with neural activity. The team will use focused ultrasound for writing to neurons.

Throughout the program, the research will benefit from insights provided by independent legal and ethical experts who have agreed to provide insights on N³ progress and consider potential future military and civilian applications and implications of the technology. Additionally, federal regulators are cooperating with DARPA to help the teams better understand human-use clearance as research gets underway. As the work progresses, these regulators will help guide strategies for submitting applications for Investigational Device Exemptions and Investigational New Drugs to enable human trials of N³ systems during the last phase of the four-year program.

“If N³ is successful, we’ll end up with wearable neural interface systems that can communicate with the brain from a range of just a few millimeters, moving neurotechnology beyond the clinic and into practical use for national security,” Emondi said. “Just as service members put on protective and tactical gear in preparation for a mission, in the future they might put on a headset containing a neural interface, use the technology however it’s needed, then put the tool aside when the mission is complete.”

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US Police Capture 117 Million In Facial Recognition Systems

Massive nationwide study in 2006 reveals that thirty-six percent of Americans are in a facial recognition database, and the number is growing rapidly. Law enforcement is mostly unregulated and agencies are free to drift toward a police state reality. □ TN Editor

There is a knock on your door. It's the police. There was a robbery in your neighborhood. They have a suspect in custody and an eyewitness. But they need your help: Will you come down to the station to stand in the line-up?

Most people would probably answer "no." This summer, the Government Accountability Office revealed that close to 64 million Americans do not have a say in the matter: 16 states let the FBI use face recognition technology to compare the faces of suspected criminals to their driver's license and ID photos, creating a virtual line-up of their state residents. In this line-up, it's not a human that points to the suspect—it's an algorithm.

But the FBI is only part of the story. Across the country, state and local police departments are building their own face recognition systems, many of them more advanced than the FBI's. We know very little about these systems. We don't know how they impact privacy and civil liberties. We don't know how they address accuracy problems. And we don't know how any of these systems—local, state, or federal—affect racial and ethnic minorities.

This report closes these gaps. The result of a year-long investigation and over 100 records requests to police departments around the country, it is the most comprehensive survey to date of law enforcement face recognition and the risks that it poses to privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights. Combining FBI data with new information we obtained about state and local systems, we find that law enforcement face recognition affects over 117 million American adults. It is also unregulated. A few agencies have instituted meaningful protections to prevent the misuse of the technology. In many more cases, it is out of control.

The benefits of face recognition are real. It has been used to catch violent criminals and fugitives. The law enforcement officers who use the technology are men and women of good faith. They do not want to invade our privacy or create a police state. They are simply using every tool available to protect the people that they are sworn to serve. Police use of face recognition is inevitable. This report does not aim to stop it.

Rather, this report offers a framework to reason through the very real risks that face recognition creates. It urges Congress and state legislatures to address these risks through commonsense regulation comparable to the Wiretap Act. These reforms must be accompanied by key actions by law enforcement, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), face recognition companies, and community leaders.

Key Findings

Our general findings are set forth below. Specific findings for 25 local and state law enforcement agencies can be found in our [Face Recognition Scorecard](#), which evaluates these agencies' impact on

privacy, civil liberties, civil rights, transparency and accountability. The records underlying all of our conclusions are available online.

[Law enforcement face recognition networks include over 117 million American adults.](#)

Face recognition is neither new nor rare. FBI face recognition searches are more common than federal court-ordered wiretaps. At least one out of four state or local police departments has the option to run face recognition searches through their or another agency's system. At least 26 states (and potentially as many as 30) allow law enforcement to run or request searches against their databases of driver's license and ID photos. Roughly one in two American adults has their photos searched this way.

[Different uses of face recognition create different risks. This report offers a framework to tell them apart.](#)

A face recognition search conducted in the field to verify the identity of someone who has been legally stopped or arrested is different, in principle and effect, than an investigatory search of an ATM photo against a driver's license database, or continuous, real-time scans of people walking by a surveillance camera. The former is targeted and public. The latter are generalized and invisible. While some agencies, like the San Diego Association of Governments, limit themselves to more targeted use of the technology, others are embracing high and very high risk deployments.

