You don't want a Digital ID — Period.

The current state of Technocracy around the globe

Lily
Apr 2

The specter of digital identities (digital IDs) is already lingering around for quite a while — and it does so in plain sight. The topic is being covered in tech blogs regularly and when you look at the comments under such articles you could think that absolutely everyone is dying to finally get one. Statements by the likes of *"It is hilarious that Digital IDs are already successfully being used in China while we are not getting it done here in the west"*, *"I can't wait to finally have my ID on my smartphone, so I won't have to carry my physical ID card around anymore since I always bring my phone anyway"*, or *"Then I will finally be able to do all my bureaucratic stuff from my laptop"* are pretty common. And while in theory that does sound like three 'very convincing' arguments, I am here to tell you: you will get your digital ID, and it will be the base for a technocratic nightmare—like, ironically, in China. People surrendering their privacy and liberty for convenience is never ending well.

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🇫🇷 France finally joins the ranks of countries using a credit card-sized ID, which means we will at long last be able to carry our ID in a reasonably sized wallet 🤩

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don't sneer, thanks. twitter.com/foushi19/statu...

1:55 PM · Mar 16, 2021

So, you already have digital IDs? How's it going?

France

In November 2019, France became the first European country to use facial recognition technology as part of a nationwide digital identity for French citizens. This wonderful government bloatware is operated by biometrics and does — in theory — give people access to around 500 government websites. In addition to that, physical ID cards are now equipped with an obligatory 'electronic chip' (on which the French government refuses to elaborate) and a QR-Code that can be used to store basically every information about its owner — how convenient they rolled it out just before the Covid-19 pandemic.

To validate this astounding new ID system, Citizenship Minister Marlène Schiappa told Le Parisien that almost 30,000 people fall victim to identity theft. That's 0.05% of France's population. I don't know if she meant 30,000 people in France or worldwide, but either way the number is meticulously small to even be of any concern to anyone who has some basic privacy in mind. So, you can safely say that privacy or security is not what the French government has in mind.
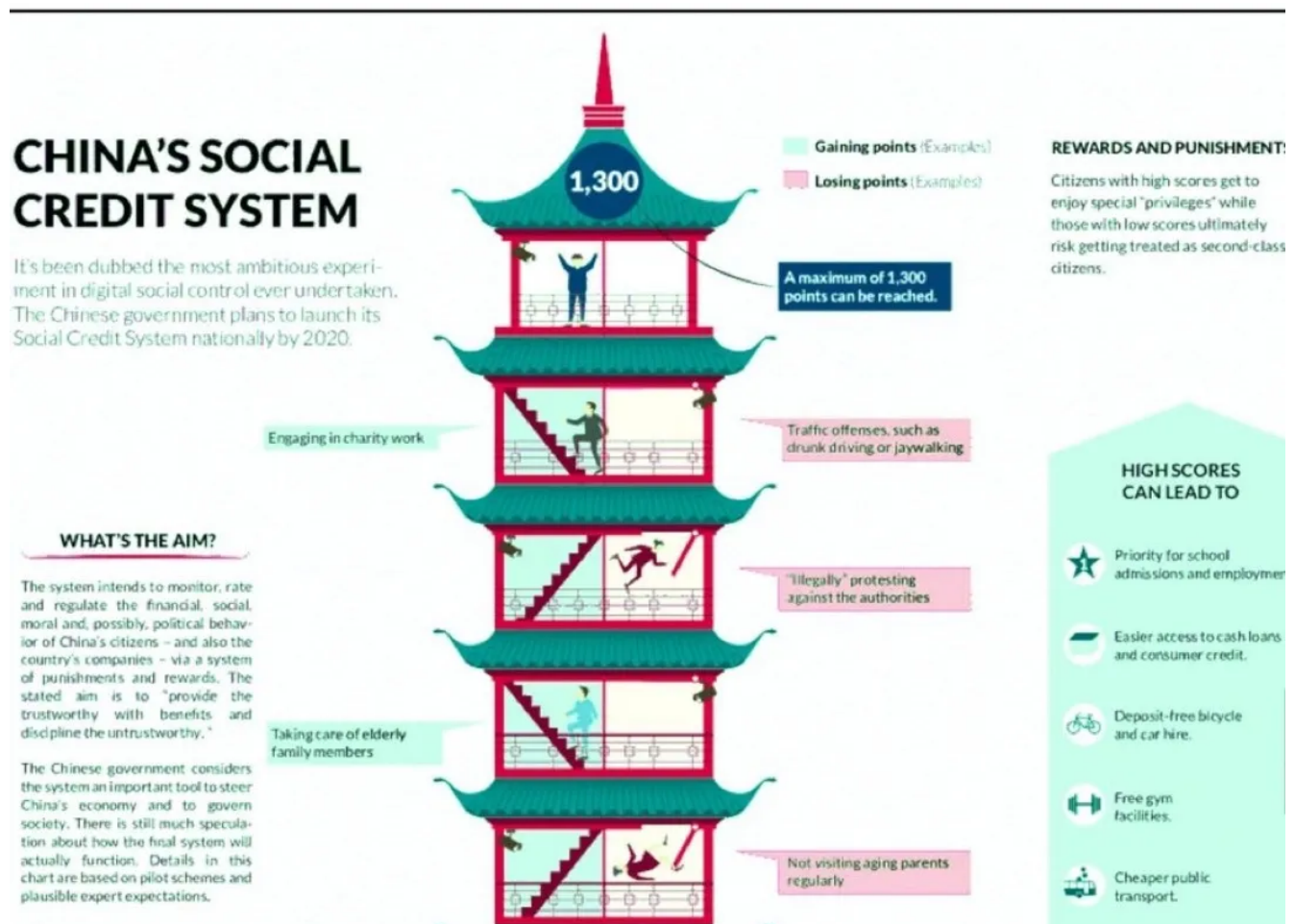
India

