



ATC Monthly Newsletter

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"Nature does nothing in vain."

— Aristotle, "On Youth and Old Age", 476a14

Welcome to the Anti-Tech Collective's monthly newsletter!

Upcoming Events

- Every Friday (weather permitting): **Detroit Litter Cleanup**
(check out the Upcoming Events section of the website for more details)
- Saturday, September 11th (2:00PM-3:00PM Eastern US): **Public Discussion**
Topic: TBD
(Date and time subject to change)
(Zoom link available on the Upcoming Events calendar)

Spotlight

New to the Spotlight this month is an article by **Ole Martin Moen** entitled, "**The Unabomber's Ethics**". It is a piece that sheds light on potent concerns Kaczynski poses in his manifesto, which include the lack of control in modern day society which evidently leaves us helpless in the hands of pollution, nuclear accidents, and the like. Moreover, he talks deeply about our tendency to 'feel that we are doing something meaningful' through surrogate activities which offer anything but 'meaningfulness'. Alas, when one zooms in on fulfillment only and elbows out actual needs, one will never truly feel fulfilled. Ole Martin also touches upon the fact that at the rate that technological progress is going, we will soon elicit characteristics similar to that of domesticated animals; an imprisonment so total that the prisoners don't even know that they are locked up.

Although Ole Martin seems to be, for the most part, on the same wavelength as Kaczynski regarding many of his claims, he does shed light on some of his shortcomings. The author mentions the elephant in the room, which is that technology did indeed provide many positives which include but are not limited to: pain killers, vaccines, eye glasses, increased life expectancy, and so on. Hence, the author mentions that it is transparent how 'Kaczynski evaluates problems caused by technology very differently than he evaluates problems that arise from technology's absence', i.e.: how man can deal with natural diseases stoically versus dealing with man-made water contamination where one cannot act stoically when tackling the issue, because the root of it is utterly known and didn't come 'by chance'. Kaczynski's assumption on the consequence of perpetuating industrialization is that either humans will soon be eradicated or that society will emulate attributes of the society in 'A Brave New World'. The only way to circumvent these two consequences, through Kaczynski's lens, is to put modern industrial society to an end; remember, it cannot be reformed.

The author has come to a conclusion that Kaczynski's approach is indeed one way to go about things, however he resonates more deeply with Bostrom and Savulescu's idea of proceeding with caution whilst implementing pressing screening in hopes of putting a well intentioned ceiling on advanced technology. There will also be a heavy focus on making sure the human race is well equipped with what's to come next with a mindset of 'bridging the wide gap between us and technology' which puts us on the same level, if not higher, than technology.

If you have something you would like to be showcased in the Spotlight, please submit your work to antitechcollective@gmail.com.

Latest Blog Posts

We had two new posts on the [ATC blog](#) this month. One from Griffin about Mahatma Gandhi's distaste for the industrialization of India, and one from Nayla entitled, "Kierkegaard and Ellul: Reason". Feel free to leave a reaction, response, or any other feedback in the comments!

THE ANTI-TECH CAST

Episode 3 of The ATCast, featuring political philosopher Sean Fleming (University of Cambridge) was released this month. He and Griffin discuss Sean's new article, "The Unabomber and the Origins of Anti-Tech Radicalism" (link below). They mostly compare and contrast Jacques Ellul and Ted Kaczynski's philosophies.

Both the episode and Full Conversation are available now on our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Sean's article: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13569317.2021.1921940>

We are also excited to announce that the Full Conversation versions of each ATCast episode are **now available on Spotify, Apple podcasts, and Google podcasts!** These include the full-length audio of our conversations with David Skrbina, Chad A. Haag, and Sean Fleming. Just search for "The Anti-Tech Cast" to find us!

Book of the Month

Our book suggestion for this month is **Ted Kaczynski's "Anti-Tech Revolution: Why and How"**. Highly relevant for understanding West-Northwest's approach to the anti-tech movement, Kaczynski's most recent published work delves into both the need for an anti-tech revolution and his approach for making that happen.

Description: Taking a highly logical, fact-based, and intellectually rigorous approach, Kaczynski seamlessly systematizes a vast breadth of knowledge and elegantly reconciles the social sciences with biology to illustrate how technological growth in and of itself necessarily leads to disastrous disruption of global biological systems. Through critical and comprehensive analysis of the principles of social revolutions and by carefully developing an exacting theory of successful revolution, Kaczynski offers a practical, rational, and realistic guide for preventing the fast-approaching technology-induced catastrophe.

For more recommended reading, check out the [Library](#) section of the website. It features a wide variety of anti-tech literature, and some of the pieces are provided for free.

Anti-Tech Homework

Ever get this tenacious feeling when it comes to creating unique posts, increasing your likes, and getting the latest most novel news about your friends on social media? Well all these feelings you are eliciting are not a

matter of mere chance, they are carefully curated by a group of engineers by means of addictive programming that you can say are 'controlling your brain'. Social media creators deliberately construct these apps to keep you always wanting more while being in a constant state of eagerness as to what you might be missing out on. 'It is as if they are taking behavioral caffeine and sprinkling it all over your interface' is what a former employee at Firefox would frankly reverberate as an explanation to this bleak process. Moreover, the more 'value' we put on external stimuli to validate us via likes and comments, the more we reinforce this strong connection between the act of receiving virtual attention from others, and the rise of dopamine, serotonin, and other neurotransmitters that offer nothing but evident 'happiness' that ultimately keeps us attached and keen on staying in this euphoric state of mind.

But alas, stopping this vicious cycle, reclaiming control over our brains, and evading these programmers is within our area of control, according to Stephen Covey. That is why this month's homework is aimed at taking affirmative action while calling for temporarily deactivating at least one of your social media accounts, for a whole month! Trust us, after the month is up you won't feel the need to boost your account back up again because you'll have developed new, more enlightened values and different metrics to measure them from. For example, a few days in, you'll come to realize the sublimity of the mere act of sitting in silence without the constant 'twitch' of checking for notifications or being inclined to partake in the 'scroll of doom'. Consequently, this potent tenacity that was mentioned before will start to slowly diminish the more you remove yourself from this artificially constructed situation. That said, we posed the suggestion of temporarily, not permanently, deactivating one of your accounts in hopes of it being *your choice* to ultimately close this chapter of your life that will surely yield to more virtue than vice.

Ways to Contribute

We always encourage our readers to submit their suggestions, ideas, writings, recommendations, and questions.

Think something on the website could be improved?

Have a book recommendation for the Library?

Want to just chat with someone about technology?

Send an email to antitechcollective@gmail.com, whatever the content.

We love hearing from the community and are always looking to improve and expand the anti-tech movement.

Come join the discussions happening on the [ATC forum](#).

Dissenting opinions welcome!

If you are interested in seeing the latest in anti-tech news,

follow our account on Instagram ([@antitechcollective](#))

or check out the News Feed on our front page

If you would like to become a member (or be considered an ally) of ATC,

and be featured on our About page,

please send a request to antitechcollective@gmail.com.

Lastly, if you are feeling generous, we appreciate donations!

100% of all donations go toward maintaining the website, producing The ATCast, and helping to bring about a less technological future.

Thank you,

-Anti-Tech Collective

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