# Virilio Supplement

# Links

## Competitiveness/trade

#### The Sustained Growth of Trade increasingly exports Globalization and Trade to the Virtual, which independently alters reality

Cook 3 (David, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto and Principal, Victoria College, “Paul Virilio: The Politics of ‘Real Time’” January 16th, 2003, http://www.ctheory.net/articles.aspx?id=360#bio)

The return to earth will give rise to theories of globalization. Absent the gravitational field of the commonplace, facing the 'open skies' and demise of both the 'theological vision' and of 'actual perspectives', vision, the light effect, becomes the fieldscape of 'real time'. This signals the full advent of the vision machine or screenal vision. One then enters the space of the Grand Scale Transhorizon Optics or what Virilio has referred to as "the site of all (strategic, economic, political...) virtualization."[58] Digital culture becomes a cyclopean eye; a type of gargantuan CBS eye that has been inflated into the 'globe' itself. Or as Virilio says; "... the latest globalization: the globalization of the gaze of the single eye."[59] This is a type of super panopticon that has overcome the observer/observed couplet. Not Michel Foucault's geometry of a center and periphery but rather a surface that has its existence as an orbital life, a petrie dish of eye balls/cells that create the visual field within itself.¶ Thus, the dominant code of globalization is not networking nor the economic expansion of global corporations nor the global reach of terrorism. Rather it lies in the virtualization of the vision machine. This virtualization rests on the binary of the 'actual'/'virtual' which splits the 'real' creating a 'reality effect'.¶ ...it is essential today [for globalization] to effect a split in primary reality by developing a stereo-reality, made up on the one hand of the actual reality of immediate appearances and, on the other, of the virtual reality of media trans-appearances.¶ Not until this new 'reality effect' becomes generally accepted as commonplace will it be possible really to speak of globalization.[60]

#### Competitiveness leads to globalization and ultimately leads to the unequal distribution of techonology

Der Derian & Virilio 97

(James, [Watson Institute](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watson_Institute) research professor of international studies and professor of political science at [Brown Universit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_University)y, and Paul, “Interview with Paul Virilio,” http://asrudiancenter.wordpress.com/2008/11/26/interview-with-paul-virilio/)

Will military technological superiority eventually efface these national and geographical differences? -A terrible question, philosophically speaking. One must speak of the unequal development of nations. National identity is linked to the industrial and technological development of the country in question. Now we are in a world where there is unequal technical development of the means of production and the means of destruction, that is to say, of arms. The proliferation of conflict has been favored by the countries which have at their disposal the means of mass destruction. They have put up for sale, for reasons of the market, their technology of destruction. We have thus created a disequilibrium in the relations amongst nations. The worst example is, of course, that of nuclear proliferation. -What about the impact of technology on individuality of culture? There have been three industrial revolutions. The first important revolution on the technical plane is that of transportation, which favors an equipping of the territory with railroads, airports, highways, electric lines, cables, etc. It has a geopolitical element. The second revolution which is almost concomitant, is the transmissions revolution, including Marconi, Edison, radio, television. From this point on, technology is set loose. It becomes immaterial and electromagnetic. The third revolution, which it seems to me we are on the verge of, is the revolution of transplantations. All these technologies of telecommunication which had been employed in aviation and missiles, favor nano-technology, the possibility of miniaturizing technology to the point of introducing it into the human body, to achieve what the futurists wished for: to sustain the human body through “technology” and not just through “chemistry.” In the future, just as the geographic world was colonized by means of transportation or communication, we will have the possibility of a colonization of the human body by technology,. That which favors the equipping of territories, of cities, in particular, threatens to apply to the human body, as if we had the city in the body and not the city around the body. The city “at home”, in vitro, in vivo. . Here there is a sort of anthropomorphism of technology. We see this with supplementary technologies, cardiac stimulators, with the possibility of grafts, of techno-grafts, supplementary memory, as Marvin Minsky proposes. We are on the verge of the biomachine. Personally, I critique this, as the advent of the hyperstimulated man.

#### Trade culminates globalization

[Rodrigue, 9](http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch5en/conc5en/ch5c2en.html)

[(Dr. Jean-Paul Rodrigue, professor on transport systems, “Transportation, Globalization and International Trade”, The Geography of Transport Systems”, 2009,](http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch5en/conc5en/ch5c2en.html)

[http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch5en/conc5en/ch5c2en.html)](http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch5en/conc5en/ch5c2en.html)

The globalization of production is concomitant to the globalization of trade as one cannot function without the other. Even if international trade has taken place centuries before the modern era, as ancient trade routes such as the Silk Road can testify, trade occurred at an ever increasing scale over the last 600 years to play an even more active part in the economic life of nations and regions. This process has been facilitated by significant technical changes in the transport sector. The scale, volume and efficiency of international trade have all continued to increase since the 1970s. As such, space / time convergence was an ongoing process that implied a wider market coverage could be accessed with a lower amount of time. It has become increasingly possible to trade between parts of the world that previously had limited access to international transportation systems. Further, the division and the fragmentation of production that went along with these processes also expanded trade. Trade thus contributes to lower manufacturing costs.

#### The logic of competitiveness creates an unequal development of nations-“justifies” faster tech proliferation

Der Derian and Virilio, 8

(James Der Derian and Paul Virilio, “Interview with Paul Virilio”, The Asrudian Center, 11/26/8,

<http://asrudiancenter.wordpress.com/2008/11/26/interview-with-paul-virilio/>)

-Will military technological superiority eventually efface these national and geographical differences?¶ -A terrible question, philosophically speaking. One must speak of the unequal development of nations. National identity is linked to the industrial and technological development of the country in question. Now we are in a world where there is unequal technical development of the means of production and the means of destruction, that is to say, of arms. The proliferation of conflict has been favored by the countries which have at their disposal the means of mass destruction. They have put up for sale, for reasons of the market, their technology of destruction. We have thus created a disequilibrium in the relations amongst nations. The worst example is, of course, that of nuclear proliferation.¶ ¶ -What about the impact of technology on individuality of culture?¶ There have been three industrial revolutions. The first important revolution on the technical plane is that of transportation, which favors an equipping of the territory with railroads, airports, highways, electric lines, cables, etc. It has a geopolitical element. The second revolution which is almost concomitant, is the transmissions revolution, including Marconi, Edison, radio, television. From this point on, technology is set loose. It becomes immaterial and electromagnetic. The third revolution, which it seems to me we are on the verge of, is the revolution of transplantations. All these technologies of telecommunication which had been employed in aviation and missiles, favor nano-technology, the possibility of miniaturizing technology to the point of introducing it into the human body, to achieve what the futurists wished for: to sustain the human body through “technology” and not just through “chemistry.” In the future, just as the geographic world was colonized by means of transportation or communication, we will have the possibility of a colonization of the human body by technology,. That which favors the equipping of territories, of cities, in particular, threatens to apply to the human body, as if we had the city in the body and not the city around the body. The city “at home”, in vitro, in vivo. . Here there is a sort of anthropomorphism of technology. We see this with supplementary technologies, cardiac stimulators, with the possibility of grafts, of techno-grafts, supplementary memory, as Marvin Minsky proposes. We are on the verge of the biomachine. Personally, I critique this, as the advent of the hyperstimulated man.

