

IMAGINE THE FUTURE OF MONEY

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OUTLINE

- 1 A PREMISE ON METHOD
- 2 THE DEATH OF CAPITALISM
- 3 TRANSITION FROM MODERNITY
- 4 THE ART OF MONEY DESIGN
- 5 THANKS

BIOPOLITICS

- Interdisciplinary

Technology, system design, social sciences and philosophical traditions¹.

- Biopolitical

At the opposite of the historicist approach: we avoid to inquire about universals.

*“The analysis of micro-powers is not related to a scale, nor a particular sector: it is a matter of perspective.”*²

¹Latour, 1991, “Symmetric anthropology”

²Foucault, 1978, “The birth of Biopolitics”

PRE-CAPITALIST MODE OF PRODUCTION

- Subjectivity is inseparable from its collective social conditions
- Social relations are forms of subjectivity
- Subject embedded in cultural and technical conditions of work

These conditions are what Deleuze and Guattari call **codes**.

Codes are inseparable from a particular relation to the past, a relation of **repetition**.

CAPITALIST MODE OF PRODUCTION

- Breakdown of codes
- Quantitative relation between labor and capital

“Capital, being a benevolent despot, appears to permit freedom of thought, for thought is barely able to compromise its power.”³

³Goodchild, 2002, “Capitalism and religion: the price of piety”

MONEY AS MEDIA

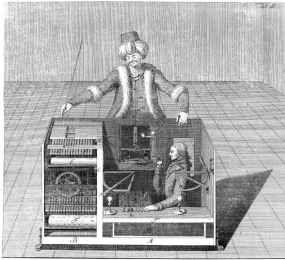
*Money is the purest reification of means, a concrete instrument which is absolutely identical with its abstract concept; it is a **pure instrument**. [...] Money embodies and sublimates the practical relation of man to the objects of his will, his power and his impotence; one might say, paradoxically, that **man is an indirect being**.⁴*

*Finance became the most appropriate capitalist instrument for external expropriation of the commons, operating in a condition of **radical abstraction** from production processes.⁵*

⁴Simmel, 1900, "Philosophie des Geldes"

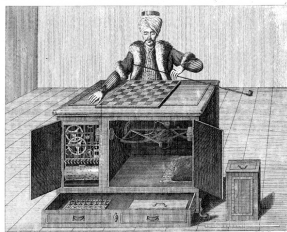
⁵Negri and Hardt, 2010, "Commonwealth"

VON KEMPELEN'S MECHANICAL TURK



On an autumn day in 1769, a Hungarian nobleman, Wolfgang von Kempelen, was summoned to witness a conjuring show at the imperial court of Maria Theresa, empress of Austria-Hungary. So unimpressed was Kempelen by what he saw that he impetuously declared that he could do better himself. The following year Kempelen presented a mechanic man sitting behind a table: fashioned from wood, powered by clockwork, and dressed in a Turkish costume, it was capable of playing chess.

MAELZEL'S CHESS PLAYER



The Maelzel Chess-Player. A mechanical automaton, which plays the game of chess, and is now in the possession of the Duke of Saxe-Weimar.

*"Yet the question of its modus operandi is still undetermined. Nothing has been written on this topic which can be considered as decisive — and accordingly we find every where men of mechanical genius, of great general acuteness, and discriminative understanding, who make no scruple in pronouncing the Automaton a pure machine, unconnected with human agency in its movements, and consequently, beyond all comparison, the most astonishing of the inventions of mankind."*⁶

⁶Poe, 1836, "Maelzel's Chess-Player"

HUMAN BODY AND BIOPOLITICS

For any form of fundamentalism the human body is of central importance

“The body of fundamentalism is powerful, explosive, precarious and that’s why it demands the constant practice of inspection and cure.”⁷

Foucault notes, describing the Iranian revolts to the Shah:

“Religion was the promise and warranty for a radical change of their subjectivity”⁸

⁷Negri, Hardt, 2010, “Commonwealth”

⁸Foucault, 1994, “Teheran: la foi contre le chah”

A TRANS-MODERN APPROACH

*We shouldn't oppose everything that is modern and rational, engage in creating new forms of rationality and new forms of liberation.*⁹

*We can't imagine to enter the Information Age without changing the fundamental and most used communication tool: Money.*¹⁰

⁹Negri and Hardt, 2010, "Commonwealth" (trad. ed.)

¹⁰Bernard Lietaer, 2007, "Of Human Wealth: Beyond Greed and Scarcity"

COMMONS AND THEIR ABSTRACTION

Commons are social and natural resources: for example water, friendship, mineral resources or **general sentiment** ¹¹.

The financial system is a complex machine to **represent** the commons by into an abstract game.



Finance works with mathematical models, nevertheless the possibility of producing abstractions resides in the **social nature** of richness represented.

¹¹Arvidsson, 2011, “General Sentiment”

BEYOND LIBERISM AND SOCIALISM

*Looking at the economizing analyzes made by neo-liberals we witness an attempt to **decode in economical terms** some social behaviors that were traditionally not economical.¹²*

OTOH socialism lacks autonomous rationality in governance.
Socialism can only be grafted on a form of governance.

*We must keep in mind that, if a form of governance that is effectively socialist exists, it is not to be found inside socialism and its texts. It cannot be deducted from them.
It has to be invented.¹³*

¹²Foucault, 1979, "Cours au Collège de France 1978-1979"

¹³ibidem

BREAK A TABOO TODAY!



CROWDSOURCING

- Pitching ideas to a larger audience
 - Doesn't create a new credit circuit
 - Access is centrally syndicated (kickstarter...)
 - Reproduces old micro-power relations

FLATTR SYSTEM

- Slides away from the old financial system
 - Bottom-up approach
 - G/Local production
 - Commons centered

P2P CRYPTO MONEY

- Digital cash
- Banking becomes optional
- Triple-signed receipts



FIGURE: Portrait of Venetian Friar Luca Pacioli

TRULEDGER AND LOOM

- Digitally-signed vault and trading system
 - Abstracted from biopolitical aspects
 - Provider of economic dialtones
 - Server based trading

BITCOIN

- Deflationary system
- Energy pool for authentication
- But the genesis code should be configurable!
 - Namecoin
 - Freecoin
 - Multicoins
 - *coin

OPEN TRANSACTIONS

- A framework to manage digital assets
 - Generic design
 - Well documented
 - Portable

A THOUSAND FLOWERS WILL BLOSSOM!

- <http://DYNDY.net>

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GPG: B2D9 9376 BFB2 60B7 601F 5B62 F6D3 FBD9 C2B6 8E39