

NEO-REACTIONIST CURTIS GUY YARVIN.

Curtis Yarvin is considered one of the neo-reactionaries(NRx)significantly contributed to the 2024 US presidential election.

BIOGRAPHICAL AND ACTIVITY FACTS*

Curtis Guy Yarvin was born in 1973 in the United States **in an educated, liberal and secular Jewish family**, also known by the nickname *Mencius Moldbug*, is an American far-right political blogger and software developer. According to Yarvin, his father worked for the United States government as a diplomat in Nicosia, and his mother was from Westchester County, New York. Both of Yarvin's paternal grandparents were Jewish. In 1988, Yarvin graduated from Wilde Lake High School, a public high school in the planned community of Columbia, Maryland, which he entered as a sophomore at the age of twelve. Yarvin spent a summer before graduating from Cornell University and then studied at Brown University, graduating in 1992. At the time, he was a graduate student in a doctoral program in computer science at the University of California, Berkeley, before dropping out after a year and a half to join a technology company.



He studied at Brown University from 1988 to 1992, and then enrolled in a doctoral program in computer science at the University of California, Berkeley. However, after a year and a half, he left academia to join the technology industry.

In the 1990s, Yarvin was influenced by the libertarian tech culture of Silicon Valley. Yarvin read the works of both right-wing and conservative Americans. Glenn Reynolds, a libertarian law professor at the University of Tennessee, introduced him to Austrian School economists such as Ludwig von Mises and Murray Rothbard, who significantly shaped Yarvin's intellectual outlook. Yarvin is best known for his work under the pseudonym Mencius Moldbug, a combination of the classical Chinese philosopher Mencius and Goldbug (a reference to hard capital advocates)..Along with philosopher Nick Land, Yarvin played a key role in the creation of **Dark Enlightenment**epoch or neo-reactionary movement (NRx) –

an ideology that rejects egalitarianism and democracy, preferring centralized, hierarchical rule.

In 2002, Yarvin founded the Urbit computing platform as a decentralized network of personal servers. In 2013, he co-founded Tlon Corp, a San Francisco-based company to further develop Urbit, with funding from Peter Thiel's venture capital arm, Founders Fund. The company is named after Jorge Luis Borges' short story "Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius."

In 2007, Yarvin founded the blog Unqualified Reservations to air his critique of democracy and liberalism. In an early blog post, he appropriated a phrase from the movie *The Matrix*, the "red pill," as a way to shatter progressive illusions. He largely stopped updating his blog in 2013, when he began focusing on Urbit and founded Tlon, a company that oversaw the Urbit project and helped run it until 2019. He returned to the company in 2024 in the role of "wartime CEO."

At the 2012 BIL conference, Yarvin, who used the pseudonym Moldbug, gave a talk about the "reboot" of the American government. He used the name to promote the acronym "RAGE," which stands for "Retire All Government Employees." He described it as a flaw in the "mythology of World War II," alluding to the idea that Adolf Hitler's invasions were acts of self-defense. He argued that these inconsistencies were being propagated by America's "ruling communists," who had invented political correctness as "an extremely sophisticated mechanism for persecuting racists and fascists." "If Americans want to change their government," he said, "they will have to overcome their dictator phobia."

In 2016, Yarvin was invited to present the functional programming aspects of Urbit at the LambdaConf 2016 conference, after which five speakers, two subconferences, and several sponsors withdrew due to his controversial views.

Yarvin has been described as a "neo-reactionary", "neo-monarchist" and "neofeudalist" who "sees liberalism as the product of a Matrix-like totalitarian system and wants to replace American democracy with a kind of techno-monarchy". He defended the institution of slavery and argued that certain races may be more prone to slavery than others. He argued that whites have an inherently higher IQ than blacks, and he opposed the US civil rights programs.

In April 2016, he announced that "**Unqualified Reservations**" has accomplished its mission" and is finished. In 2020, Yarvin began writing another blog expounding his views, called "Nihilist Prince Gray Mirror" or simply "**Gray Mirror**" on the publishing platform Substack. It was intended as a review of a planned book of the same name. As of June 2025, it was the third most popular "history" post on the platform. The blog speculated on how to replace American democracy with a new form of monarchy, which critics have called fascist, but Yarvin disputed this.

Yarvin left Tlon in January 2019, but retained some intellectual and financial involvement in the development of Urbit. He returned to the company in 2024, albeit without a formal title. His role at the company was described as that of a "wartime CEO", and his return led to the resignation of several top employees.

