
THE SMART CITY

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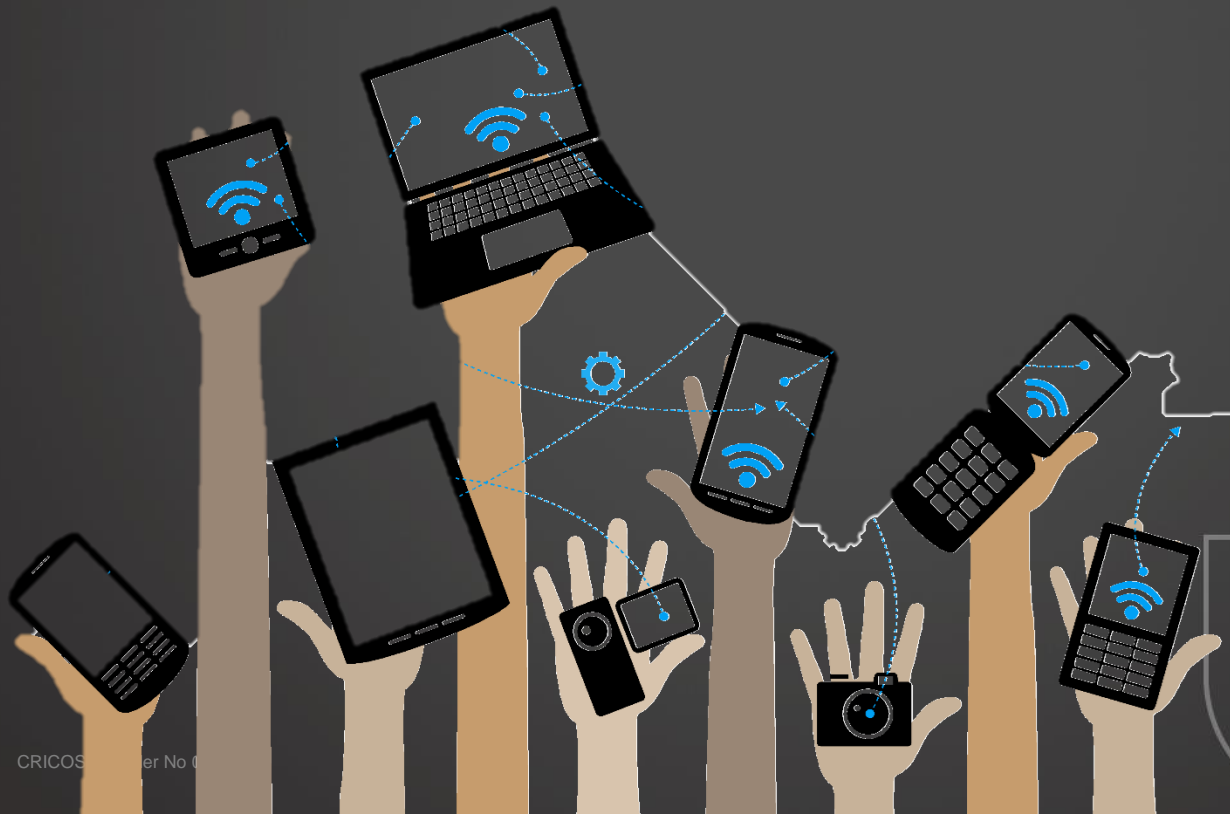
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TECHNOLOGY & THE CITY

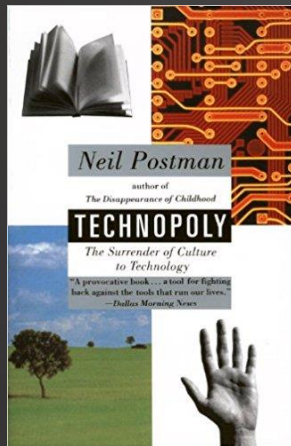
The role of technology in the city is yet unclear... Predicting the future is an impossible art



TWO VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE WORLD

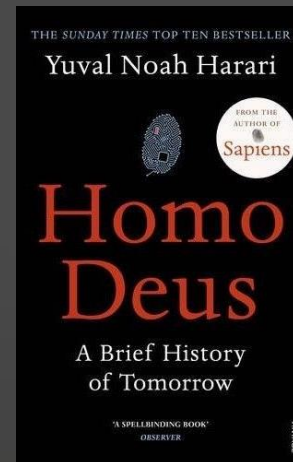
Humanist philosophy

A rationalist outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters.



Post-human philosophy

A complex set of ideas still being refined. Rejects the idea that humans are exceptional in the universe. Describes a condition in which humans and intelligent technology are becoming increasingly intertwined. This might also elide differences between humans and other species (animals, cyborgs, robots).



HUMANIST VIEW

A new technology does not add or subtract something – it changes everything

Technology is the product of humanity's confrontation with nature and with our own limitations

Humans struggle to define our own destiny and circumstances through technology

Every technology is a product of a particular economic and political context

Every technology carries an agenda that may or may be not life-enhancing

Just because we *can* use a technology, it doesn't mean we *should*!

All new technologies require scrutiny, criticism, control

Efficiency and progress are not the preeminent goal of humanity

We should view the idea of “progress without limits” with suspicion

Technology has no moral authority

Technology does not provide a common narrative in which we find meaning



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THE CAR



The car has come to determine how we conduct our lives
It has reoriented ideas about what to do with forests and cities
It has created new ways of expressing our personal identity
It has become a social status symbol

Ethical dilemmas of self-driving cars:

If a driverless car must choose between killing five pedestrians crossing the street, or swerving to a wall and killing its own passenger, what should it do?