[By tapping into driver's license databases, the FBI is using biometrics in a way it's never done before.](#)

Historically, FBI fingerprint and DNA databases have been primarily or exclusively made up of information from *criminal* arrests or investigations. By running face recognition searches against 16 states' driver's license photo databases, the FBI has built a biometric network that primarily includes *law-abiding Americans*. This is unprecedented and highly problematic.

[Major police departments are exploring face recognition on live surveillance video.](#)

Major police departments are exploring real-time face recognition on live surveillance camera video. Real-time face recognition lets police

continuously scan the faces of pedestrians walking by a street surveillance camera. It may seem like science fiction. It is real. Contract documents and agency statements show that at least five major police departments—including agencies in Chicago, Dallas, and Los Angeles—either claimed to run real-time face recognition off of street cameras, bought technology that can do so, or expressed a written interest in buying it. Nearly all major face recognition companies offer real-time software.

[Law enforcement face recognition is unregulated and in many instances out of control.](#)

No state has passed a law comprehensively regulating police face recognition. We are not aware of any agency that requires warrants for searches or limits them to serious crimes. This has consequences. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office enrolled all of Honduras' driver's licenses and mug shots into its database. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office system runs 8,000 monthly searches on the faces of seven million Florida drivers—without requiring that officers have even a reasonable suspicion before running a search. The county public defender reports that the Sheriff's Office has never disclosed the use of face recognition in *Brady* evidence.

[Law enforcement agencies are not taking adequate steps to protect free speech.](#)

There is a real risk that police face recognition will be used to stifle free speech. There is also a history of FBI and police surveillance of civil rights protests. Of the 52 agencies that we found to use (or have used) face recognition, we found only one, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, whose face recognition use policy expressly prohibits its officers from using face recognition to track individuals engaging in political, religious, or other protected free speech.

[Most law enforcement agencies do little to ensure their systems are accurate.](#)

Face recognition is less accurate than fingerprinting, particularly when used in real-time or on large databases. Yet we found only two agencies, the San Francisco Police Department and the Seattle region's South Sound 911, that conditioned purchase of the technology on accuracy

tests or thresholds. There is a need for testing. One major face recognition company, FaceFirst, publicly advertises a 95% accuracy rate but disclaims liability for failing to meet that threshold in contracts with the San Diego Association of Governments. Unfortunately, independent accuracy tests are voluntary and infrequent.

[The human backstop to accuracy is non-standardized and overstated.](#)

Companies and police departments largely rely on police officers to decide whether a candidate photo is in fact a match. Yet a recent study showed that, without specialized training, human users make the wrong decision about a match half the time. We found only eight face recognition systems where specialized personnel reviewed and narrowed down potential matches. The training regime for examiners remains a work in progress.

[Police face recognition will disproportionately affect African Americans.](#)

Police face recognition will disproportionately affect African Americans. Many police departments do not realize that. In a Frequently Asked Questions document, the Seattle Police Department says that its face recognition system “does not see race.” Yet an FBI co-authored study suggests that face recognition may be less accurate on black people. Also, due to disproportionately high arrest rates, systems that rely on mug shot databases likely include a disproportionate number of African Americans. Despite these findings, there is no independent testing regime for racially biased error rates. In interviews, two major face recognition companies admitted that they did not run these tests internally, either.

[Agencies are keeping critical information from the public.](#)

Ohio’s face recognition system remained almost entirely unknown to the public for five years. The New York Police Department acknowledges using face recognition; press reports suggest it has an advanced system. Yet NYPD denied our records request entirely. The Los Angeles Police Department has repeatedly announced new face recognition initiatives—including a “smart car” equipped with face recognition and real-time face recognition cameras—yet the agency claimed to have “no records responsive” to our document request. Of 52 agencies, only four (less than 10%) have a publicly available use policy. And only one

agency, the San Diego Association of Governments, received legislative approval for its policy.