By the early 2020s, Yarvin and his ideas had a growing ideological influence on the American right, including prominent figures such as Vice President **JD Vance** and venture capitalist and Republican megadonor **Peter Thiel**. In a subsequent newsletter, the Gray Mirror Substack, which he began publishing in 2020, he declares that American democracy is a failed experiment that should be replaced by an accountable monarchy, or a "technomonarchist" system, in which government operates like a corporation run by an efficient, accountable executive branch rather than elected officials.

In Yarvin's words, his "red pill moment" was when he supported the conservative Swift Boat conspiracy theory, which was used to discredit Democratic candidate John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election. Yarvin believed the allegations and hoped that Kerry would drop out of the race; when that didn't happen, he began promoting other conservative conspiracy theories and extreme ideological positions on topics such as the Civil War, global warming, and democracy. The writings of Thomas Carlyle, James Burnham, and Hans-Hermann Hoppe, all of whom differed **claimed the collapse of democracy**, led Yarvin to support authoritarianism and elitism. In the 2000s, the American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan reinforced Yarvin's anti-democratic views, and the federal response to the 2008 financial crisis reinforced his libertarian beliefs, including after Barack Obama was elected president of the United States that same year.

In the first article, published in 2007 in *Unqualified Reservations*, entitled "**Formalist Manifesto**", Yarvin called his concept of aligning property rights with political power "formalism," that is, a formal recognition of the realities of existing power, which he believed should eventually be replaced by a new ideology that rejected the progressive doctrines transmitted by the cathedral. Yarvin first used the term "neo-reactionary" to describe his project in 2008. His ideas were also described by Dylan Matthews of *Vox* as "neo-monarchical."

Yarvin has influenced some of Silicon Valley's most prominent investors and Republican politicians. Political strategist **Steve Bannon** read and admired his works. **Vice President JD Vance** himself mentioned Yarvin as an influencer. **Michael Anton**, the State Department's director of policy planning during Trump's second presidency, also discussed Yarvin's ideas.

In January 2025, Yarvin attended Trump's inauguration celebrations in Washington, D.C., hosted by Passage Press. Politico reported that he was an "unofficial guest of honor" because of his "extraordinary influence on Trump's right." David Marchese of *The New York Times* described him as "a fixture in the right-wing media universe," noting his appearances on shows by political commentators such as Tucker Carlson and Charlie Kirk. He also described Yarvin's connections to officials in the second Trump administration, including policy planning director Michael Anton.

Yarvin is associated with "**Breitbart News**," former White House chief strategist **Steve Bannon** and billionaire investor **Peter Thiel**. His ideas were particularly influential among the radical right and paleolibertarians, and public appearances by prominent investors like Thiel echoed Yarvin's project to secede from the United States and establish a dictatorship of tech CEOs. Journalist Mike Wendling called Yarvin "the alt-right's favorite philosophy teacher." **Bannon particularly admired him.**

In 2025, The New York Times called Yarvin "the philosopher of the Trump palace." Yarvin's views have been described as racist, and his writings have been interpreted as defending slavery, including the belief that "white people" supposedly have higher IQs than black people due to genetics. Yarvin himself claims that he is not a racist because "all races are equally intelligent", but "people who

They score higher on IQ tests, they are somehow superior people.” And that’s white people. The author also adjusts his support for slavery, but claims that some races are “better suited” to slavery than others.

Yarvin is described as a neo-reactionary, neo-monarchist, and neo-feudalist, subsuming liberal democracy under a Matrix-like control system. His goal is not reform, but total replacement: a new regime based on hierarchical authority, technological control, and corporate efficiency.

DARK LIGHT IDEAS (or NRx).

The rise of political Dark Enlightenment ideas would have significant consequences for the political landscape of the United States. Yarvin collaborated with English philosopher Nick Land, known as the founder of the Dark Enlightenment or Neo-Reactionary Movement (NRx), which emerged in the late 2000s.

The main principles of Dark Enlightenment:

1. Criticism of democracy. As Yarvin and other neo-reactionaries argue, democracy is inherently flawed, leading to inefficiency, corruption, and populism. He advocates a “technomonarchy”—a model of governance in which a strong, centralized government replaces democratic institutions, much like a CEO running a corporation. The rejection of democracy and the promotion of hierarchical governance resonate with emerging populist movements that challenge traditional political norms.

2. Influence on right-wing politics. The movement has influenced right-wing factions, promoting a shift towards an authoritarian model of governance. While it may seem to align with right-wing populism, it ultimately follows a right-wing libertarian, elite-led approach that does not necessarily serve the interests of the core national population.

