



# HACKING HUMANS-AN ORWELLIAN SOCIETY (PRIVACY CONCERNS)

- *BY GAURAV ARORA, APRIL 19, 2020*

## Introduction

In order to hack a human being, two things are required, a lot of computing power and a lot of data, especially biometric data which is data about what is happening inside the body and the brain. Up until now, we didn't have enough of either to hack humans. But most of the technology and world's data is mined by the United States, China, and giant companies based there. People who have access to these data and technology are on a journey to determine the course of evolution for everyone and will be in a position to manipulate and exploit it as per their own values and interests.

## Vulnerabilities

Professor Harari points out that the potential of infotech blended with biotech is something which is unprecedentedly dangerous. For example, data giants in San Francisco or China could compile and process the entire medical and personal history of politicians and officials in distant countries through AI powered algorithms and use it to influence them or manipulate public opinion about them.

The key invention to merge infotech and biotech is the biometric sensors which converts biological processes into electronic information which a computer can store and analyze. With enough of this electronic information, external systems can hack enough of our feelings, emotions, decisions, and opinions, it will know exactly who we are better than we know ourselves.

Despite all the potential danger, these technologies will have their virtues as well such as the revolution it will bring to healthcare industry; we will be able to identify life threatening diseases including tumors and cancers inside our bodies with the help of these technologies before our bodies will show us any symptoms, another leap will be in automobile industry with the introduction of fully automated vehicles which will eventually reduce the scope of human errors leading to a fewer number of road accidents.

The only reason or pretext for developing these technologies would be the potential benefit for the mankind; however, the equally daunting potential threat cannot be neglected at any cost. One of the foreseeable scenarios could be rise of an Orwellian society at a global level where developing and underdeveloped nations will be data-colonized. The process has already started, the nations who are developing these technologies understand the fundamental concerns related to them. For an example, to perfect fully automated vehicles, it is crucial to test and drive them on real environment which is why developed nations have already placed stringent limitations on driving of automated vehicles until the safety is guaranteed. So eventually companies will test and perfect these technologies in developing and underdeveloped nations which will have much relaxed laws and cost of a life is lesser when compared with developed nations. Basically, it is much economical and practical for them after considering all the factors to mine the data from the developing countries and to process it with their AI which gives them a very powerful leveraging position to decide the evolution as per their own interests.

## Conclusion

This is giving a lot of power to very few people who will somehow exploit it the way they want to. One thing is clear, developing nations should not and cannot take it lightly and must take adequate steps to match up in the race otherwise it will be too late. Some of the possible steps can be to have more strict and advanced approach towards data privacy laws and maybe even to monetize data. They must understand the privacy concerns of this data mining concept of developed nations, as soon they might not be in a position to negotiate or safeguard their interests.

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## Contact

You can reach out to us for any query at:

**Email:** [info@etrst.com](mailto:info@etrst.com);

**Call us at:** 011-79625810, +919315329105.

**Linkedin:** [www.linkedin.com/company/etrst/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/etrst/)

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