POST-HUMAN VIEW

Revolutionize what it means to be human – via technology

Promises to liberate humans from shackles or primitive Darwinian brains

Moving from natural evolution to human-guided evolution

Natural evolution has no objective other than passing on genes whereas human-guided evolution will seek to improve the human condition

New humans will be genetically pre-programmed

Genetic diseases – physical and mental – will be eliminated

As technologies develop at an exponential pace, **we will edit our bodies to merge with technological devices** (body implants, etc.)

Humans might finally achieve **super longevity, super intelligence, super wellbeing**

Preventing all deaths due to aging might lead to huge population growth

Artificial intelligence might aid humans but might develop goals contrary to our own

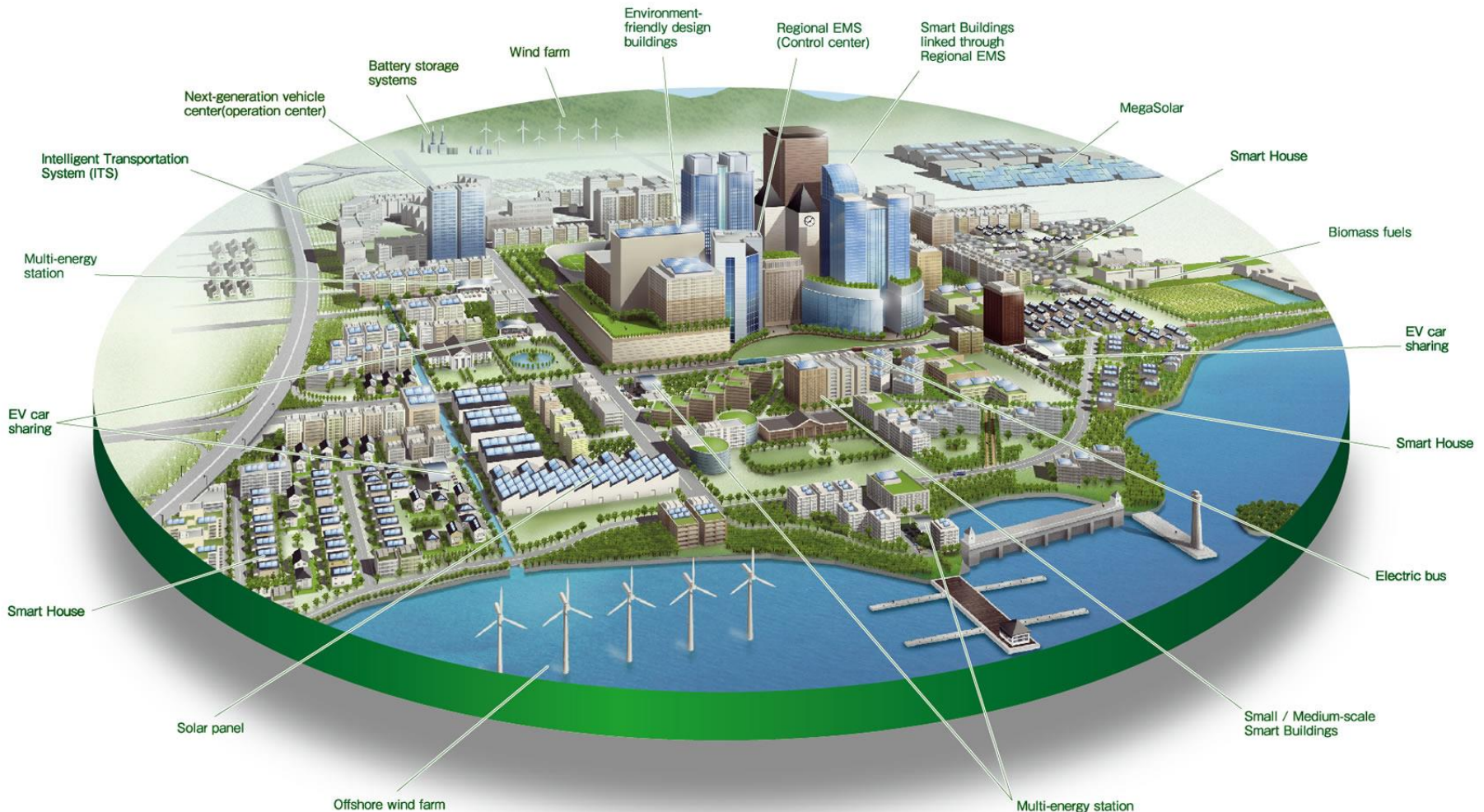
Phasing out suffering might lead to hedonism cancel out compassion, curiosity, pursuit of knowledge



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SMART CITIES

Use of ICT infrastructure to 'hyper-connect' and excel in multiple key areas: economy, mobility, environment, people, living, and government



FRIEND OR FOE?

The promise

- Fueling sustainable economic growth (clean energy)
- Democratic citizenship and participatory governance
- Crowd funding, open source projects
- Freedom from physicality (never stand in line again!)
- Enhancing the knowledge society
- Extending face-to-face relationships (social capital)

The concerns

- Corporate, top-down direction (tech providers)
- Hyper-artificial environment
- Information overload
- Espionage and theft (Big Brother)
- Individualism vs community
- Trust and belonging require physical context
- Benefits to *not* being online constantly (digital diets)
- Will 'unplugging' become a right or a privilege?

THANK YOU!

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