2. The pursuit of hierarchical structures. The movement advocates strict social and political hierarchies, believing that structured government is more effective than egalitarianism. They believe that liberal democracy leads to mediocrity and chaos because equality is more important than competence.

3. Accelerationalism. Neo-reactionaries, influenced by the idea of accelerationism, argue that capitalism and technological progress should be strengthened in order to accelerate the transformation of society. Figures such as Elon Musk,

Marc Andreessen and other Silicon Valley elites embrace this idea, viewing technological disruption as a way to reshape governance.

4. Rejection of modernism. The Dark Enlightenment rejects secularism, progressive governance, and egalitarian ethics as being out of touch with reality. Instead, it relies on historical models of power and stability, favoring monarchy, aristocracy, or technocratic rule.

5. Technological optimism. Technology is seen as a key tool for governance. Yarvin envisions a world in which artificial intelligence and data-driven systems replace bureaucracy, creating a highly efficient governance structure. This reflects a technofeudalist vision, where power is concentrated in the hands of a few elite decision-makers who control advanced technological systems. Critics of technofeudalism warn that these ideas could lead to a future in which a few powerful technological entities dominate power, effectively creating a new ruling class that controls every aspect of life.

Conclusion: At the beginning of the 21st century, a radical critique of modernity emerged, rejecting progressive values and democracy, calling for a return to hierarchical and authoritarian rule. Curtis Yarvin is one of the most prominent critics of democracy.

"CATHEDRAL" AND FULL CONTROL

Yarvin coined the "cathedral" as an analogy for what he sees as an informal alliance between universities and the mainstream media that collaborates to influence public opinion through the exercise of real political power in the United States. According to him, the so-called "Brahmin" social class (referring to the Brahmin class of the Indian caste system and the American Boston Brahmins) dominates American society by preaching progressive values to the masses. The socio-religious analogy stems from Yarvin's view that progressive ideology is communicated and internalized to the general public in a similar way that religious authorities and institutions communicate religious dogma to the faithful. Yarvin and the Dark Enlightenment argue that the cathedral's commitment to equality and justice undermines the social order, instead advocating for the figure of the American monarch, which he sees as the cathedral, and taking responsibility for its abolition. Yarvin argues that society needs a "hard reboot" or "reboot,"

rather than a series of incremental political reforms; instead of activism, he advocates passivism, arguing that progressivism would collapse without right-wing opposition. NRx proponents, he says, should create "new exit architectures" rather than engage in ineffective political activism.

Yarvin advocates a "neocameralist" philosophy, based on the cameralism of King Frederick the Great of Prussia. In Yarvin's view, democratic governments are inefficient and wasteful and should be replaced by sovereign joint-stock companies whose "shareholders" (large owners) elect an executive branch with full power but who must serve at their own discretion. The executive branch, unconstrained by liberal democratic procedure, could govern effectively as a CEO-monarch. **Jarvin admires Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping for his pragmatic and market-oriented authoritarianism**, and the city-state of Singapore as an example of a successful authoritarian regime. He sees the United States as soft on crime, dominated by economic and democratic illusions.

Yarvin advocates authoritarianism on a right-libertarian basis, arguing that the division of political sovereignty expands the scope of state action, while strong governments with clear hierarchies remain minimal and narrowly focused. According to scholar Joshua Tait, "Moldbug imagines a radical libertarian utopia with maximum freedom in all areas except politics." He advocated for same-sex marriage, religious freedom, and private drug use, and wrote against laws that discriminated on the basis of race or sex, although, according to Tait, "he consciously proposed reforms of private welfare and prisons that resembled slavery." Tait described Yarvin's writings as inherently contradictory, summarizing the contradictions of his views:

"He advocates hierarchy, but has a deep hatred of cultural elites. His political vision is futuristic and libertarian, but couched in the language of monarchy and reaction. He is irreligious and socially liberal on many issues, but fiercely anti-progress. He presents himself as a thinker seeking truth, but admits to lying to his readers, peppering his arguments with jokes and irony. This tension points to broader divisions within the online right."

Yarvin coined the unique term "cathedral" to describe the informal network of institutions—elite universities, the media, the bureaucracy—that

shaping public perception and implementing a progressive ideology. Under the neo-reactionary system, the new department would be a centralized governing entity, absorbing all major public functions traditionally handled by separate government ministries, including:

Culture and media; Education; Law enforcement; Economic planning; Surveillance and technological surveillance.