#### International trade furthers globalization

Rodrigue, 9

(Dr. Jean-Paul Rodrigue, professor on transport systems, “Transportation, Globalization and International Trade”, The Geography of Transport Systems”, 2009,

http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch5en/conc5en/ch5c2en.html)

The growth of the amount of freight being traded as well as a great variety of origins and destinations promotes the importance of international transportation as a fundamental element supporting the global economy. Economic development in Pacific Asia and in China in particular has been the dominant factor behind the growth of international transportation in recent years. Since the trading distances involved are often considerable, this has resulted in increasing demands on the maritime shipping industry and on port activities. As its industrial and manufacturing activities develop, China is importing growing quantities of raw materials and energy and exporting growing quantities of manufactured goods. The outcome has been a surge in demands for long distance international transportation. The ports in the Pearl River delta in Guangdong province now handle almost as many containers as all the ports in the United States combined.¶ International transportation systems have been under increasing pressures to support additional demands in freights volume and the distance at which this freight is being carried. This could not have occurred without considerable technical improvements permitting to transport larger quantities of passengers and freight, and this more quickly and more efficiently. Few other technical improvements than containerization have contributed to this environment of growing mobility of freight. Since containers and their intermodal transport systems improve the efficiency of global distribution, a growing share of general cargo moving globally is containerized.¶ Consequently, transportation is often referred to as an enabling factor that is not necessarily the cause of international trade, but as a condition without which globalization could not have occurred. A common development problem is the inability of international transportation infrastructures to support flows, undermining access to the global market and the benefits that can be derived from international trade.

#### Globalized trade increases speed and interdependence at every level- that makes the accident even more catastrophic

Wiig 99 (Henrik, Research Fellow in the Section for International Economists at NUPI. He is an economist from the University of Oslo. “How Much Globalization? Reassessing the international growth of Trade and Investments in the OECD,” February, 1999, http://www.wiig.info/Globalisation.pdf)

The explosive use of the expression ‘globalisation’ has worn out the concept even¶ though people still disagree about the content. The public discussion tends to overdramatise the extent, since it is often seen as a useful argument, both among those¶ who favour the concept and among those who express serious worries. No matter¶ what opinion one may have, it is necessary to establish proper indicators for the¶ amount and speed of globalisation. As this report will show, both the choice of indicators and the measurement method applied are extremely important for the determination of stylised facts relating to the degree of globalisation. The intention of this¶ report is to examine and identify the measurement methods of a chosen group of indicators that best reflects globalisation. This leads us to reassess the growth patterns¶ of international trade and investment in the OECD area.¶ The broadest definition of the globalisation process is: increased interdependency¶ between people across borders. An important aspect of this is increased economic¶ openness, which is frequently measured by the relative size of international trade and¶ foreign direct investment (FDI) relative to the production in the country (GDP). Such¶ trade and FDI intensities capture some aspects of openness and globalisation but obviously not all. In an economic sense, globalisation is thought to be liberalisation of¶ the major markets for labour, capital, goods and services.¶ 2¶ In this report, we focus on¶ trade in goods and services, and direct investment. Hence we do not examine migration, nor do we analyse financial liberalisation which is an important aspect of globalisation.¶ 3¶ According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development¶ (OECD) one should distinguish between three phases of the ‘globalisation’ process:¶ internationalisation with increased trade across national borders, transnationalisation¶ which entails increased investment by foreigners and multinational companies and¶ finally globalisation when a world-embracing network of production and information¶ arises.¶ 4¶ The concept ‘regionalisation’ includes similar processes in an intra-regional or intra-continental context.¶ 5¶ This report does not intend to examine all aspects of globalisation, but focus on two important elements: trade and FDI intensities by country’While, for instance, the trade intensity (trade/GDP) may seem to be a simple measure, it is complicated by the fact that price levels are different between countries, and¶ furthermore that prices for traded goods have increased less than prices in general. It¶ therefore matters greatly whether we use current or fixed prices, and whether GDP¶ levels are purchasing power parity-adjusted or not (accounting for different price levels across countries). In Chapter 2, these issues are discussed and relatively clear¶ conclusions are reached. From a theoretical point of view, the use of constant values¶ will overestimate the globalisation process. The use of GDP figures adjusted by the¶ official exchange rate instead of purchasing power parities implies an overstimated¶ globalisation level in poor countries and underestimated in rich countries. Hence, we¶ claim that the best indicator is trade and FDI intensities measured in current PPPadjusted prices.

## Generic topic links

#### Roads create a sense of integrality and globalization in which human senses are excluded

Willey et al 7

(Claude Willey, Deena Capparelli, and Mark Tsang, owners of Invisible trajectories a project by the California council for humanities, “On The Road”, Invisible Trajectories, 2/5/7

<http://www.chaffey.edu/wignall/invisibletrajectories/ontheroad.html>)

The Inland Empire evolved in tandem with the automobile. And though its earliest town centers sprouted up around trolley lines, the contemporary citizen has a stronger bond with sound-walls and diamond lanes. Anthony Hoete, of What Architecture, sees our road system as “increasingly standardized for reasons of safety and recognition,” resulting in “a generic condition, paradoxically connecting places, yet disconnecting the road user from his or her immediate location...” The highway standardization Hoete mentions is the norm in the Empire. Endless freeways cut swaths through dry vegetation and low-density development. Only rooftops can be seen from the freeway, and the socio-economic conditions of those on the other side of the wall can only be guessed. Increasing speeds only intensify the separation between the road user and nearby residents, and the predominance of single-driver car use keeps the experience of moving through the landscape a solitary one to say the least.¶ Our transport system, according to Robert Harbison, is the place,¶ and the discontinuities associated with it “practically cancel the sense of the city as a self-contained whole.” While the I.E.’s transport system may appear expansive and connective, one could easily argue that its freeways link the far-flung nodes, thus keeping the region working as one large integrated circuit. But systemic connectivity does not equate to higher levels of human interaction. Many of the recently sprouted towns, like those in the Moreno Valley, are effectively non-places tied into a growing network of blurred spaces. These spaces are designed to be either moved through quickly or to function as transitional dormitories. Here the homeowner, renter, and consumer are equally rootless.