[Major face recognition systems are not audited for misuse.](#)

Maryland's system, which includes the license photos of over two million residents, was launched in 2011. It has never been audited. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office system is almost 15 years old and may be the most frequently used system in the country. When asked if his office audits searches for misuse, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri replied, "No, not really." Despite assurances to Congress, the FBI has not audited use of its face recognition system, either. Only nine of 52 agencies (17%) indicated that they log and audit their officers' face recognition searches for improper use. Of those, only one agency, the Michigan State Police, provided documentation showing that their audit regime was actually functional.

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Joe Biden's 'Green Revolution' Isn't Good Enough For Ocasio-Cortez

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is dominating the Democrat 2020 presidential race with her radical "Green New Deal" rhetoric. As she charges candidate Joe Biden with being too middle-of-the-road on global warming, Biden immediately defends. □ TN Editor

Former Vice President Joe Biden said during a campaign stop on Monday that we need a "green revolution" to tackle climate change, which could serve as an alternative to other 2020 Democrat presidential candidates' Green New Deal.

During a campaign stop in Hampton, New Hampshire, on Monday, Biden disputed one article's suggestion that he took the "middle ground" on the environment. He told members of the audience to look up PolitiFact, which allegedly confirms that Biden has been a "leader" on climate change.

Biden touted that, while he was vice president, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) doubled the gas mileage standards and moved to have more electric automobile charging stations across the nation.

Biden said that he will announce his plan for a "green revolution" by the end of the month.

Many Democrat presidential candidates such as Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Kamala Harris (D-CA), and Cory Booker (D-NJ) have made headlines by touting their Green New Deal plan to tackle climate change.

The former vice president also said, back in 1987, that "we have an existential threat" due to climate change and if "we don't act quickly we will basically lose everything we have."

"It's even more urgent now," Biden added.

Biden said, “We do need to finish this green revolution and we can do it in a way that’s rational, we can do it, afford it, and get it done now.”

[Read full story here...](#)



Where Technocrats Play: U.S. Department Of Energy

Ex-Governor of Texas Rick Perry was appointed Secretary of Energy by President Donald Trump on March 2, 2017.

Even though President Trump has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Accord on global warming, apparently Secretary Perry has not gotten word, for the [Department of Energy’s web page](#) on Climate Change is still present on the Energy.gov website, which prominently states,

Addressing the effects of climate change is a top priority of

the Energy Department. As global temperatures rise, wildfires, drought, and high [electricity](#) demand put stress on the nation's energy infrastructure. And severe weather — the leading cause of power outages and fuel supply disruption in the United States — is projected to worsen, with eight of the 10 most destructive hurricanes of all time having happened in the last 10 years.

To fight climate change, the Energy Department supports research and innovation that makes [fossil energy](#) technologies cleaner and less harmful to the people and the environment. We're taking responsible steps to cut carbon pollution, develop domestic [renewable energy](#) production and win the global race for clean energy innovation. We're also working to dramatically increase the efficiency of [appliances](#), [homes](#), [businesses](#) and [vehicles](#).

The Climate Change page presents a map of “How Climate Change Threatens America's Energy Infrastructure in Every Region.” Then it displays a globe with the heading, “Energy Exascale Earth System Model” (E3SM) and explains that,

E3SM is a modeling, simulation, and prediction project that optimizes the use of DoE laboratory resources to meet the science needs of the nation.

Even in light of this, it is still puzzling to some why the world's most powerful supercomputer is being created by the DoE to realize the “full potential of AI.” According to an [article](#) in *The Next Web*,

The US Department of Energy (DoE) has announced it's setting aside \$600 million to build the world's fastest supercomputer called [Frontier](#). It will be jointly developed by AMD and Seattle-based supercomputer specialist Cray.

The Frontier supercomputer will be capable of completing more than 1.5 quintillion calculations per second, and will join Aurora to become the second of the two exascale systems planned by US DoE for 2021.

This must somehow be reconciled to the DoE's very simple Mission Statement also displayed on its website:

The mission of the Energy Department is to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.

Certainly the Frontier project is "transformative", but why on earth does the DoE need the fastest AI computer in the world? And, what does it intend to do with it?