A small group of “ruling elites” (the rulers) would control this system, shaping public perception while keeping the masses in a state of unconscious obedience. The most intelligent individuals from the general population would be selected not for leadership but for technical and subordinate roles within a ruling class made up of oligarchs and shareholders. At the center of this structure would be an advanced, conscious artificial intelligence, completely controlled by the elite. This artificial intelligence would oversee governance, ensure 24/7 surveillance, and suppress dissent before it even arises. Meanwhile, the general public would be convinced that they live in a liberal society, when in fact they are completely controlled, in accordance with **transhumanist ideals** (more on that later). Over time, national identities would disappear as people became more homogenized through genetic modification and technological advancement. This AI-driven system would not only control people, but would dictate their existence, leaving them unable to imagine an alternative.

YARVIN'S INFLUENCE IN THE 2024 US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

In a January 2025 interview with the New York Times, Yarvin argued that there was historical precedent to support his reasoning, stating that in his first inaugural address, Franklin Delano Roosevelt “basically said, ‘Hey, Congress, give me absolute power, or I’ll take it anyway.’” Later, we’ll see that Trump has begun to treat Congress in a similar way.

Yarvin's influence permeated the tech elite, especially among individuals who played a significant role in shaping the 2024 election.

J.D. Vance, a venture capitalist turned senator and close associate of Peter Thiel, has shown interest in Yarvin's ideas.

Peter Thiel, a billionaire technology investor long associated with Yarvin's network, who is a close friend of Yarvin's and possibly a mentor to Yarvin.

Elon Musk, a right-wing libertarian with a techno-optimistic outlook also agrees with Yarvin's critique of democracy and governance.

Marc Andreessen, a major Silicon Valley investor, echoed the themes of accelerators and technological governance in his writings.

British philosopher and one of Yarvin's intellectual colleagues, Nick Land laid the theoretical foundation for accelerator and neo-reactionary ideas.

Yarvin has positioned himself as the philosopher of a new political paradigm that combines right-wing libertarianism, technofeudalism, and authoritarianism into one coherent vision. While Donald Trump may be the Trojan Horse of this movement, the real power lies with the Silicon Valley elite, who see themselves as the true architects of the future.

Curtis Yarvin's influence on the 2024 election is not just "theoretical" - he has actively shaped the political and technological landscape. Yarvin's ideas challenged the foundations of democracy. He advocated for a future in which centralized government and advanced technology dictate state governance. The Silicon Valley elite's acceptance of these concepts will have serious consequences for the future of society. The question is no longer whether these ideas will shape the future, but *what kind* on the scale and what the impact will be on major populations in Western countries.*

INFLUENCE AND CONNECTIONS**

Peter Thiel was an investor in Yarvin's startup Tlon and in 2011, it gave \$100,000 to Tlon co-founder John Burnham. In 2016, Yarvin privately stated to Milo Yiannopoulos that **"coached Thiel"** and that **watched the 2016 US presidential election at Thiel's house.** In his writings, Yarvin referenced Thiel's 2009 essay, in which the latter stated: **"I no longer believe that freedom and democracy are compatible. Since 1920, the massive increase in welfare recipients and the extension of the right to vote to women—two voters notoriously difficult for libertarians—have turned the concept of "capitalist democracy" into an oxymoron."**

Yarvin's ideas were influential among right-wing libertarians and paleolibertarians, and prominent investors such as Thiel echoed Yarvin's project to secede from the United States and establish dictatorships of tech executives. Journalist Jason Wilson noted that Yarvin had "a significant intellectual influence on key figures in the incoming Donald Trump administration." Venture capitalist Marc Andreessen, an informal advisor to Donald Trump, agreed.

Yarvin. Political strategist **Steve Bannon** read and admired his works. **Vice President JD Vance** In 2021, he also praised Yarvin, and, referring to his 2012 speech "Retire All Government Workers," said: "If I were to give him one piece of advice, what should Trump do: Fire every mid-level bureaucrat, every civil servant in the administrative state, and replace them with our people. And when the courts stop you, stand up to the country and say, 'The Chief Justice has made his decision. Now let him enforce it.'"