#### Transportation infrastructure furthers globalization

Der Derian and Virilio, No Date

(James and Paul, “future war: discussion with Paul Virilio”, InfoTechWarPeace, http://www.watsoninstitute.org/infopeace/vy2k/futurewar.cfm)

There have been three industrial revolutions. The first important revolution on the technical plane is that of transportation, which favors an equipping of the territory with railroads, airports, highways, electric lines, cables, etc. It has a geopolitical element. The second revolution which is almost concomitant, is the transmissions revolution, including Marconi, Edison, radio, television. From this point on, technology is set loose. It becomes immaterial and electromagnetic. The third revolution, which it seems to me we are on the verge of, is the revolution of transplantations. All these technologies of telecommunication which had been employed in aviation and missiles, favor nano-technology, the possibility of miniaturizing technology to the point of introducing it into the human body, to achieve what the futurists wished for: to sustain the human body through "technology" and not just through "chemistry." In the future, just as the geographic world was colonized by means of transportation or communication, we will have the possibility of a colonization of the human body by technology,. That which favors the equipping of territories, of cities, in particular, threatens to apply to the human body, as if we had the city in the body and not the city around the body. The city "at home", in vitro, in vivo .. Here there is a sort of anthropomorphism of technology. We see this with supplementary technologies, cardiac stimulators, with the possibility of grafts, of techno-grafts, supplementary memory, as Marvin Minsky proposes. We are on the verge of the biomachine. Personally, I critique this, as the advent of the hyperstimulated man.

#### GPS furthers globalization

Kroker and Kroker, 2k

(Arthur and Marilouise, editors of ctheory which is an international peer reviewed journal of tech, culture, and publishing articles, “Ctheory Interview With Paul Virilio: The Kosovo War Took Place In Orbital Space”, Ctheory, 10/18/2000,

<http://www.ctheory.net/articles.aspx?id=132>)

GPS not only played a large and delocalizing role in the war in Kosovo but is increasingly playing a role in social life. For instance, it was the GPS that directed the planes, the missiles and the bombs to localised targets in Kosovo. But may I remind you that the bombs that were dropped by the B-2 plane on the Chinese embassy — or at least that is what we were told — were GPS bombs. And the B-2 flew in from the US. However, GPS are everywhere. They are in cars. They were even in the half-tracks that, initially at least, were going to make the ground invasion in Kosovo possible. Yet, for all the sophistication of GPS, there still remain numerous problems with their use. The most obvious problem in this context is the problem of landmines. For example, when the French troops went into Kosovo they were told that they were going to enter in half-tracks, over the open fields. But their leaders had forgotten about the landmines. And this was a major problem because, these days, landmines are no longer localised. They are launched via tubes and distributed haphazardly over the territory. As a result, one cannot remove them after the war because one cannot find them! And yet the ability to detect such landmines, especially in a global war of movement, is absolutely crucial. Thus, for the US, GPS are a form of sovereignty! It is hardly surprising, then, that the EU has proposed its own GPS in order to be able to localise and to compete with the American GPS. As I have said before, sovereignty no longer resides in the territory itself, but in the control of the territory. And localisation is an inherent part of that territorial control. As I pointed out in The Art of the Motor and elsewhere, from now on we need two watches: a wristwatch to tell us what time it is and a GPS watch to tell us what space it is!

Alt: resistance is formulated from the development of technological culture

Kroker and Kroker, 2k

(Arthur and Marilouise, editors of ctheory which is an international peer reviewed journal of tech, culture, and publishing articles, “Ctheory Interview With Paul Virilio: The Kosovo War Took Place In Orbital Space”, Ctheory, 10/18/2000,

<http://www.ctheory.net/articles.aspx?id=132>)

Resistance is always possible! But we must engage in resistance first of all by developing the idea of a technological culture. However, at the present time, this idea is grossly underdeveloped. For example, we have developed an artistic and a literary culture. Nevertheless, the ideals of technological culture remain underdeveloped and therefore outside of popular culture and the practical ideals of democracy. This is also why society as a whole has no control over technological developments. And this is one of the gravest threats to democracy in the near future. It is, then, imperative to develop a democratic technological culture. Even among the elite, in government circles, technological culture is somewhat deficient. I could give examples of cabinet ministers, including defence ministers, who have no technological culture at all. In other words, what I am suggesting is that the hype generated by the publicity around the Internet and so on is not counter balanced by a political intelligence that is based on a technological culture. For instance, in 1999, Bill Gates not only published a new book on work at the speed of thought but also detailed how Microsoft's 'Falconview' software would enable the destruction of bridges in Kosovo. Thus it is no longer a Caesar or a Napoleon who decides on the fate of any particular war but a piece of software! In short, the political intelligence of war and the political intelligence of society no longer penetrate the technoscientific world. Or, let us put it this way, technoscientific intelligence is presently insufficiently spread among society at large to enable us to interpret the sorts of technoscientific advances that are taking shape today.

## Oil dependence

#### Oil dependence prevents globalization. Plan reverses the trend

UNEP, No Date

(United Nations Environment Programme, “A tale of four futures”, Global Environment Outlook 3, lat updated 8/26/10, <http://www.unep.org/Geo/geo3/english/525.htm>)

Continuing dependence on oil throughout the world still provides a strong economic base for much of West Asia, the development of alternative energy sources and efficiency improvements having failed to make more than minimal advances. The strategic importance of the region increases as the world's remaining oil supplies become even more concentrated here and in nearby Central Asia and is a major reason why countries in other regions want to ensure stability in West Asia. Along with local traditions, oil dependence keeps the globalization process from proceeding as quickly in certain areas of society here by comparison with some other regions. Some countries in West Asia continue to grapple with foreign debt. The repayment process keeps moving forward, however, thanks to flexible conditions for debt restructuring. An Arab Free Trade Agreement is eventually reached.¶ In the Western Hemisphere, Latin America and the Caribbean become ever more economically integrated with North America. This development is spurred on by the assistance provided by the United States to Mexico in the 1990s and to Argentina and other nations in the 2000s, boosted by the interests of large corporations. It is also seen as a way to address, in part, the joint problems of an ageing and shrinking workforce in the United States and immigration from the south. Moves towards integration culminate in a Free Trade Area for the Americas (FTAA) in the middle of the second decade of the century. In the process, existing trade agreements like North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Commom Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and Caribbean Community (CARICOM), get absorbed under the FTAA umbrella. A number of nations go further, adopting the US dollar as a national currency.¶ In the Asia and the Pacific region, the recovery from the economic downturn of the late 1990s and from the decade-long recession in Japan, sees many countries return to the patterns of growth and degree of integration into the world economy they had previously experienced. To this are added the continued economic reforms in China and India, the two most populous nations in the world. With its accession into the WTO, China becomes a major world importer and exporter, eventually growing to rival the United States as the world's largest economy. The advances in technology coming out of Asia and the Pacific, the impact on corporations that set up facilities here and the increased exposure of its cultures all enlarge the role this region plays on the global stage

#### Oil dependence is key to preventing further globalization

McDonogh, No Date

(Christopher Mcdonogh, “Globalisation Under Threat”, The Sydney Globalist, http://thesydneyglobalist.org/archives/2158)