Another country that has already implemented a digital ID is India. Citizens there have already found themselves being locked out of the Aadhaar biometric ID program. Reports have begun to emerge detailing instances of citizens being refused access to services like welfare programs due to Aadhaar glitches, which led to these people ultimately dying of starvation because they did not receive the governmental aid they were entitled to. That's one way to diminish the populace. So, you can say, it's going wonderfully.

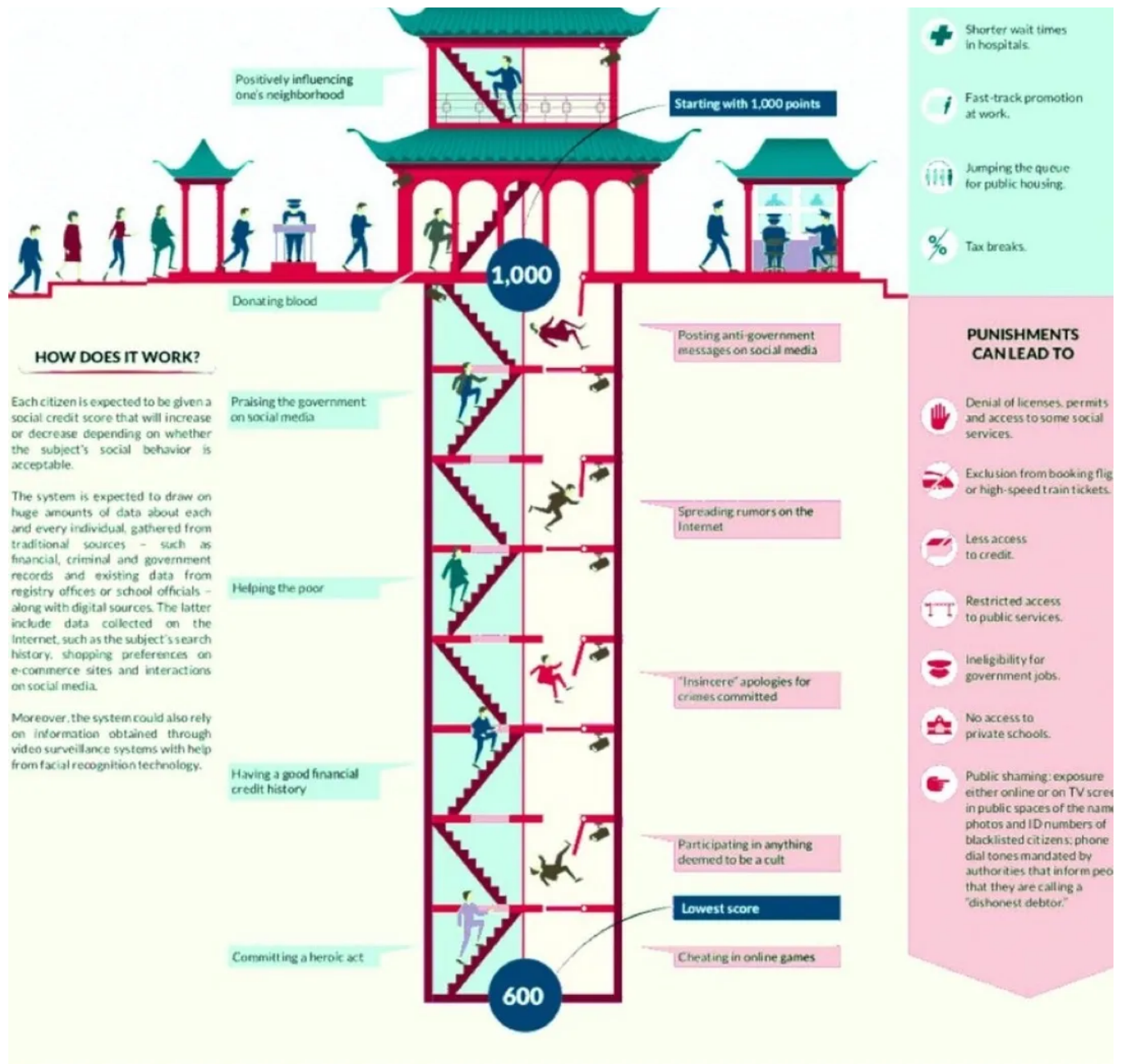The program was launched back in 2009 with the bold goal of giving every single Indian citizen a unique, biometrically verified identification number. By the end of 2019, an estimated 1.2 billion Indians were enrolled in the program. To get access to the system, users have their iris and/or fingerprints scanned and then receive a unique 12-digit number linked to their biometric and demographic data. This

number must be used when getting married, setting up a bank account, paying taxes, starting a digital wallet or simply signing up for a cell phone contract. Those who want to avoid this process will find themselves locked out of society.

China

China is not only the model of the social system that is being exported to the western world in the coming future, it is also the most advanced authoritarian Technocratic State to date. A study from Comparitech in 2019 reported that eight of the top ten most-surveilled cities in the world can be found in China (with London being the notable exception, coming in on third place). By the end of 2022 China is projected to have one public CCTV (closed-circuit television) camera for every two people. China's "Skynet" counted 200 million cameras in 2019. You can estimate how rapidly it is growing. Additionally, the Chinese government has begun to collect samples from its citizens to build a DNA database and since 2019 all of its 854 million internet users are required to use facial identification in order to apple for new Internet or mobile services.

CHINA'S SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM

It's been dubbed the most ambitious experiment in digital social control ever undertaken. The Chinese government plans to launch its Social Credit System nationally by 2020.

Gaining points (Examples)
Losing points (Examples)

1,300

A maximum of 1,300 points can be reached.

REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS

Citizens with high scores get to enjoy special "privileges" while those with low scores ultimately risk getting treated as second-class citizens.

WHAT'S THE AIM?

The system intends to monitor, rate and regulate the financial, social, moral and, possibly, political behavior of China's citizens – and also the country's companies – via a system of punishments and rewards. The stated aim is to "provide the trustworthy with benefits and discipline the untrustworthy."