CNN noted that although **Thiel, Andreessen, Vance and Anton expressed support for Yarvin**, they have shown varying and inconsistent support for his theories, depending on their positions: "Vance's aide denied that the vice president had a close relationship with Yarvin, saying that the two had met "about once." Thiel, who did not respond to a request for comment, told The Atlantic in 2023 that he did not think Yarvin's ideas would "work" but found him an "interesting and powerful" historian. And earlier this year, Andreessen, who also did not respond to a request for comment, told X that "Yarvin" could be read without becoming a monarchist. Investor Balaji Srinivasan has also endorsed Yarvin's ideas of techno-corporate chamberlism. In a 2013 speech, he advocated "a society run by Silicon Valley... a voluntary society, ultimately outside the United States, run by technology."

ALT-RIGHT

Yarvin is consistently described as an alt-right figure in journalism and commentary. For example, Mike Wendling called Yarvin "the alt-right's favorite philosophy professor" in 2018. Tait describes Unqualified Reservations as a "high-minded" precursor and later companion to transgressive anti-politically correct metapolitics, such as nebulous online communities like 4chan and /pol/. **Yarvin has publicly distanced himself from the alt-right.** In a private message, Yarvin advised Milo Yiannopoulos, then a reporter for Breitbart News, to treat neo-Nazis "the way some well-tailored high-ranking communist NYT reporter treats a bunch of fat anarchist hippies. Patronizing contempt. Your heart is in the right place, young lady, now take a shower and shave those dimples."

Writing in Vanity Fair, James Pogue said of Yarvin:

Some of Yarvin's writing (from his blog Unqualified Reservations) is so far-right that it has to be read to be believed. For example, when he criticized the attacks by Norwegian far-right terrorist Anders Behring Breivik — who killed 77 people, including dozens of children at a youth camp — not because terrorism is bad, but because the killings would do nothing to overthrow what Yarvin called Norway's "communist" government. He claimed that Nelson Mandela, who once led the military wing of the African National Congress, had endorsed terrorist tactics and political assassinations against opponents, and said that anyone who claimed that "Saint Mandela" was more innocent than Breivik might have "a mother they'd like to have sex with."

Commonweal's Matt McManus said of Yarvin:

"He comes across as a third-rate authoritarian David Foster Wallace, combining post-postmodernist bookish eclecticism with a desire to connect with and influence young disaffected white men." His writings are full of dubious historical claims, often mixed with thinly veiled bigotry and subtle middle-class snobbery.

Yarvin gained greater public attention in February 2017 when Politico reported that Steve Bannon, who served as White House chief strategist under US President Donald Trump, read Yarvin's blog and that Yarvin "established contact with the White House by communicating with Bannon and his aides through an intermediary."

The story was picked up by other magazines and newspapers, including The Atlantic, The Independent, and Mother Jones. Yarvin denied any contact with Bannon to Vox, but jokingly told The Atlantic that his contact at the White House was the Twitter user "Bronze Age Pervert." Yarvin later gave a copy of Bronze Age Pervert's book "Bronze Age Mindset" to Michael Anton, a former senior national security official in the first Trump administration. Trump also appointed Anton as the director of policy planning at the U.S. State Department during his second term.

In a May 2021 interview, Anton said that Yarvin said the president could **""to gain power legally through elections and then use it illegally."** Yarvin replied, "That wouldn't be illegal. You would just publish

emergency in your inaugural address," adding, "You would actually have the authority to do that. Where would that authority come from? It would essentially come from you exercising it, saying, 'Hey, here's what we're going to do.'" He continued that if a hypothetical authoritarian president came to power in 2025, "you can't continue to have a Harvard or New York Times past from maybe the beginning of April," because "the idea that you're going to be Caesar, take over and operate with someone else's Department of Reality is just patently absurd. Machiavelli would tell you right away that's a stupid idea."

In November 2025, Rutger Bregman called Yarvin a neo-fascist and said he was trying to introduce a technomarchy.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS RACE

Yarvin supported and discussed eugenics theories about race and intelligence.

He has also been described as a modern-day advocate of slavery, which he fought against. He argued that some races were better suited to slavery than others. In a post that included a supporting reference to Steve Sailer and Jared Taylor, he wrote, "It should be obvious that while I am not a white nationalist, I am not entirely allergic to these things." In 2009, he wrote that because American civil rights programs were "targeted at populations with hunter-gatherer origins and no reputation for strong moral character," the result was "a complete waste of people."

Yarvin disputed the racism allegations, and in his essays "Why I Am Not a White Nationalist" and "Why I Am Not an Anti-Semite," he offered a rather sympathetic analysis of these ideologies before ultimately rejecting them. He also described the use of IQ tests to determine superiority as "horrible."

So the once marginalized writer has long advocated for an American monarchy, and his ideas have found an audience in the new White House administration and Silicon Valley.

