

Blogging disrupted media's authority over narrative. Facebook, Twitter, and social media disrupted the state's ability to silence opposition. VoIP is disrupting telephony. Bitcoin -potentially, the most powerful equalizer yet - removes governments, banks, and credit cards from the free exchange of money.

Technology empowers citizens to take control of their lives and enact their ideas.

Technological advances also empower autocrats. In the worst cases, using technology, states are able to expand their jurisdiction into households and now even into minds. Iranian and Syrian government intelligence agencies monitor websites visited and the content of telephone conversations, at times responding with lethal force before any political or criminal act has taken place.

In democracies, ideally the state monitors and protects with foresight and restraint. The collective allows the state to monopolize violence in return for safety and security. Unfortunately, there are times in which the state acts outside of the bounds of its mandate to the detriment of the population.

To maintain a fair measure of oversight and to curtail excessive force and intrusions, citizens must use the technology available to them to monitor governments, corporations, and other large-scale entities. We must do this in accordance with the laws of the domain in which our activities take place be it local, national, international, transnational, maritime, or the like.

Unlike Wikileaks, we do not hope to destroy government institutions. If excesses exist, we hope to reform them, restoring a balance of security and freedom. Unlike Anonymous, our actions take place in the open using open source technologies and information. We document and assess and follow processes to make sure a just decision is reached.

We do not know what a perfect globalized legal system would look like. English common law bases its predicated on precedent. Chthonic law - Talmudic, Sharia, etc. - emerges out of a conversation between scholars through the ages. Our aim is not to disrupt law entirely, but to begin nudging and normalizing practices transnationally - aligning legal systems and values in such a way as to free ideas, experiences, and money from barriers and inefficient and unnecessary transaction costs. We hope to hold institutions and individuals accountable for their actions.

The internet created a global online community and redefined freedom and rights - to information, to communication, to identity. A new transnational legal system must emerge in response to this new transnational community.

19th and 20th Century ethno-nationalism succeeded in many places, but also set in motion the memes that caused many of the worst atrocities. Constitutional nationalism as exists in the United States, Canada, India, Singapore, and elsewhere has proved imperfect, but enduring. Monarchies and autocracies continue to exist - some thriving, and some perpetuating poverty, cruelty, and despair.

The United Nations and the International Criminal Court aimed to create universal values and perpetual peace. Unfortunately, the UN, ICC, and other international bodies have little enforcement authority, create a self-perpetuating internal bureaucracies, and are subject to the whims of contributing countries. A system predicated on national sovereignty undermines enforcement and empowers bureaucratic authority rather than individual freedom.

The European Union is an experiment in transnational governance. The initial freedom of movement and capital benefited hundreds of millions of people, but the institutions that followed stifle rather than empower. In trying to codify transnational processes, the European legal system has become a burden on

governments, corporations, and citizens alike rather than an entity looking toward the future to create more freedom.

Now is the time for collective action. We must act within our communities to begin building the basis for a larger community. This process will not be smooth. There are many hurdles to overcome, but both the process and the end result will greatly benefit humanity.

Accountability

Our main aim is to hold individuals accountable for their actions. This is not a call for transnational public shaming. It is a call for documentation. We must assess how actions fit into an entire system. Individual transgressions are individual concerns, but systemic problems need to be addressed by the collective.

As in any legal process anywhere, our first and most important task is to gather evidence. We hope to make this process transparent. Any person with a cell phone camera can record her interaction with a law enforcement officer or employee.

We assume that the knowledge that one's actions are globally viewable will alter one's behavior locally for the better, be that person a simple citizen, an employee of an institution, or a person empowered to administer the law.

Inevitability

The majority of citizens in developed countries are being watched constantly. Whether it be corporate cookies on computers, GPS tracking and triangulation on mobile phones, roadside cameras, security cameras, or increasingly powerful satellites, private entities observe citizens constantly. Much of this information is currently accessible only to governments and large-scale institutions, but will be hacked or inevitably become more available in the near future.

Although the developing world does not face the constant monitoring that occurs in the developed world, in many instances citizens there are monitored to an even great degree and face lethal repercussions for minor or non-existent transgressions. Drones extend American power into Yemen and Pakistan. Terrorist acts extend radical ideology into civilian areas. Guns overextend individual authority into schools and movie theaters. Search engines can track and predict the spread of illness. Satellites and global WiFi will create a sense of omniscience.

Excessive exertion of power distorts minds, people, and society toward thinking about that power structure - whether it be religion or legal authority. Rather than leave so much power in the hands of overwhelming institutions, it is time to create a system of checks and balances now. We will begin a process of documentation. We will even the playing field. We will empower a larger conversation so that even our medium can never be turned into a Bentham-like Panopticon that creates its own Foucauldian governmentality.

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