



"THOSE WHO CAN SEE THROUGH THE SWINDLE OF 'PROGRESS' WILL PROBABLY FIND THEMSELVES RESISTING. IN FACT, IT IS THEIR SPECIAL FUNCTION TO DO SO. IN THE MACHINE-WORLD THEY HAVE GOT TO BE A SORT OF PERMANENT OPPOSITION..."

— GEORGE ORWELL, ROAD TO WIGAN PIER (1937), P. 252

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

What follows are some of our upcoming events, recent updates to the website, a book recommendation, an anti-tech homework assignment, and a short list of things that you can do to contribute.

### Upcoming Events:

- Every Friday (12:00PM-1:00PM Eastern US, weather permitting): Detroit Litter Cleanup  
Meet at Belle Isle Park by the fountain.
- Friday, June 4 (9:00AM-10:00AM Eastern US): Dr. David Skrbina Lecture  
Topic: Key Elements of the Kaczynski Manifesto  
([link](#))
- Saturday, June 5 (12:00PM-1:00PM Eastern US): Public Anti-Tech Discussion  
Topic: Discussing Sisyphus 55's YouTube video "The Philosophy of the Unabomber"  
([Video link](#))  
([Zoom link](#))
- Saturday, June 19 (12:00PM-1:00PM Eastern US): Public Anti-Tech Discussion  
Topic: TBD  
([Zoom link](#))

### Recent Updates:

If you happened to miss last month's newsletter, then you are in luck! A new section has been added to the ATC website featuring [past newsletters](#). Have a look if you want to catch up or quickly access old material.

Elsewhere on the website, Nayla Agameya has written up a not-too-long blog post relating Walter Benjamin's ideas of aura, distance, and aesthetic experience to technology, namely digital photography, and how such tech is liable to rob one of a complete experience.





We have also just updated our Mission Statement and Core Beliefs on the About page of the website following a productive public group discussion informed by private correspondences, West Northwest's upcoming chapter in Grand Revolution, and other community input.

Lastly, the Spotlight now features part of ATC member Darrell Bolin's correspondence with his pal who provided feedback and questions for Darrell's first *Grand Revolution* essay draft. The Spotlight excerpt focuses on a matter tangential to the essay—the problem of technologically-dependent decadence leading to a more mechanical existence, in spite of technology supposedly being developed to alleviate mankind from the supposedly mechanical existence of primitive man. Being a long response, the excerpt continues in its own forum thread.

If you have something you would like to be showcased in the Spotlight, please submit your work to [antitechcollective@gmail.com](mailto:antitechcollective@gmail.com).

### **This Month's ATCast:**

The second episode of The Anti-Tech Cast, which features an interview with peak oil philosopher Chad Haag, will be released on June 10th. Stay tuned!

### **Book of the Month:**

Chad Haag is a very prolific writer. He has several books on technology, peak-oil, the environment, and specific anti-tech thinkers such as Pentti Linkola and Kaczynski. A book of particular interest this month is [Hermeneutical Death](#), his longest work and a fantastic read. In it, Haag exposes the destruction of subjectivity at the hands of the technological system and the reduction of the human being to the status of (mechanical) cog. Haag explores several of the most prominent anti-tech philosophers (ex. Ellul, Greer, Ruppert) but also less conventional thinkers in this project of piercing the depths of the technological phenomenon.


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:**


Our second "homework" assignment has been written up for those interested in trying to reduce tech-dependence while having a little fun:

Feeling a bit attached and somewhat dependent and tenacious in regards to your phone's GPS, and ultimately your car as a means? Do you want to muster up the courage and not be in a codependent and toxic relationship with the former agents to get you to and fro? If your answer is yes to either question, then you've come to the right place, my friend.

This month's Anti Tech homework will hit the ground running, literally! We challenge you to attempt to leave your car and GPS behind for at least one errand a day. It's time to pull out that dusty ol' map laying there despondent in the sad, lonely corner of your closet and use it along with those killer legs of yours to get around. With that being said, you'll be killing two birds with one stone. You'll put to the test your human capital and your (probably) quite minuscule







knowledge of reading maps, while getting your steps in for the day! Talk about a win-win situation. Needless to say, the ultimate benefit of this exercise is growing less and less dependent on technology like cars and GPS to accomplish your daily tasks. You'll feel less tethered to tech whilst gaining confidence in your abilities to maneuver about. These are great skills to foster in case your car breaks down or your GPS glitches.

The GPS is a prime example of Jacques Ellul's "technique" in the flesh. The GPS was created to help get you places efficiently and effectively by truncating the elongated and retrograde way of asking a person for directions, following signs, and—god forbid—using a map! Furthermore, the GPS and that little voice it comes with conforms and confines you to the fastest way possible to get to your destination, with little to no wiggle room or area for interpretation. Remind you of something? It sounds exactly like the system we are living in, which Kaczynski chastises throughout his work. The GPS emulates and is one with the system in that it tells us what to do while reprimanding us if we elude or evade it: "Recalculating" if we don't go on HER chosen path. Sense the irony?

The GPS takes away the whole fun in getting lost and quite possibly stumbling upon an obscure pond, reserve, or lake not yet acquainted with. Consequently, it strips you away from exploring the unknown whilst learning to adapt and maneuver by your own accord, giving you a sense of autonomy if you will. One shouldn't always be dependent on a technological device to elbow them into a certain way of doing things. Maps somewhat show you the way, but, nonetheless, allow you to be the captain at hand; going left, right, forward or backward as you please. The world is your oyster with a map in hand, hence, it comes with a sense of freedom and spontaneity that's foreign to the rigid programming of the GPS.

### **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](mailto: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](#). Some of the most recent topics include "Playing God: How do you envision an 'anti-tech' future?" and "The Knowledge Paradox". 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 website](#).

Lastly, if you're feeling generous, we appreciate donations. 100% of all donations go toward maintaining the website, planning an anti-tech future, and putting that plan into action. The donation form is available at the bottom of our website's homepage.

See you next month,  
Anti-Tech Collective