.

Information provided (abbreviated) from the following sources:

+<https://cronus.substack.com/p/who-is-curtis-yarvin-and-why-is-he>

* * https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curtis_Yarvin

* * * Quotes from Yarvin's works: https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Curtis_Yarvin

INTERESTING FACTS AND COMMENTS

ABOUT CURTIS YARVIN'S PERSONALITY AND WORK

As a child, Yarvin had a reputation as a child prodigy, but at 18 he graduated from university and entered graduate school. He enjoyed impressing teachers and dominating opponents.

Little is known about Yarvin's childhood. His family lived for a time in the Dominican Republic and Cyprus because his father worked as a diplomat, so the future Trump "court philosopher" was partly homeschooled, skipping three grades in one year. When the Yarvins settled in the unincorporated community of Columbia, Maryland, in the mid-1980s, Curtis, 12, began high school.

There, Yarvin says, he was treated like a "strange, menacing, intimidating alien" because of his age difference with his classmates. His friend, software developer Andrew Cone, says that this led Curtis to see himself as inferior and to believe that he would only be taken seriously if he achieved something extraordinary. Yarvin regularly entered talent shows in high school and later enrolled at Brown University. He graduated in 1992, at just 18 years old, and then enrolled in a master's program in computer science at the University of California, Berkeley. Those who took the course with Yarvin recalled how, in order to stand out, he refused to take off his bicycle helmet during lectures and desperately tried to show off his knowledge to his professors. While in college, he started a Usenet community where users could exchange messages in news sections. There, as at university, Yarvin was known for his desire to be a leader and control any discussion. As an administrator, he created and regularly updated the so-called "death list"

— users he blocked because they didn't find his posts interesting enough. "He wanted to be seen as smart," said Meredith Tanner, Yarvin's first girlfriend. "That was very important to him."

Far from calling for the overthrow of democratic institutions and the establishment of dictatorships in the United States in the 1990s, Yarvin was a liberal, informal figure who wore earrings, threw acid, and

at parties and wrote poetry. After a year and a half of working on his PhD, he dropped out of college and got a job at the technology company Phone.com, where he was developing their web browser. After earning about a million dollars, Yarvin decided to educate himself. He began reading works on history, political theory, and economics. His favorite authors included the historian and philosopher **Thomas Carlyle**, conservative theorist **James Burnham** and libertarian **Albert Jay Nock**.

Yarvin started his blog in 2007. His first post was titled "The Formalist Manifesto" and began with the phrase: "The other day I was tinkering in my garage and decided to create a new ideology."

Yarvin believes the US government should be completely dismantled, and power should be concentrated in the hands of one person, similar to a CEO. The actions of the Trump White House are largely consistent with these ideas.

Yarvin states that his "**moment of awakening**" came after the 2004 presidential election, when Republican George W. Bush defeated Democrat John Kerry to win a second term. During the campaign **many American intellectuals supported Kerry**. But Yarvin was convinced by a conspiracy theory spread by Bush supporters that the current president's opponent had exaggerated the circumstances of his military service in Vietnam. Yarvin had hoped that Kerry would be forced out of the race, and when that didn't happen, he became disillusioned with the democratic institutions that he believed should have overthrown Kerry. This disillusionment formed the basis of his desire to "create a new ideology." **Yarvin based his work on the ideas of the German economist and philosopher Hans-Hermann Hoppe, whose works criticize universal suffrage, discuss the superiority of monarchy over democracy, advocate the division of nations into small, homogeneous communities, and call for the "physical elimination" of communists, gays, and anyone who refuses to obey a strict social order.**

Following Hoppe's lead, Yarvin created a portrait of the ideal ruler: a compassionate but strong leader who would avoid pointless wars and care for the well-being of his subjects. In Yarvin's interpretation, such a monarch would not harm his country and his people if he had absolute control, just as an ordinary person would not destroy his own home. However, Yarvin's ideas went beyond the transformation of a presidential republic into an authoritarian monarchy.

In 2008, under the name Mencius Moldbug, he published a 243-page manifesto titled "An Open Letter to Open Progressives." In it, Yarvin rejected the Western intellectual tradition's idea that human rights should be the foundation of society as a dangerous misconception that had been ingrained in the public consciousness since the Age of Enlightenment.

Yarvin people's belief that **pursuit of equal rights** will improve everyone's lives, attributed to the dominance of left-liberal propaganda, supposedly spread by the media and academics. Yarvin called the convergence of media and universities in the service of liberalism a "cathedral." In fact, according to Yarvin, the ideology of left-liberal ideology has only created chaos in the world and weakened states.