The Chinese government considers the system an important tool to steer China's economy and to govern society. There is still much speculation about how the final system will actually function. Details in this chart are based on pilot schemes and plausible expert expectations.

Engaging in charity work

Traffic offenses, such as drunk driving or jaywalking

"Illegally" protesting against the authorities

Taking care of elderly family members

Not visiting aging parents regularly

HIGH SCORES CAN LEAD TO

Priority for school admissions and employment

Easier access to cash loans and consumer credit.

Deposit-free bicycle and car hire.

Free gym facilities.

Cheaper public transport.

Positively influencing one's neighborhood

Starting with 1,000 points

Shorter wait times in hospitals.

Fast-track promotion at work.

Jumping the queue for public housing.

Tax breaks.

1,000

Donating blood

Posting anti-government messages on social media

PUNISHMENTS CAN LEAD TO

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Praising the government on social media

Each citizen is expected to be given a social credit score that will increase or decrease depending on whether the subject's social behavior is acceptable.

The system is expected to draw on huge amounts of data about each and every individual, gathered from traditional sources – such as financial, criminal and government records and existing data from registry offices or school officials – along with digital sources. The latter include data collected on the Internet, such as the subject's search history, shopping preferences on e-commerce sites and interactions on social media.

Moreover, the system could also rely on information obtained through video surveillance systems with help from facial recognition technology.

Helping the poor

Spreading rumors on the Internet

Denial of licenses, permits and access to some social services.

Exclusion from booking flig or high-speed train tickets.

Less access to credit.

Restricted access to public services.

"Insincere" apologies for crimes committed

Having a good financial credit history

Ineligibility for government jobs.

No access to private schools.

Participating in anything deemed to be a cult

Public shaming: exposure either online or on TV scree in public spaces of the nam photos and ID numbers of blacklisted citizens; phone dial tones mandated by authorities that inform peo that they are calling a "dishonest debtor."

Lowest score

Committing a heroic act

Cheating in online games

600

se Tower: China is broadening its data gathering and has g

As if that is not enough, there is the ongoing rollout of the nationwide social credit system, tied to a Chinese citizen's digital ID. In 2009, the government started testing a national reputation system based on a citizen's economic and social reputation, or "social credit." This score can be used to reward or punish certain behaviors. By late 2021 Chinese citizens were losing points for dishonest and fraudulent financial behavior, playing loud music, eating on public transportation, jaywalking, running red lights, failing to appear at doctor appointments, missing job interviews or hotel reservations without canceling, and incorrectly sorting waste. To raise your score, you can donate blood, donate to a CCP approved charity,

volunteer for community service, and 'other activities' approved by the government. Because of this, the Chinese government has begun to deny millions of people the ability to purchase plane and high-speed rail tickets due to low social credit scores and being labeled "untrustworthy."

> "That's not how it's going to look like in our western democracies. We might have something like France, with privacy and security in mind. We are not China." — every normie always

Are we not? When you look at the past two years, you will find evidence that we are slowly but steadily moving towards a Chinese system, and it is easy for our governments to 'brand' the entire shit show for the west in the names of climate protection, equality, and anti-racism. Did you buy an electric car? You get points. Did you buy a gas car? Well, bad luck for you. Did you post something deemed remotely racist by an overarching always watching AI on social media or question the narrative? Say goodbye to your internet access, since that is now tied to your digital ID. These are things we are likely going to see very soon.

The German social assistance program for jobseekers (unemployment benefit II/Hartz 4) is punishing jobless people — often regardless of the circumstances behind it — for not appearing to counseling interviews, not fulfilling a quota of X job applications per month, or not attending a government mandated activity by sanctioning up to 20% of the monthly €440 labeled as 'basic benefits' these people are entitled to. In addition, reports have surfaced in which government agencies forced people into taking a job no matter if they considered it suitable for them or not by threatening to cut all their benefits. I am not sure what kind of welfare state this is supposed to be, but you can imagine what possibilities a digital ID could bring and how it would render you vulnerable to the government's arbitrariness.