Enter Smart Grid. We know from the above that the DoE is "working to dramatically increase the efficiency of [appliances](#), [homes](#), [businesses](#) and [vehicles](#)." The continuous and personal data stream collected from the nation's grid is the perfect input for such an AI super-computer to control the whole system from a single location. When President Obama (a Democrat) unleashed the Smart Grid program in 2009, the goal of micro-managing the country's energy usage was in plain view, and it soon may be finally realized in practice, with Secretary Rick Perry (a Republican) taking the credit.

The origin of the entire Smart Grid concept is found in the DoE's Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), created in 1937 and located in Pacific Northwest. Historically, the BPA was saturated with early Technocrats because of its deep involvement with hydroelectric power. In the early 1990s, the BPA took credit for having coined the term, "Energy Web", which later became "Smart Grid".

The 1934 *Technocracy Study Course*, principally authored by Technocracy, Inc. co-founder M. King Hubbert, clearly specified control over energy in its seven-point requirements list:

- *Register on a continuous 24 hour-per-day basis the total net conversion of energy*
- *By means of the registration of energy converted and consumed, make possible a balanced load.*

The Trans-Texas Corridor Fiasco

Another globalist project that Rick Perry took credit for dates back to his tenure as Governor of Texas, when he tried to force the so-called Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC) into existence between 2001 and 2010 as part of the North American Union (NAU) initiative engineered by President George Bush, Mexican President Vicente Fox and Canadian Premier Paul Martin.

The NAU was a springboard from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to create a continental area comparable in design to the European Union. The TTC was to be a super-corridor 1,200 feet wide that carried tollways, rail and utility lines, stretching from the Mexican border to Oklahoma and ultimately to Kansas City.

The TTC was envisioned as an extensive network of Public-Private Partnerships that would have allowed global corporations to charge tolls for transit of not only freight delivered up by rail from Mexico, but also for services such as water, electricity, natural gas and fiber optic lines. It would have been one of the largest eminent domain land-grabs ever conducted, with the ultimate seizure of 584,000 acres of land held privately, mostly by ranchers and farmers.



After the plan was exposed to the American public, the uproar and protest was so great that the entire TTC project was ultimately terminated along with the NAU. Much of the credit went to Oklahoma as its legislature refused to let the super-corridor pass into its territory from Texas.

Although Governor Perry tried to dodge the political bullet for the whole episode, Texas Department of Transportation documents released in 2002 stated that,

*Governor Rick Perry wrote Transportation Commission Chairman John W. Johnson on January 30, 2002 to outline **his vision for the Trans Texas Corridor**. The governor asked the three-member commission to assemble the Texas Department of Transportation's top talent to create and deliver a Trans Texas Corridor implementation plan in 90 days.*

This is the same Rick Perry who today, as Secretary of Energy, is attempting to build the world's fastest super-computer to realize the "full potential of AI." Although *Frontier* will undoubtedly be shared with

other government agencies, NGOs and private researchers, Technocrats within the DoE will have the ultimate tool to assert total control over all energy converted and consumed in the United States.



By Any Other Name, Globalism is Technocracy, Not Communism

In a feature article on Eagle Forum website Dr. Ileana Johnson Paugh cites Agenda 21 and Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez', concluding that the greatest threat to humanity is Socialism/Communism 2.0.

First, let me plainly state that I have corresponded with Dr. Paugh and have the utmost respect for her. She is a very well studied and worthy patriot, but in this case, she has fallen into the trap of identifying all of

this as Communism rather than Technocracy.

This is not unusual, either, because we have been well-conditioned that Communism is the only choice to make when we need an enemy to blame for society's dysfunction. Further, having lived under Communism for 20 years in her native Romania, she has every reason to point to Communism as the enemy.

Admittedly, Technocracy and Communism have some surface commonalities. For instance, they both manifest collectivism and both are autocratic as far as subjects are concerned. Technocracy is far worse, however, because it will result in a dystopian Scientific Dictatorship from which there is no escape.

Philosophically, Technocracy is rooted in Scientism that was originally expressed by the French philosopher, Henri de Saint Simon. Communism sprang from Karl Marx, et. al: Different roots and different outcomes.