He contrasted it with a vision of the future that later became known among his followers and like-minded people as the "Dark Enlightenment." "The basic assumption of liberalism is that you are always moving forward," Yarvin said. "I don't agree with that assumption." In order to destroy the cathedral and build a better society on its ruins, Yarvin proposed a complete "reset" of the social order: "abolish democracy, the constitution, and the rule of law." **Power would be transferred to a "Supreme Director General," a person who would impose a strict hierarchy and turn the government into an "armed profit-making corporation." Under such a leader, neither the press nor universities would exist, and the "insufficiently civilized" sections of society would be imprisoned.**

Another feature of Yarvin's ideal regime would be the mass dismissal of civil servants. As well as the cessation of international relations, including "security guarantees, humanitarian aid and mass immigration."

Some critics of the Trump administration write that the White House's actions in recent months confirm the susceptibility of those closest to the president to Yarvin's influence. In particular, Elon Musk stated back in 2020 that "the government is simply the largest corporation," and in 2025, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), headed by Musk, organized mass layoffs of government employees.

"The problem is not that democracies are bad, but that they are weak," Yarvin explained his commitment to authoritarian monarchy. "Unpopular policies, such as mass immigration, are carried out even when they are opposed by a large majority. If you tell the reader that democracy is bad, he will be

shocked. But if you tell him that politics is bad or that populism is bad, he will say, "Of course, those are terrible things." They will also probably agree that decisions and laws should be made by experts, lawyers and academics. But in that case, this person would no longer be running from democracy, but from aristocracy."

According to Yarvin, the old order can only be destroyed by a complete transformation of the academic environment. "Since universities are the heart of the old system, successful regime change requires the physical and economic elimination of all accredited universities," Yarvin writes. He later clarified that he was not talking about the complete destruction of universities, but about the transformation of the academic environment, so that institutions of higher education would be transformed from liberal to "aristocratic.""

"He is a supporter of hierarchy but a staunch opponent of cultural elites," wrote Joshua Tate, a historian of American conservatism, discussing the contradictions of Yarvin's concept. "His political vision is futuristic and libertarian, yet monarchical and reactionary. He is not religious and takes a liberal stance on many social issues, but is staunchly opposed to progress."

Following the example of Hoppe, who inspired him, Yarvin believes that all nations should eventually break up into mini-states with homogeneous populations, like Singapore or Dubai. In his ideal model, questions of legitimacy, succession, and accountability would be handled by a secret council empowered to appoint and dismiss an all-powerful CEO. To prevent coups and regime change, council members would be given keys that would allow them to shut down the entire arsenal of government with the push of a button.

In Yarvin's vision, public participation in political life would cease entirely. The only way to express one's opinion would be to leave one "sovereign corporation" and join another, just as those dissatisfied with the former Twitter under Elon Musk could switch to another social network, Bluesky. Freedom of speech would also be preserved – as Yarvin explains, "a person could say and write whatever they wanted, because the state didn't have to worry about it."

After Trump's victory, Stephen King, Mark Hamill, and...tens of thousands of other users left social media platform X. Where are they? Here are three platforms that could replace Twitter (actually, two).

According to Yarvin, the mistake of past dictators was to rely on public support. "There are enough smart people in African countries who are capable of governing," – says Yarvin. "But there are not enough smart people to hold democratic elections and vote for the best candidates." Among modern leaders, he speaks favorably of El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele, who calls himself "the world's toughest dictator." Yarvin also believes that the Chinese government ensures "public safety and personal freedom." Speaking of Russia, the philosopher urged Trump to allow Putin to end liberalism "not only in Russian-speaking territories, but all the way to the English Channel."

According to one of Yarvin's critics, humanities scholar Ed Simon, the ideas of the White House "court philosopher" largely echo those of the early 20th-century Italian writer Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, one of the ideological inspirers of fascism. In his groundbreaking work, "The Futurist Manifesto," Marinetti also wrote about the need to... destroy all kinds of museums, libraries, and academies.

"The Age of Enlightenment promised freedom, emancipation, equality, and solidarity, while the Age of Dark Enlightenment offers enslavement, hierarchy, servitude, and ruthlessness," Simon writes. "Yarvin defines a sovereign as someone who is above the law. Trump echoed the same idea in his tweet: 'He who saves his country cannot break the law.' Yarvin dreams of a monarchy, and Trump posted a photo of himself wearing a crown and the caption, 'Long live the King,'" Yarvin claims to be far from America's political elite, but his influence is enormous.