This is the world of the early 21st century. If we assume technology will continue to advance exponentially, then it is probably safe to bet that the surveillance and privacy concerns are here to stay. You can read more about where we are headed towards here:

A Lily Bit

The Universal Panopticon

In the early nineteenth century, Jeremy Bentham, one of the oddest and most original of English thinkers, designed a prison where every prisoner could be watched at all times. He called it the Panopticon. Elements of his design were later implemented in real prisons in the hope of better controlling and reforming prisoners. It is now in the process of being implemented on a global scale that is often associated together with the...

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Unless there is some sort of resistance to these dangers privacy, will be completely eroded by 2030. For now, most of these things are generally voluntary. You don't have to buy the latest Amazon digital home assistant, you don't have to carry a cell phone with you everywhere you go, you don't have to use Google services or upload everything into the cloud. You still have the power to decide what type of products and companies you support with your purchases and how to interact and use technology. The more privacy focused you as an individual become, the more you are giving them a hard time to coerce you into something. You don't have to blindly submit to every latest tech gadget or advancement, and you can demand companies to delete your data. The laws for that are existing. You just have to use them.

For example, for a general crash course on privacy, I recommend reading *The Art of Invisibility* by Kevin Mitnick.

For having your data deleted in bulk, with very little effort from your side, I recommend a subscription to *incogni*. They will contact every company they find that stores data about you and requests them to delete your entries. It costs a monthly fee of $10, but it is hassle-free and in most cases all requests have been processed within 30 days.

You as individuals can choose to opt out of mandatory and social credit schemes. The problem (or the blessing, depending on your perspective) is that around us many people are still opting-in, and it is likely that these people will not only end up vegetating in the Metaverse but also decide not to associate with those who have low social credit scores. They will tell you things like *"You know I love you, man, but if my score drops any lower, I won't be able to go to the Bahamas with my family this summer."* or *"I won't be able to get a loan, buy a car, visit public parks"* and so on. That's the power of social engineering. These people are lost. Don't set out to persuade them. In Plato's allegory of the cave, these are the people who will attempt to kill you once you return from the cave entrance to share your findings. They simply cannot detach from the world of lies and instant gratification they found comfort in.

The Technocratic state is growing around the world. This means at some point in the very near future YOU will have to make a choice.

1. Will you submit to mandatory facial recognition to travel?

2. Will you submit to biometrics for continued access to government service?

3. Will you use biometrics on your smart devices, which the government can force you to use to unlock your most private data? Or will you read up on privacy and encryption and tell them to fuck off?

4. Will you give your car insurance company access to your location for a discounted rate?

5. Will you allow your health insurance provider to connect to your Apple Health App for better service?

6. Will you use fingerprints to unlock your home?

7. Will you blindly continue to surf the web, giving a shit about what Big Tech is doing with your data?

8. Will you continue to use social media with your real name and upload all your private memories and thoughts to it?

9. Will you continue uploading photos of you and others so that Clearview AI can scan all of them and feed their databases without your consent?

10. Will you continue to think that you've got nothing to hide?

The answer to these questions will determine your future.

I am operating under the assumption that if you found your way to this blog you are at least curious about what it takes to live a thriving life that is not ruled by the Technocratic State. If so, I'd love to suggest you subscribe and keep an eye out for upcoming publications on how to navigate the coming years.

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Of course, you are always free to do nothing . Perhaps you see what's on the horizon and decide that it's (A) too late to stop it, (B) too much work to make an effort, and (C) you are just trying to take care of your family and live a peaceful life. It's your life and since I am not the state you are not obligated to take any action upon learning of the digital dystopia being built. However, this is my dire warning, that your apathy today will make life more difficult for the generations of the future. If you want to preserve and expand liberty and privacy for all people you are going to have to take action in realistic and doable ways.

Luckily I am here to help. With a paid subscription you are signing up for an in-depth series on what you can do to live through the digital panopticon. It's just $5 a month and helps me and this publication out a lot. So please consider it. Thank you.

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public so feel free to share it.

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