

Commentary

Neoreaction, Accelerationism, Entrepreneurship

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Neoreactionaries propose corporatizing the state, in which the president is a CEO while citizens are customers. However, if a neoreactionary world were realized, hegemonic corporate states would be likely to emerge. Entrepreneurship may be essential for creating new corporate states, enabling citizens to “exit.”

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Neoreaction opposes democracy because it falls into disorders such as populism and short-termism ^{[1][2]}. Neoreactionaries propose corporatizing the state, in which the president is a CEO while citizens are customers. The president is appointed by the board of directors elected by stockholders. Since the president is not elected by citizens, long-term governance, or service, can be provided without falling into populism. The political freedom of citizens is denied, but their individual and economic freedom is guaranteed. If governance, or service, is unsatisfactory, citizens are able to “exit” and move to another state.

Neoreaction derives from libertarianism, which opposes egalitarianism ^[3]. Libertarians reject equalitarianism, pursuing individual and economic freedom. They accept capitalism, in which individuals and corporations compete for their own profits.

Nick Land, a leading neoreactionary, is also an accelerationist ^[4]. Accelerationists propose accelerating capitalism without interruption toward a post-capitalist future. Land admires authoritarian capitalism in China because it may accelerate capitalism without being interrupted by short-termism due to democracy ^[5]. He relies on Deleuze and Guattari's notion of deterritorialization ^[6], according to which capitalism disrupts existing social systems, leading to anarchy.

However, as Deleuze and Guattari noted, deterritorialization is always accompanied by reterritorialization, which generates reinforced systems, leading to hegemony. In fact, hegemonic corporations such as Microsoft, Google, and Amazon have emerged. If a neoreactionary world were realized, hegemonic corporate states would be likely to emerge. In such a situation, if governance were unsatisfactory, citizens would no longer be able to “exit.”

Some accelerationists propose not only accelerating but also redirecting capitalism toward a post-capitalist future ^[7]. Such redirection may be essential for enabling citizens to “exit” in a neoreactionary world. Referring to Deleuze’s notion of “repetition” ^[8], I have proposed viewing living things as life cycles within lineages, as defined in evolutionary biology ^[9]. In contrast to genetic replication, which is mere duplication, lineages may be repetitions that generate difference and new variations among living things. In evolutionary biology, macroevolution, which creates new species, is distinguished from microevolution, which generates variations within species. Macroevolution fosters biological diversity essential to ecosystems. Lineages, which drive macroevolution, may be repetitions in themselves, i.e., genuine repetitions. By contrast, capitalism reduces economic diversity while generating hegemonic corporations through deterritorialization and reterritorialization. If a neoreactionary world were realized, capitalism would be likely to reduce political diversity while generating hegemonic corporate states. Since capitalism may not be repetition in itself, redirection may be essential for transforming it into genuine repetition that fosters political and economic diversity, creating new corporate states, toward which citizens would be able to “exit.”

Such redirection may be introduced by *entrepreneurship*. Peter Thiel, a libertarian entrepreneur, advocates pursuing an innovative enterprise while avoiding competition with others ^[10]. In fact, Thiel founded the electronic payment system PayPal and invested in Facebook, one of the earliest online communities. Furthermore, he donated to the Seasteading Institute, which aims to build autonomous states on the open sea. Seasteads might become predecessors of corporate states. Since neoreaction may lead to no “exit,” generating hegemonic corporate states, entrepreneurship may be essential for creating new corporate states, enabling citizens to “exit.”

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