Throughout history there have been unipolar periods where superpowers have dominated world affairs. First there was the Pax Romana, the European peace under the Roman Empire. Then came the Pax Britannia, when Britain ruled the largest empire in history. Today we live in the relative stability of the Pax Americana, protected by U.S. dominance.¶ During these times of peace there has been an expansion of trade and cultural exchange. Today we call this phenomenon globalisation, and though the debate rages on as to the benefits of globalisation, few in the developed world could argue that the relative peace under the American superpower has been unpleasant. But a superpower and its allies must be willing to adapt to face new threats, and today the greatest threat is oil dependence.¶ \_\_\_¶ “The current era of globalisation is under threat.”¶ \_\_\_¶ Australia is a beneficiary of American dominance. Our alliance with the United States has made us safe and given us access to a global market to sell our oil, coal and uranium. Australia’s predominantly secular, multicultural society has given her an edge in establishing a knowledge economy, which will be invaluable after Australia’s exportable resources run out.¶ Globalisation under the Pax Americana has greatly contributed to our current way of life. According to the UN’s Human Development Index, Australia resides in the top three nations on earth for literacy, life expectancy and GDP per capita. One could argue that globalisation has therefore made Australians healthy, wealthy and wise.¶ However, the current era of globalisation is under threat. Not by the GFC or the “rise of China”, but by the price of energy – particularly oil. The world as a whole uses six barrels of oil for every new barrel extracted from the ground. Oil production is peaking in many nations, meaning that production is no longer meeting domestic demand. This means more and more nations depend on imported oil from the few remaining nations that are still exporting.¶ As the entire global trade network is reliant on oil for energy, the cost of transporting anything has risen and thus the cost of imported goods such as food is rising. In less developed nations, such as Burma and Pakistan, this has already resulted in food riots as people simply cannot afford to eat.¶ Higher oil prices have obvious security implications for the great powers that are dependent on imported oil. America is notorious for its oil dependence, but few think of China as being in the same league. We must not forget that the U.S. still produces much of its own oil, even though production peaked in the 1970s. America’s oil dependence is mostly a product of its high consumption, not poor production. China, on the other hand, has far less domestic production and a growing demand for oil as its economy grows. While America could theoretically ration its oil supplies for a period of time, China lacks such a contingency. Therefore, China is even more oil dependent than the U.S.¶ Australia’s own oil production peaked in around 2004, meaning we now need foreign oil to meet our demand. This effectively puts us in the same boat as China and the United States. It puts our economy at risk as our exports become more expensive, and it threatens our security should China and America begin overtly to compete for the remaining oil supplies.¶ But there are greater things at stake than our economy and our security. The spirit of globalisation is under threat, along with peaceful international diplomatic and economic relations. International flights will become more expensive and people will travel less. People will become less connected; networks will begin to focus on the local and the national rather than the regional or the global. China and America will be weakened by their oil dependence and the world of power relations will become relatively flat.¶ History has not been a simple case of a new superpower cleanly replacing the last. Between the Roman and British empires there were the Dark Ages, and between the British and American empires there were two world wars. The multipolar moments of history have been fuelled by nationalism and an unfortunate product has been bloodshed.¶ The energy crisis is the greatest threat to humanity’s ability to co-operate on a global scale. Every government in every developed nation should be turning its collective resources towards independence from oil: massive investment in renewable energy, taxes on petrol, subsidies for electric and hybrid vehicles. Every option should be exhausted in the name of preserving the current state of globalisation, as the alternative is unlikely to be either peaceful or beneficial. The longer globalisation continues, the more interdependent we will become, and perhaps one day we won’t need a superpower to keep us from turning on each other.¶ The transition from oil will no doubt be painful, but any society must be willing to experience some discomfort in order to adapt, survive and prosper.

## terrorism

#### Terrorism/war on terror furthers the concept of globalization

Pieterse, 7

(Jan Nederveen Pieterse, mellichamp professor of global studies and sociology at university of California, “GLOBALIZATION AT WAR:

WAR ON TERRORISM”, The Internaional Journal of Peace Studies, 2/7/7, <http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/vol7_2/Pieterse.htm>)

Major historical events, like existential and political prisms and mirrors, reveal our preoccupations. Like in a mirror everyone views 9/11 through one's own lenses. As a "politique du spectacle" of almost apocalyptic proportions 9/11 reverberates on many levels-as an emotional shock that raises levels of anxiety and alertness, a signal that arouses deep thought and reflection about the world we live in and that is translated into action along various lines. In the United States 911 is the national alarm number. In the Islamic world a key date is 10/7, when the bombing of Afghanistan began. All is in the eye of the beholder. A terrorism expert thinks of methods of terrorism. Others ponder misdeeds of the United States. ¶ In the United States, 9/11 has been experienced as a major crisis. Considered by planetary standards it may be reasonable to ask what crisis? Attacks that take many innocent lives, that have economic, political and cultural spillover effects is what many peoples have been experiencing for decades. For countries such as Sudan and Afghanistan crisis has been chronic and a permanent condition. Now the United States which has so often inflicted crisis, experiences crisis. The globalizer globalized. ¶ 9/11 shattered the illusion of the United States as a separate reality of peace and prosperity. Third World diseases such as TB are now found in New York and the West Nile virus has been signaled across the country (Sassen, 2001). Goods and resources from all parts of the world reach the United States and so do illegal immigrants and human trafficking. Strategic or selective globalization, which is so troublesome to achieve for many countries, turns out to be a difficult undertaking for the United States as well. The idea that the United States can have globalization the American way, tapping energy sources and cheap labour the world over without sharing the burden is no more.

## Air traffic

#### Airport systems transform reality into a code/space.

Sheller and Urry, 6

(Mimi Sheller and John Urry, Department of Sociology, Lancaster University, “The New Mobilities Paradigm”, Environment and Planning, 2006, <http://www.ias.uni-bayreuth.de/resources/africa_discussion_forum/ws08-09/new_mobilities_paradigm_sheller_urry.pdf>)

Moreover, contrary to the Auge¨'s ``cultural critique of placelessness'' associated with¶ analysis of nonplaces ``where people coexist or cohabit without living together'' (1995,¶ page 110), airports do in fact possess a specific contingent materiality. They seem¶ places of material organisation and considerable social complexity. Airports are places¶ of ``the boring, everyday, routine, but essential operations, processes, systems, and¶ technologies, that enable global mobility to occur'' (Parker, 2002, page 16). Airports¶ are places of work for often tens of thousands of workers located within airport-cities.¶ Various nonhuman actants, combined with rule-following humans, enable, for example,¶ air traffic control systems to effect high levels of safe take-off and landings.¶ Airports are also a place of `cybermobilities' (Adey and Bevan, forthcoming) in¶ which software keeps the airport system functioning smoothly and transforms it into a¶ kind of `code/space' (Dodge and Kitchin, 2004). Wood and Graham (forthcoming)¶ further suggest that automated software for sorting travellers as they pass through¶ automated surveillance systems (such as iris-recognition systems) is increasingly pro-¶ ducing a `kinetic elite' whose ease of mobility differentiates them from the low-speed,¶ low-mobility majority. Software also enables the tight coupling of distinctive airport¶ systemsöfrom the baggage X-ray and passenger surveillance systems to air traffic¶ The new mobilities paradigm 219control and mechanical systems, passenger ticketing and ground transportation, and¶ human resource systems that manage flight crews, ground workers, and security staffö¶ such that breakdowns in one component of an airport system often have knock-on¶ effects which can cause lengthy delays.

