

## A797 Future Story: Dystopian future

You wake up in the morning as your alarm set based off the maximum allowable hours to sleep was met from your biometric reading smart watch. It is connected to your biological responses as well as your environment, opening the sunshades, turning on your light and your favorite approved radio station. Everything is networked, so it knows before you do that you are waking up. Your sleep is monitored for anomalies and reported to your doctor to analyzed for psychological issues.

First thing in the morning you dehydrate and get rid of excess waste in your smart toilet. Both are wirelessly analyzed and assessed for health risks, including high sodium, of which yours is marked. This will come into play at breakfast. Your fecal matter is also scanned as it passes out of your house, checking for any issues with your health, and as a warning indicator towards potential outbreaks of infectious diseases in your area. A few weeks ago the neighborhood three streets down was locked into their homes for a week due to a faulty sensor indicating an Ebola outbreak, not that the government admitted fault. Those who try and break quarantine are arrested and charged with crimes against the state, even if one wasn't sick.

You are allocated a luke-warm shower of approximately a gallon of grey water, as purified water is only for drinking due to resource management, as energy and resource conservation is tantamount to godliness in the green focused world. You exit and air dry, as towels are deemed as unnecessary luxuries for both cleaning and drying.

You get dressed in one of your allocated uniforms, gone are the days of picking one of your dozens of shoes, matching it with dresses or coats that are made from materials or dyes that are sustainable and approved by the State. Dyes and rare colors are deemed luxuries and exploitations of the environment and workers in other countries, and therefore highly discouraged. Similarly, one pair of shoes is allowed, usually a hybrid boot/sneaker to minimize your impact on rubber and leather production. Air Jordans are worth nearly a million in new dollars on the underground markets.

Your breakfast is small, no allowance for extra calories unless you are sustaining life, and because your urine indicated you were high in sodium your fridge doesn't allow you to get your favorite food bacon (its not really pig as that is not allowed by the state, and has been deemed as unsustainable). In any sense, your wireless smart fridge only allows you to open the drawers with foods scanned in it that are approved with your health plan. This plan was enacted to help ensure that Citizens are healthier and minimize their impact on the state, which also behooves the Citizen because if you are seen as not in compliance it could harm your social credit score, hurt your digitized financial account, as well as should you need medical intervention the board could decide you are not allowed to be helped.

As you go to leave, the dwelling that you occupy (note it is not your house or apartment as you don't own anything anymore as it causes disparity and thus conflict), it automatically adjusts to low energy consumption, so in the summer it hovers around 80 degrees and in winter around 60 degrees as those are determined as acceptable and best for energy reservation. It is punishable by two months hard labor or decreased rations for altering your temperature level. Again, the only people exempt is those bringing in new Citizens in the world. You put on your fully charged working watch and leave. This simple wireless device is constantly transmitting your location, and has all your whole life, your health, and had your

social credit score (commonly referred to as your Economic Social and Governance, ESG, score) which determines your prices for goods or services that one might want during the day. This made it easier to track all your transactions giving the government the ability to see all your purchases from food, drink, clothes under the guise of preventing criminal activity and tax evasion from cash payments. Additionally, it becomes a way to prevent you from associating from people who may have ideas not in favor of the state, by alerting you to people whose ESG is significantly lower than yours, as mere association could cause significant issues.

You pass by an education camp, what could be considered a school in days of yore but is more akin to an indoctrination camp. Children are encouraged to see the State as their family, and its tenets as their code of conduct. They are constantly monitored through cameras with artificial intelligence analyzing actions, behaviors and implementing controls before the average human would see a potential issue forming. These cameras also monitor all citizens and their behavior, their movements, who they talk to, what they talk about and based off everything from gait analyzation, facial recognition, and pattern analysis combined with artificial intelligence it is near impossible to have completely unpredictable and un-original actions without it alerting authorities.

Those people who have been identified by the authorities as outliers or in non-compliance face anything from increased costs doing everything from purchases, activities or even exclusion. The police and military force are synonymous and are used more for keeping the citizenry in order than fighting international wars. Since the digitization of a world currency and subsequent wars with China and Russia who refused to join the one world alliance, their subsequent nuclear destruction and the establishment of the One World Government, aside from Outsiders whom live on the fringes of civilization there is limited need from external protection.