In the 1930s, Communists and Technocrats hated each other. Calling a Technocrat a Communist, or vice versa, could easily spark a fist-fight - and there were actually a few of those! There were a plethora of articles that appeared in the days media where both sides shot barbs at each other for being totally screwed up. (We can say today that they were both screwed up, but I digress.)

Furthermore, Zbigniew Brzezinski, who teamed up with David Rockefeller to found the elitist Trilateral Commission in 1973, wrote in 1970 that Marxism was a necessary stepping-stone to the final age, which he characterized as the Technetronic Era. This is still my analysis today. Today's Communists are the useful idiots of Technocracy, and they will be the first to be thrown under the bus if Technocracy wins the battle.

It was Brzezinski in 1986 who almost single-handedly brought China out of its dark ages and onto the world stage. At that time, China was indeed a Communist dictatorship, and a brutal one at that. Brezinski promoted the Trilateral Commission's New International Economic Order, which we know recognize as warmed-over Technocracy from the 1930s. By

2000, global academics were calling China a Technocracy. The trappings of Communism are still visible, but China is now managed with an iron fist by scientists and engineers who are using the “Science of Social Engineering” that early Technocrats crowed about in the 1930s. Today’s China model, highly regarded by the global elite, is the pattern for the rest of the world.

In sum, the United Nations’ Sustainable Development *economic system* (Communism and Socialism are predominantly *political* systems) is fundamentally identical to historic Technocracy, which I thoroughly documented in my Technocracy series of books. It was spoon-fed to the United Nations by a prominent European member of the Trilateral Commission, Gro Harlem Brundtland, in 1987 with the book, *Our Common Future*.

The UN has declared on multiple occasions that its goal is to *replace* Capitalism and Free Enterprise with Sustainable Development. Ocasio-Cortez is part of this plot to destabilize Capitalism so that her Green New Deal, aka Technocracy and Sustainable Development, can swoop in.

I can agree with Dr. Paugh that those who don’t learn from history must repeat it, no matter how disastrous. In this case, it is critical to get an accurate view of history so that we know the enemy we are really fighting. In my view, it is Technocracy, not Communism.

Here is the full text of Dr. Paugh’s original article.

Communism Making Comeback as Globalism

“It’s a brave new world,” one in which radicals are elected to high office in a system more corrupt and ignorant than ever imagined possible. The voters believe in the “shiny illusions of socialist/communist hell and are racing to implementation.”

Americans are not quite sure when the surge to communism finally planted its roots in the population at large and things began to change.

Some argue it was the 1950s, others the 1960s. Over time, the corrupt main stream media and the progressive-controlled education system brought us slowly but surely to today, when good people are overwhelmed by manufactured news and personal attacks meant to marginalize anyone who disagrees with the socialist agenda, while the entire system of liberty and justice for all is collapsing.

The dangerous cult of personality which mesmerized an entire nation into submission to a magical black president now includes Millennials like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-New York), who, despite her International Relations degree, is, by her own admission, totally ignorant of world politics, and two Muslim women who took their oath on a book that contradicts everything our Constitution stands for and are flinging vulgarities and anti-Israel /anti-American insults to the American public.

The same MSM that gives them ample air time to insult anyone who disagrees with them was mostly silent when three new Congressmen, real American heroes and Purple Heart recipients, were sworn in, the “5 eyes, 5 arms, 4 legs ... All American,” as Rep. Mast said. Jim Baird (R-Indiana) lost his left arm in Vietnam. Brian Mast (R-Florida) lost both legs in Afghanistan. Dan Crenshaw (R-Texas) lost his right eye in Afghanistan. Nobody saw them on the evening news but air time was extended ad nauseam to the “new breed of women politicians” who offends us with overt anti-Americanism.

Rep. Ocasio-Cortez’s strong and strange socialist charisma appeals to a large segment of the American population, liberals and Democrats alike, who have made a cult hero out of a former bartender.

Maduro of Venezuela was a taxi driver before he became president. He appealed to low-information voters who have now managed to self-destruct under the leadership or lack thereof of a socialist, long on rhetoric and short on the knowledge of how to successfully lead a country rich in petroleum, a formerly prosperous nation, now a basket case of poverty, rationing, and hunger. He drove it into the ground, turning it into the hell-hole of socialism that it is today.