#### Air system technology further alters the perception of space and time

De Valck,8

(Marijke de Valck, “Film Festivals: From European Geopolitics to Global Cinephilia, 7/15/8, http://books.google.com/books?id=JotcRIeihQ8C&pg=PA229&lpg=PA229&dq=air+traffic+globalization+virilio&source=bl&ots=iVvzfwBbZI&sig=g1WxHiG1NVNGvnfhSacGD\_aVICQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=XlwVUN-wOImXrAGKkoCIDw&ved=0CGEQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=air%20traffic%20globalization%20virilio&f=false)

The airport is the embodiment of Virilio’s concept of speed distance. In the airport metaphor, two technologies come together. Air traffic and advanced surveillance technologies. These transportation and telecommunication technologies alter the perception of space and time. They cause a new configuration of space-time, which Virilio calls speed distance. Speed distance means that the distinction between “here” and “there” is surpassed by the speed of transportation and transmission. For Virilio the temporal element in speed distance is more important than the spatial element. Thus, he sees urban development as highly influenced by imperceptible organization of time. Imperceptible organization of time is linked to the overexposure of screens: computer consoles, video monitors, cinema screens etc. In the article “The Overexposed City,” Virilio argues that the physical city disappears in to the aesthetics and temporality of these advanced technologies. They control time through three logistics of perception: military, cinematic and techno-scientific. Virilio, Paul. “The Overexposed City.”

# impacts

#### Globalization destroys developing economies- creates a mindset of overshooting in commodities and stock markets

Dixon 98

(Patrick, Chairman of the trends forecasting company Global Change Ltd, founder of the international AIDS agency ACET, and Chairman of the ACET International Alliance; “Asian currency Crisis: Speed of Globalisation” 1998, http://www.globalchange.com/globalis.htm)

What is globalisation? For the first time in history almost the entire world population lives in a global capitalist system with the aim of free movement of goods and services. The drive for globalisation is economic growth and prosperity, especially for poorer nations whose economies have often been the most restrictive in the past.¶ They have been propelled by statements such as these from the World Bank on globalisation: "There is a positive link between freeing markets and trade and the eradication of poverty in the long term" and "There is no evidence to justify fears that free trade pushes down wages for unskilled workers in developing countries".¶ However the UN has a different view of globalisation which may grow in strength depending on the fate of the poor in so-called Tiger economies and elsewhere. "Increased global competition does not automatically bring faster growth and development" and "In almost all developing countries that have undertaken rapid trade liberalisation, unemployment has increased and wages have fallen for the unskilled."¶ There is a fundamental problem with globalisation which will cause international tension and trade disputes without arresting the process.¶ The problem is the irrational nature of the global market, coupled with the extreme vulnerability of the poorest and most marginalised in emerging economies to sudden changes in exchange, interest rates, or big investment decisions. Globalisation therefore can sometimes be destabilising.¶ Consider the following globalisation scenario: Country A has a rapidly growing economy. Many companies are booming. Foreign investment is pouring in. Property prices are soaring. Businesses are borrowing ever larger sums with little or no security except their expectation of future large profits.¶ Every month these companies have to borrow more to buy more stock to make more goods for ever larger orders, which are paid for in the future (they hope there will be no bad debts). They are also exposed through large assets held in property. There is little inertia in the economy. Currency reserves are tiny compared to hourly currency flows by global institutions.¶ Then comes one piece of unsettling news and currency selling begins. Traders may be confident that the currency is now undervalued, but will go on selling as long as they believe other traders think the currency is still overvalued. In other words, buying and selling becomes driven not by objective data, but by what they think others will do. So this kind of globalisation can be a recipe for over-shooting, seen over and over again in currency, commodity and stock markets - a feature of globalisation.¶ Everyone sells when the price is already rock-bottom¶ You can have a bizarre situation where everyone privately thinks that the currency is already too low, but continues to sell hard only because they are certain that everyone else thinks the currency still has further to fall. Rates fall through the floor in a mass wave of panic selling, as dealers dump currency in the near certain knowledge that they can buy it back at a profit in a few minutes, hours or days.¶ The big issue is not what the real value of the currency should be in the light of the economy, but how the rest of the market is likely to behave in the very short term. Free market dogma on globalisation is that these peaks and flows will always sort themselves out. "Don’t try to buck the market". However this fails to take account of the monumental impact of these arbitrary swings on families and communities.¶ The big difference between Britain, the US and - say - Thailand, is that workers of a bankrupt company eat, drink and have homes in the West. In Thailand there are very few safety nets. If you have no job and are already poor you don’t eat, your family gets little or no health care. A massive fall in currency may last only a few weeks before partially correcting, but plenty long enough for multiple bankruptcies.¶ Companies can’t afford to buy foreign components they need for manufacture. Others are crippled by sudden increases in interest rates to support the currency. Others fold because a large creditor is suddenly unable to pay a bill. Banks fold as companies suddenly default on repayments and as property prices fall below the value of huge speculative loans.¶ Thailand is just one of many recent examples of a nation brought to its knees by a currency run. Many more will follow.

#### Impact: accident turns economy

Kroker and Kroker, 8

(Arthur and Mirlouise Kroker, writers for ctheory which is an international peer reviewed journal of tech culture and books, “City of Transportation Paul Virilio in Obama’s America”, Ctheory, 10/30/8, <http://www.ctheory.net/articles.aspx?id=597#bio>)

By one measure, the global economic meltdown is Virilio's accident, a searing demonstration of the truth of Virilio's proposition that every technology is born with a necessary accident in mind. This time it is not a trainwreck, a robotrader or even 9/11, but a massive financial accident. Here, the brilliant software innovations and computerized trading programs that run so much of the world's economy move so quickly but respond so slowly to the complex information feedbacks of recursive loops of bank failures and toxic debt and storms of warring political opinions that they do the only logical thing possible. They quickly, globally, and simultaneously abandon their own hyperreal world of virtuality, and go to ground in a panic search for authentic value. The machine to machine communication that makes the posthuman economy possible wants, in effect, the gold standard of real, measurable value. It demands the bottom line, the unleveraged mortgage, the real asset that its digital operations have worked so zealously to accident. And just when you think you have finally got the financial capitalists -- those unfettered deregulators -- they instantly reverse course saying "Now that the capital is gone 'something different' is needed -- an emergency provider of equity." That emergency provider, of course, is us.