There is a significant underground that utilizes cyber attacks, malicious software to allow access to society and exploit the system. These Outsiders are those who refused to accept the system, clinging to religious views, as well as a diehard attachment to individualism and freedom. However to discuss these ideas within earshot of any sensor is punishable by re-education, fines, or re-location.

This may sound far-fetched, but it is easy to see parallels to what is happening both in the United States domestically as well as in other Nations across the globe, like China, the United Kingdom and Russia. Having seen the ability of the Chinese government and their ability to monitor, reward and punish their society based off their compliance with COVID-19 measures, social credit score and by virtually eliminating the citizenry from being able to purchase what they want, only what the government deems a necessity.

This is not just evident in totalitarian regimes. The UK is currently one of the most heavily surveilled populaces in the world, and with socialized medicine, the state now determines whom gets what operation, at what timeline and if you are “economically viable” to save. For example, when faced with a severe sinus infection, I was told to wait 6 weeks to see a provider to get anti-biotics, but it was “free”. The United States is becoming the most heavily surveilled and is talking about some of the most terrifying affronts to personal liberties known to this time.

It may sound like a fallacy about the toilet monitoring system, but I would encourage you to look at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and their implementing of this system to monitor your sewage to better identify neighborhoods where an outbreak of COVID (or other diseases) might be to better enable lockdowns. Comparing this to actions taken in China where citizens are welded into their homes, families separated on the fear that you might be contaminated is a startling realization that this could happen to you.

Your smartphone routinely tracks your position based off cell tower location and could be used to aggregate data if you are in proximity with a persona non-grata. Imagine being at a sporting event, sitting next to one of these people and unbeknownst to you are now having all your records, financials, internet, and cell traffic monitored with a secret wiretap? If you listen to many of the worlds largest companies at the World Economic Forum (WEF) many were advocating in their most recent meeting in 2021-22 about creating a social credit score that many of the most popular companies in the US are starting to adopt. Don't believe it, Microsoft, Motorola, Oracle, NVIDIA and numerous tech companies have already signed into may of these beliefs and therefore would likely be an enforcer of these policies through technological means.

The United States is actively looking for a way to make its own digital currency which could arguably destroy cash transactions, as well as make every transaction traceable and taxable. As we saw when Russia invaded Ukraine, if you do an action that is not allowed, the ability to block digitally all your finances to force compliance is possible at the Nation level, which means it is significantly easier at the personal level. The digital dollar now enables government overreach, monitoring and intrusion into your daily life down to the micro-purchase level. Prices could be altered to promote equity in accordance with legislation or could be used to prioritize certain purchases versus others. If you have an electric vehicle, you may pay less than a diesel truck operator. Similarly, if we move to a socialized healthcare, to decrease the burden on the health system you may incur fees for candy if you are a diabetic, or higher prices if you are obese and go to McDonalds. While this may appear to have your best interests, health, as a goal, the road to hell is paved in good intentions.

So, is it all hopeless? Is it all doom and gloom? I dare to think not, because with conflict comes character and with character comes hope. With the prevalence of the crypto-market, block-chain technology, and de-centralized finances keep it at bay. Understanding that the collective is not always right and the silencing of dissention by using the government tools will lead to totalitarianism and destroy the democracy that we have had and appear to be losing. Voting with your money as well as to the representatives that value personal freedom are also key, and if you do not see it there then be the creator that offers that alternative. Knowledge of what is going on and how to circumnavigate it is highly important, but that involves a conscious effort in identifying trends and voicing concern and coming up with alternatives before it happens. Too often we are caught un-aware because we assume that the future will be bright, or that it will be the same as the last several years, but as with COVID, we have seen that the future changes instantly and not always for the best.

Uncertainties:

- Concentration of Government Control
- Technological surveillance
- Digitization of Currency
- COVID reaction/response, vaccinations
- Educational discrepancies
- Rise/Emphasis on green energy
- Pull of the Future, Push of the Presence, and Resistance of the Past