"There's this guy, Curtis Yarvin," future U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance said in 2021, discussing how to combat "wook ideology." "He wrote about it." So one way is to accept that the whole country is going to fall apart. The job of conservatives now is to preserve as much as possible so that when that inevitable collapse happens, conservatives can rebuild the country and make it better. But that option is too pessimistic and flawed. "I think we should dismantle the institutions of the left and turn them against the left."

The Verge correspondent Gabi Del Valle claims that **"No Internet thinker has had a greater influence on Vance than Yarvin." Yarvin himself claims to know Vance only superficially, but the philosopher and the vice president share a common mentor: German-American entrepreneur Peter Thiel, co-founder of PayPal.**

Thiel had already distinguished himself among many of his Silicon Valley colleagues for his conservative views in the 1990s. After Bush declared a “war on terror” in response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Thiel founded Palantir, a company that develops software for the military and intelligence agencies. In the late 2000s, the entrepreneur began to criticize liberalism at about the same time as Yarvin. In a 2009 essay for the Cato Institute, he wrote that he no longer believed in the “compatibility of freedom and democracy.”

Around the same time, Thiel became an early investor in Yarvin’s startup Urbit, a decentralized platform for personal servers. Since then, the billionaire and the philosopher have been in regular contact in person and via email. “They both seem to believe that America is a communist country, that journalists are acting like the Stasi, and that tech CEOs are their victims,” says journalist Ava Kofman, who Yarvin allowed to read his correspondence with Thiel.

Thiel has supported Republican candidates and donated to their campaigns for the past 17 years. He covered the 2016 election with Yarvin, who called Thiel “totally enlightened” and recently explained that he was referring to his friend’s disillusionment with the current world order.

Yarvin denies being close to the US political elite, but acknowledges that his ideas may appeal to younger members of the Trump administration.ms. Nothing is known about the philosopher's relationship with the president himself. However, in January 2025, Yarvin attended the coronation ball held on the occasion of Trump's inauguration. According to extremism researcher Robert Evans, the ideologist of the "Dark Enlightenment" influenced many of the president's closest people. Digital media researcher Luke Mann names Yarvin's most influential fans as Elon Musk and entrepreneur Alex Karp, who founded Palantir with Thiel.

In May, Yarvin participated in a debate with political philosopher and democracy advocate Danielle Allen on the Harvard campus, organized by Passage Publishing, which published Yarvin's 2024 book, *The Gray Mirror*.

In addition to writing and public speaking, Yarvin continues to blog on the platform Substack, where he has 57,000 subscribers. According to Luke Mann, due to

With the rise of right-wing movements and Trump's return to the White House, Yarvin went from being a marginal figure with a small audience to an important voice in the political mainstream.

At the same time, Yarvin refuses to identify with the pro-Trump MAGA movement and is often critical of the current administration. For example, while discussing the need to modernize but preserve universities, he ridiculed the idea that “the best scholars and poets in the country” would gather at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago residence. According to Yarvin, the current administration’s authoritarian populism remains superficial and fragile, “lacking prestige, aristocracy, and institutions.”

Yarvin also criticized DOGE’s actions, which the philosopher likened to “an incel who’s mad at his girlfriend for not wanting to sleep with him.” Yarvin accused Trump and Musk of inciting government officials instead of securing their support. “These are very short-sighted actions that are about capital and power,” Yarvin said. “They’re just following their gut instincts.”

Like other critics of Yarvin, extremism scholar Robert Evans attributes the philosopher's appeal to the American right to his ability to adapt to the expectations of his audience and provide pseudo-intellectual justification for their radical ideas.

“He didn’t come out of nowhere,” Evans says. “He entered a right-wing media landscape that had been criticized for decades for the perniciousness of the liberal media and the corruption of academia.” Yarvin took old reactionary ideas and reworked them, making them appealing to libertarians working in technology. Many of the ideas of the radical right were born under his influence. That’s Yarvin’s achievement.”

Or maybe defeat? (My note – C.)

<https://meduza.io/feature/2025/06/19/pridvornyy-filosof-trampa-i-yaryy-fanat-monarhii>

Read about the editor of the project <https://meduza.io> here: https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%A2%D0%B8%D0%BC%D1%87%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%BA%D0%BE,%D0%93%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0_%D0%92%D0%B8%D0%BA%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BD%D0%B0