#### Turns case: leads to ecological destruction, only grey ecology solves

Smith, 10

(Anthony Paul Smith, “In Defense of a Grey Ecology: Think Biospherically, Act Ecosystematil”, WordPress, 3/28/10,

<http://itself.wordpress.com/2010/03/28/in-defense-of-a-grey-ecology-think-biospherically-act-ecosystematically/>)

The neo-agrarian does not think about this issue ecologically, it thinks about it in nearly purely in terms of human culture. So, cities are assumed to be sites of inauthentic ecological dwelling because people in cities “consume” without regard for the effects. Now, there are some empirical mistakes at work here. Rural communities are rather, in terms of the non-human aspect of the ecosystems, very destructive. Agriculture is the original form of human eco-destructiveness! Rural communities also tend to “consume” without regard or attention for the consequences. They require that the energy infrastructure be extended, as they spread out, they require larger houses, have more children, require roads and highways to set up supply lines, etc., to say nothing of their consumption of culture whose loci of production tend to be urban. While, ecologically, the human dwells in cities in a more concentrated way, they tend to have fewer children, there is the possibility (varies from city to city) for more efficient use of energy, and there is a possibility for more efficient lines to the countryside and those parts of the earth that should be allowed to be reclaimed by non-human nature (where human beings will no longer be the dominant species in those particular ecosystems, allowing for greater biodiversity within the biosphere).¶ In short, we need to think within the biosphere (the set of all actual ecosystems and the general system of exchange between them) as we act locally within particular ecosystems. Systematically requires research and an understanding both of the human geography overlaid on top of the human/non-human ecosystem, and how they currently interact and a model of how they can interact with concern towards fostering resilience and biodiversity. In less technical terms, a grey ecology recognizes that human beings have a particular power of intentional action, as witnessed by agriculture and city-planning, and that can be redirected at a biospherical level by acting systemically at the ecosystem level to create human intensive ecosystems (cities) and ecosystems where human beings have very little to do with the working of that ecosystem. Give up on proposing an authenticity from outside the ecological situation and begin to recognize that we are already caught up in the act of being ecological. One only needs to recognize that we contain within our own actions, both at the rural and urban level, the seeds of our extermination through the destruction of a biodiverse biosphere in the making heterogeneous the various ecosystems that make it up and that that recognition means we also contain the power to negate that self-destructive seed.

#### Turns case: Attempts to save the environment is a symptom of the integral accident

Virilio 7

(Paul Virilio, Professor Emeritus, “The Original Accident”, 2007)

But, here, the rampant ideology is not so much about a legitimate duty to protect populations; it is about a 'precautionary principle' taken to the absurd extreme of the myth of comprehensive insurance.3 'The idea of protection haunts and takes up the whole of life,' claimed one of the great exterminators of the twentieth century. But this paradoxical claim of Adolf Hitler forces us to go back over the origins of the various 'expectation horizons' that have preceded the one of the Great Accident of which ecology today presents as a symptom. Since the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, three types of expectation have, in fact, succeeded and overlapped each other, without a soul seemingly taking umbrage at the constantly escalating extremism they represent. In the eighteenth century, it was firstly the revolution or, more precisely, revolutions, American and French, that were to lead to the suite of political upheavals we all know about right ''up to the implosion of the Soviet Union at the end of the twentieth century, not forgetting the nihilist revolution of Nazism. Buoyed by technoscientific progress, those political revolutions ushered in a whole host of industrial and energy revolutions, revolutions in transport and telecommunications, which we don't need to list here. As Lenin explained, and he should know: 'Revolution is comnmnism plus electricity.' Parallel to this very first 'expectation horizon', the nineteenth century was to have a hand in generating the second, that of war, a Great War, whose geopolitical absurdity was flagged by the first worldwide conflict of 1914, following on from the Napoleonic epic. The other great conflict, the Second World War, was a total war, in which what was attacked at one and the same time was the human race as such, at Auschwitz, and its environment, at Hiroshima. This is to say nothing of the quarantine years of the balance of terror between East and West, that Third World War that remained undeclared under the pretext of 'nuclear deterrence' between the two antagonistic blocs. But the militarization of science and the arms race involving weapons of rnass destruction that it gave rise to were soon to reveal just how atrocious this undeclared war was. There is no need to spell out the strict correlation between these horizons of expectation, 'war' and 'revolution' mutually reinforcing each other in the narne of a technical and political Progress that remains uncontested, except by a handful of heretical thinkers.

#### Information bomb comparatively outweighs all their impacts

Der Derian and Virilio, No Date

(James and Paul, “future war: discussion with Paul Virilio”, InfoTechWarPeace, http://www.watsoninstitute.org/infopeace/vy2k/futurewar.cfm)

I think that the infosphere - the sphere of information - is going to impose itself on the geosphere. We are going to be living in a reduced world. The capacity of interactivity is going to reduce the world, real space to nearly nothing. Therefore, in the near future, people will have a feeling of being enclosed in a small, confined, environment. In fact, there is already a speed pollution which reduces the world to nothing. Just as Foucault spoke of this feeling among the imprisoned, I believe that there will be for future generations a feeling of confinement in the world, of incarceration which will certainly be at the limit of tolerability, by virtue of the speed of information. If I were to give a last image, interactivity is to real space what radioactivity is to the atmosphere.

#### The integral accident is the information bomb in which nuclear war is inevitable

Kroker and Kroker, 2k

(Arthur and Marilouise, editors of ctheory which is an international peer reviewed journal of tech, culture, and publishing articles, “Ctheory Interview With Paul Virilio: The Kosovo War Took Place In Orbital Space”, Ctheory, 10/18/2000,

<http://www.ctheory.net/articles.aspx?id=132>)