The Cuban model, the Castro brothers’ communist dictatorship, ended in

disaster in Venezuela just as it did everywhere else socialism/communism had been tried.

Should she be ignored in the hope that she goes away back to the obscurity she came from? Liberals are already talking of making her president. People with real skill, intellect, sound judgment, and logical arguments must speak out with intelligence and force. But when they do, would anybody listen?

I am not at all surprised that young and old Americans alike are suddenly infatuated with the empty promises of socialism and communism and do not listen to reason. Decades of socialist indoctrination in public schools and progressive MSM are finally paying off for Democrats and their globalist fellow travelers.

In the country of my birth, where millions have suffered and died under the boot of socialism and of Ceausescu's Communist Party dictatorship, there does not appear to exist a significant and strong conservative wing, and politics in Parliament swing back and forth between socialists and communists. How is that possible when their parents and extended families lived in such hell of fear and brutal oppression for decades?

Young generations, with their smart phones, cars, plenty of food, and other electronic gadgets produced by capitalism, indoctrinated by schools and the media into believing that free-market capitalism poses a fundamental threat to their avowed neo-communism.

Young Romanians view any foreigners, no matter how poor in their own countries and how far left leaning they are, as rich capitalists who abuse and steal from the poor. Their parents have been told for decades under communism that capitalists exploit the working class and are out to steal their rights to utopian communism, thus leaving them hungry, cold, and poor in perpetuity. It is extraordinarily bizarre to see young generations, with their smart phones, cars, plenty of food, and other electronic gadgets produced by capitalism, indoctrinated by schools and the media into believing that free-market capitalism poses a fundamental threat to their avowed neo-communism.

A young American friend, who currently lives with his wife in Romania, is considering moving his family to America. As Darius explained, "She's fixated on the idea of living in an America that probably hasn't existed since the 1990s at the latest." He is afraid to discuss any conservative ideas with the young Romanians who openly and proudly express their communist affiliation, rejecting all other ideas that contradict and diverge from their proletarian ideology.

It is no surprise that such young people were indoctrinated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who made their way into the Iron Curtain as soon as it "fell" in 1990. George Soros boasted in an interview that he was the first to be given access into Romania after Christmas 1989 when Ceausescu was executed for communist crimes against his own people. Soros allegedly met with the minister of education to discuss the new curricula post Ceausescu's regime. Scores of young Romanians studied abroad with financial help from his foundations, assuring their allegiance to the new world globalism.

The "sudden" infatuation of the West with socialism/communism has been developing over decades as the communists had planned to go underground and rebrand themselves into the global communists of today.

I met several such students in 1991, who had been brought to an all-black southern U.S. college to study for Masters Degrees in management. When the two-year university indoctrination ended, they went back to work in the recently fashioned government comprised of former communist upper echelon apparatchiks who had rebranded themselves into the new world globalists.

The "sudden" infatuation of the West with socialism/communism has been developing over decades as the communists had planned to go underground and rebrand themselves into the global communists of today, championed by the United Nations and "civil society," meaning intellectuals, academics, and other lapdogs of liberalism who advertise and promote everything the U.N. publishes.

Vladimir Bukovsky explained these phenomena in the upcoming English

version of his book, *Judgment in Moscow*. He had found documents in Russia to prove that the reason the horrific crimes of the former Soviet Union and its satellites were not punished like the Nazi crimes were fifty years before was the “Kremlin’s links to and influence over Western political parties, governments, media, and prominent individuals, as revealed in the documents. It was these powerful links, he writes, that prevented any push to prosecute the extreme human rights abuses that took place over the decades of Soviet rule. As a result, the Communist Party and KGB elite were left to regroup and re-establish their power - with new names and new methods, perhaps, but the same goal: to undermine Western democracy.”

It is with sadness, agony, and dread that I see daily evidence of Western democracies turning back to the future. Some people never learn from history and must repeat it no matter how disastrous.

[Read full story here...](#)