Let me emphasise the following points about the Kosovo War. First, while the United States (US) can view the war as a success, Europe must see it as a failure for it and, in particular, for the institutions of the European Union (EU). For the US, the Kosovo War was a success because it encouraged the development of the Pentagon's 'Revolution in Military Affairs' (RMA). The war provided a test site for experimentation, and paved the way for emergence of what I call in Strategie de la deception 'the second deterrence'. It is, therefore, my firm belief that the US is currently seeking to revert to the position it held after the triggering of atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the 1940s, when the US was the sole nuclear power. And here I repeat what I suggest in my book. The first deterrence, nuclear deterrence, is presently being superseded by the second deterrence: a type of deterrence based on what I call 'the information bomb' associated with the new weaponry of information and communications technologies. Thus, in the very near future, and I stress this important point, it will no longer be war that is the continuation of politics by other means, it will be what I have dubbed 'the integral accident' that is the continuation of politics by other means. The automation of warfare has, then, come a long way since the Persian Gulf War of 1991. Needless to say, none of these developments will help the plight of the refugees in Kosovo or stop the actions of the militias operating there. However, the automation of warfare will allow for the continuation not only of war in the air but also of the further development of the Pentagon's RMA in the form of 'Global Information Dominance' (GID) and 'Global Air Power' (GAP). It is for these reasons that, in my new book, I focus for example on the use of the 'graphite bomb' to shut off the Serbian electricity supply as well as the cutting off of the service provision to Serbia of the EuTelSat television satellite by the EU. And, let me remind you that the latter action was carried out against the explicit wishes of the UN. To my mind, therefore, the integral accident, the automation of warfare, and the RMA are all part of the shift towards the second deterrence and the explosion of the information bomb. For me, these developments are revolutionary because, today, the age of the locally situated bomb such as the atomic bomb has passed. The atomic bomb provoked a specific accident. But the information bomb gives rise to the integral and globally constituted accident. The globally constituted accident can be compared to what people who work at the stock exchange call 'systemic risk'. And, of course, we have already seen some instances of systemic risk in recent times in the Asian financial crisis. But what sparked off the Asian financial crisis? Automated trading programmes! Here, then, we meet again the problems I noted in earlier works with regard to interactivity. Moreover, it is clear that the era of the information bomb, the era of aerial warfare, the era of the RMA and global surveillance is also the era of the integral accident. 'Cyberwar' has nothing to do with the destruction brought about by bombs and grenades and so on. It is specifically linked to the information systems of life itself. It is in this sense that, as I have said many times before, interactivity is the equivalent of radioactivity. For interactivity effects a kind of disintegration, a kind of rupture. For me, the Asian financial crisis of 1998 and the war in Kosovo in 1999 are the prelude to the integral accident. Our transport system, according to Robert Harbison, is the place, and the discontinuities associated with it “practically cancel the sense of the city as a self-contained whole.” While the I.E.’s transport system may appear expansive and connective, one could easily argue that its freeways link the far-flung nodes, thus keeping the region working as one large integrated circuit. But systemic connectivity does not equate to higher levels of human interaction. Many of the recently sprouted towns, like those in the Moreno Valley, are effectively non-places tied into a growing network of blurred spaces. These spaces are designed to be either moved through quickly or to function as transitional dormitories. Here the homeowner, renter, and consumer are equally rootless.

#### Attempts to sustain the economy only culminate globalization and the integral accident within.

Kroker and Kroker, 8

(Arthur and Marilouise Kroker, editors of ctheory which is an international peer-reviewed journal of theory, tech, and culture of key books, “City of Transformation Paul Virilio in Obama's America”, CTheory, 10/30/8,

<http://www.ctheory.net/articles.aspx?id=597#bio>)

But for all that history will not long be denied. Just as Nietzsche once prophesied in The Gay Science that with the birth of human subjectivity, twisted and scarred and deliriously unpredictable, the gods actually stopped their game of wagers and took notice because something new was moving on the earth -- a going across, a tremulous wakening, a pathway over the abyss -- so too with Virilio, the gods of history take notice once again. And not just take notice, but actively respond to the fatal challenge that is the thought of Paul Virilio. ¶ Are we beyond Speed and Politics? What characterizes contemporary politics is the unstable mixture of speed information and slow movements. Like the slow implosion of the manufacturing economy, the slow rise of evangelical visions of catastrophe, the slow ascent -- the slow ubiquity -- of the speed of technology, the slow descent of culture into the cold state of surveillance under the sign of bio-governance. You can see it everywhere. In the world economy, the speed of mortgage backed securities, credit swap debt offerings, and complex derivatives always seeks to move at the speed of light. Iceland is the world's first country actually liquidated by hyperreality with debts amassed at light-speeds now constituting 10 times its national wealth. Like Michel Serres' the perfect parasite, the Wall Street financial elite has worked a perfect number on the host of the world economies -- implanting unknown levels of toxic debt everywhere in the circulatory system of finance capital, from China and Japan to the European community. Waking up to the danger of hot debt moving at light-speed when it is definitely too late, Japanese bankers suddenly declaim that "It is beyond panic." Wall Street types say it is "panic with a capital P." Harvard economists, standing on the sidelines like a chorus of lament, wisely add that we are now between "capitulation and panic" and "debt is good." That in a world of over-extended economies, sudden loss of financial credibility, and a seizing up of credit mechanisms everywhere, the only thing to do, financially speaking, is wait for the capitulation point -- that fatal moment when despair is so deep, pessimism so locked down tight in the investor's heart, that everything just stops for an instant. No investments, no hope, no circulation. And for the always hopeful financial analysts, this is precisely the point to begin anew, to reinvest, to seize financial redemption from despair. Definitely then, not a speed economy, but a politics and economy of complex recursive loops, trapped in cycles of feedback which no one seems to understand, but with very real, very slow consequences: like vanishing jobs, abandoned health care and trashed communities. In The City of Panic, Virilio writes about the "tyranny of real time," "this accident in time belonging to an event that is the fruit of a technological progress out of political control." For Virilio, we're now interpellated by a complex, three dimensional space-time involved in the acceleration of technological progress "that reduces the extent, the fullness of the world to nothing." ¶ Or something else? Not really a fatal oscillation between fast technology and slow society, but hyper-technologies of global financial manipulation that can move so quickly because, just as Jean Baudrillard long ago warned, the hyperreal, simulational world of derivatives, credit swaps, and mortgage backed securities long ago blasted off from material reality, reaching escape velocity, and then orbiting the world as star-like high finance satellites -- purely virtual satellites which have no real meaning for the rest of us as long as they stay in space as part of the alienated, recursive loops of advanced capitalism. But when the meltdown suddenly happens, when that immense weight of over-indebtedness and toxic mortgages and credit derivates plunge back into the gravitational weight of real politics and real economy, we finally know what it is to live within trajectories of the catastrophic. Economists are quoted as saying the financial crisis effects "everyone on earth." Is this Virilio's "global accident?" Quite certainly it is panic finance: that moment when the credit mechanisms necessary for capitalist liquidity slam shut, a time made to measure for Virilio's brilliant theory of bunker archeology, with each bank its own toxic bunker of junk assets, each banker a born again socialist. For example, always vigilant automatic circuit breakers working in the darkness of night recently prevented a global plunge of the futures market. Allan Greenspan throws up his hands, exclaiming "I'm in shocked disbelief."

# Alternative

#### Democratic sharing shifts autonomous technology to humanly controlled.

Adams 3

(Jason, MA, political science, Simon Fraser U; "Popular Defense in the Empire of Speed: Paul Virilio and the Phenomenology of the Political Body" Simon Fraser University; November 26, 2003; http://ir.lib.sfu.ca/bitstream/1892/4277/1/b34840278.pdf)

In this sense then, Virilio's philosophy of technology could be said to be 'essentialist' in that he sees technology as deeply imbued with the instrumental values of the society from which it emerged, but it could not be said to be determinist since he does not follow this with the assertion that we must simply wait passively for the 'historical stages' to play themselves out. One framework for categorizing the various philosophies of technology which deals with many of these questions is that articulated by Andrew Feenberg, who divides them according to the degree to which technology is seen as either neutral or value-laden on the one hand and humanly controlled or autonomous on the other, all of which are key attributes that Virilio discusses in his own conception. With what he terms the 'instrumentalism' of mainstream liberalism, for instance, he says that technology is seen as both neutral and humanly controlled, with the implication that there is no pressing need for greater control over its development, while with the 'determinism' of Marx and Engels, technology is seen as autonomous and beyond human control, even though it is accepted that it is ultimately neutral, meaning that public intervention would not be possible. Likewise, with the 'substantivism' of Ellul and Heidegger, it is also argued that technology is autonomous from human control, with the difference that it is not seen as neutral but rather as bound up with the instrumental logic of the society which produced it, whereas with the 'critical theory' of Marcuse and Foucault, while it is accepted that technology is imbued with value, the idea that technology is autonomous is rejected since this is seen as overly simplistic and limiting to human agency.19 While it is asking the right questions and contributes much to the understanding of the various traditions, the one limitation of this formulation is that it only allows for the combination of two attributes with regard to each category, rather than three as would be needed in the case of Virilio, who while he agrees with Ellul and Heidegger that technology is value-laden and autonomous within the context of a technocratic society, also concurs with Marcuse and Foucault that given the emergence of a more democratic system, it could be subjected to human control. While it is true that Feenberg argues that this is precisely what distinguishes substantivism from critical theory, with the implication that perhaps Virilio should be considered 'critical-theoretical' instead, the difference in his conception is that while both agree that there is a pressing need to subject technology to the democratic will of the communities that it affects, Feenberg contends that most technologies could continue on as they are today without interfering in this process. Thus while critical theory would potentially allow for the continuation of large-scale industrial, weapons and computer technologies so long as they are placed under democratic control, Virilio would be unlikely to accept this for the 'essentialist' reason that they all demonstrate tendencies toward autonomy and thus cannot really be placed under 'control' as such, which is why he argues that new forms of what Murnford called 'democratic technics' would have to be developed within the context of a radically decentralized and democratic society.20

#### Alt: Recognizing the accident that is in each piece of tech is key

Virilio, 6

(Paul Virilio, Emeritus Professor, “The Museum of Accidents”, International Journal of Baudrillard Studies, July 2006, http://www.ubishops.ca/baudrillardstudies/vol3\_2/virilio.htm)

A society which rashly privileges the present – real time – to the detriment of both the past and the future, also privileges the accident.¶ Since, at every moment and most often unexpectedly, everything happens, a civilization that sets immediacy, ubiquity and instantaneity to work brings accidents and catastrophes on to the scene. The confirmation of this state of affairs is provided for us by insurance companies, and particularly by the recent Sigma study, carried out for the world's second-largest reinsurance company Swiss Re. This recently published study, which each year lists man-made disasters (explosions, fires, terrorism etc.) and natural catastrophes (floods, earthquakes, storms etc.), takes into account only those disasters causing losses in excess of 35 million dollars. “For the first time”, the Swiss analysts observe, “since the 1990’s, a period when damage due to natural catastrophes predominated over man-made damage, the trend has reversed, with man-made damage standing at 70 percent”. 2¶ Proof, if proof were needed, that far from promoting quietude, our industrialized societies throughout the twentieth century have essentially developed disquiet and the major risk, and this is so even if we leave out of account the recent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. …Hence the urgent need to reverse this trend which consists in exposing us to the most catastrophic accidents produced by the techno-scientific spirit, and to establish the opposite approach which would consist in exposing or exhibiting the accident as the major enigma of modern progress.¶ Although some car companies carry out more than 400 crash tests annually in the attempt to improve the safety of their vehicles, this still does not prevent television channels from continually inflicting road-death statistics on us (not to mention the tragedies which see the present repeatedly plunged into mourning. It is certainly high time (alongside the ecological approaches that relate to the various ways in which the biosphere is polluted) for the beginnings of an eschatological approach to technical progress to emerge – an approach to that finitude without which the much-vaunted globalization is in danger of itself becoming a life-size catastrophe.¶ Both a natural and a man-made catastrophe, a general catastrophe and not one specific to any particular technology or region of the world, which would far exceed the disasters currently covered by the insurance companies – a catastrophe of which the long-term drama of Chernobyl remains emblematic.¶ So as to avoid in the near future an integral accident on a planetary scale, an accident capable of incorporating a whole host of incidents and disasters in a chain reaction, we should right now build, inhabit and plan a laboratory of cataclysms – the technical progress accident museum – so as to avoid the accident of substances, revealed by Aristotle, being succeeded by the knowledge accident – that major philosophical catastrophe which genetic engineering, coming on the heels of atomic power, bears within it.¶ Whether we like it or not, globalization is today the fateful mark of a finitude. Paraphrasing Paul Valéry, we might assert without fear of contradiction that “the time of the finite world is coming to an end” and that there is an urgent need to assert that knowledge marks the finitude of man, just as ecology marks that of his geophysical environment.

#### At: progress good: our alternative is not the rejection of tech/progress, but the recognition of the accident.

Lateef, 11

(Abdul Lateef, writer for Posthuman destinies, “The Integral Accident: Grey Ecology is Needed Now More Than Ever by Drew Burk”, Posthuman Destinies, 3/19/11,

<http://www.sciy.org/2011/03/19/the-integral-accident-grey-ecology-is-needed-now-more-than-ever-by-drew-burk/>)

Today, there is no malevolent dictator behind it all. The accident and its political economy of speed dictate the agenda. Consequently, we will need courage to recognize other accidents of the dromosphere. As the economy of speed leaves its destruction and rubble in every aspect of existence, as the workers of Wisconsin and elsewhere strive to demand a grey ecology within the man-made structures of governance, education, and excess wealth, we begin to see that catastrophe can be flipped on its head to provide for the miraculous. As the global networks share the pain and distress of all those suffering, whether in Japan, Libya, Egypt, or on any neighborhood street, we can perhaps begin to acquire the courage to demand a new ecology of progress. When scientists created atomic weapons at the end of the last world war, they were supposedly not in a position to understand their totally destructive nature. Today, as we continue our headlong rush into the future-present, as we desperately allow new inventive ways of extracting energy through clean-coal technologies, as we embrace without question novelty in the realm of instantaneous connection, we must also have the courage to face this medusa of progress with a critical mirror. Paul Virilio envisions no other way of proceeding than slowing down — re-calibrating our position against the political economy of speed and unbridled “progress”. Virilio is not against progress, but unlike our technological predecessors, who perhaps could not have anticipated that train wrecks parallel the invention of the train, that shipwrecks are the inevitable fallout of the invention of the ship, Virilio challenges us, in the name of the future that is already here, to rethink an ethics of progress and invention. A grey ecology is needed now more than ever.