



# Counter-Development


## **Technological Opposition as an Ethical Duty**

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# Worst-Case Politics

- Society: Ruled on a contractual basis
  - Frequent form of breach: Tyranny
  - Tyrant: Usurped his post or misuses his power & is unimpressed by legal demands
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# Resistance as Access

How to regain access to the social contract?

## Resistance

Important ultima ratio:

Constitutional right & human right

Theoretical & practical dimensions





# Theory & Practice of Resistance



## Theory

- Legal Arrangements: Right of Resistance
- Ethical Evaluation

## Practice

- Cultural Practices

Theoretical and practical accessibility of politics?





# Basic Conditions

**For legal & ethical evaluation:**

- Political measures have to be visible & intelligible

**For practical action:**

- Political measures have to have some physical outgrowth





# A Demand

As a demand of accessibility:

**Politics have to be cognitively (visibly & intelligibly) and physically accessible!**

Social Struggle



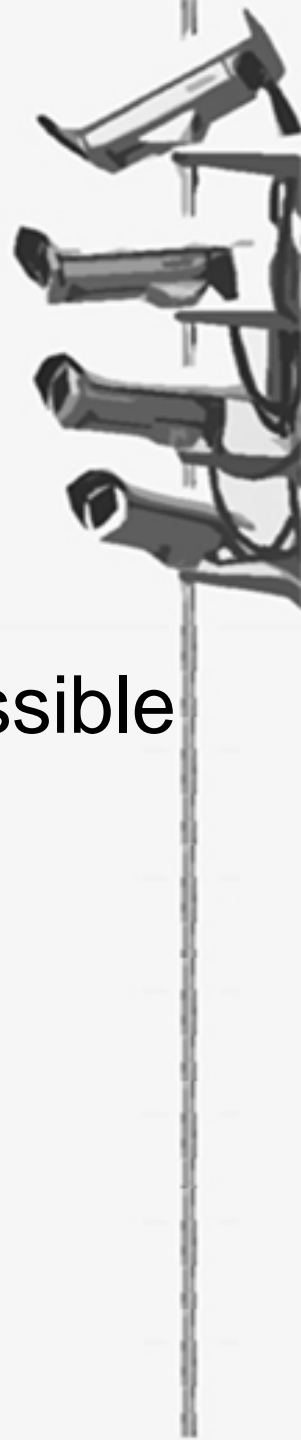


# Political Technologies

## Technologies...

- Which aid to realize political actions
- Without which these actions would not be possible at all or in their operative dimension

All technologies which are functionally indispensable for political actions





# Political Technologies

**PT are not politically neutral because they..**

- Enable political actions
- Extend or enhance political actions to their operative degree
- Introduce own values and exclusivity

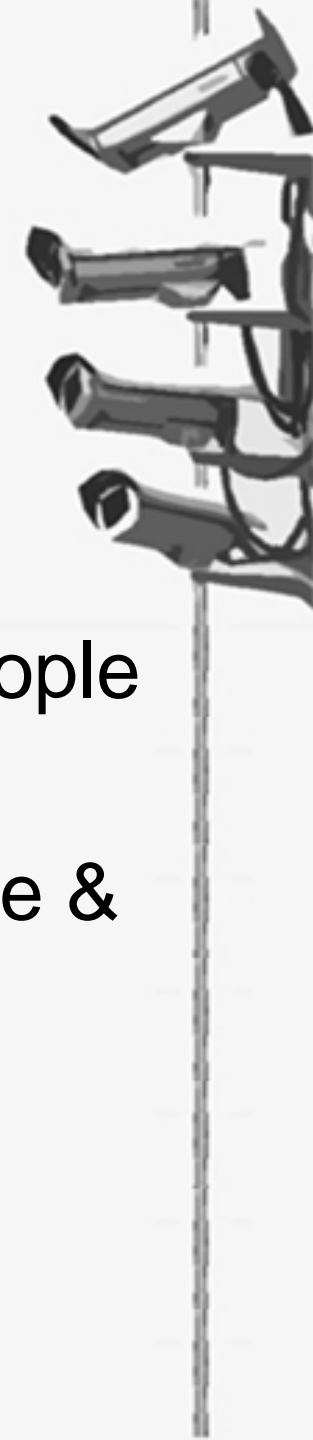
Renewed demand: PT have to be cognitively and physically accessible too!







# High Tech Structures

- **Intelligence:** foreign interests (& two-fold increase)
  - **Complexity:** incomprehensibilities for lay people & professionals
  - **Virtuality:** local access through shared space & partial unphysicality
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# High Tech Politics

- High Tech can render political actions:
  - **Biased**
  - **Invisible**
  - **Unintelligible**
  - **Unphysical**

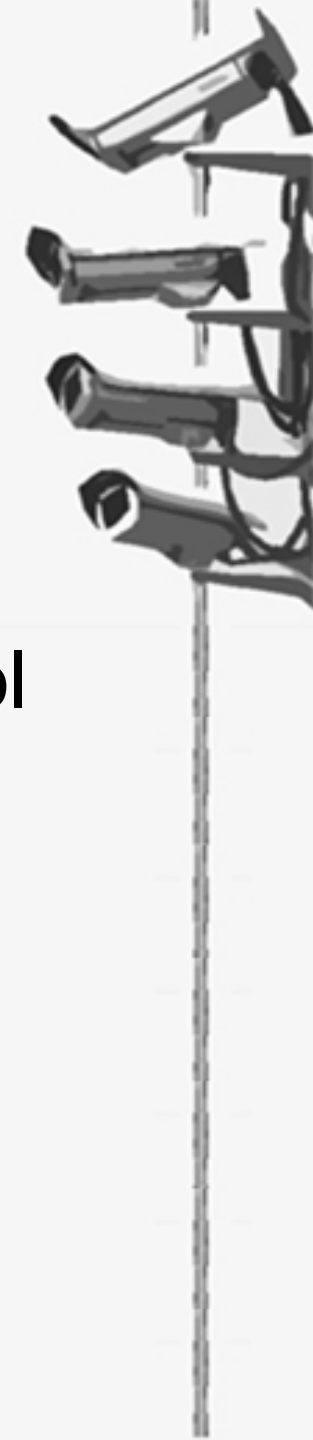
and thus introduce cognitively and physically inaccessible interests into politics





# Paradigm Case

## Surveillance Technologies

- Enforce political interests
  - Realize political values & affect others (control vs freedom)
  - Are high-tech and often:
    - Invisible
    - Unintelligible
    - Unphysical
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# Counter-Development

1. **Restore Visibility:** alarm people about the presence of political technologies
  2. **Restore Intelligibility:** explain workings, functions, potentials & agents of political technologies
  3. **Restore Physicality:** develop accessible counter-measures to confront political technologies
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# The Technical Community

- Counter-Development can only be done by the technical community
  - The **free & independent technologist** is needed
  - Part of the professional ethics?
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# Ethical Duty

- **Analogy:** ethics of world-hunger (Singer, Schlothfeld)
  - Duties of those „Well-Off“ regarding those „Worse-Off“
  - **In the Knowledgeable Society:** experts are „Well-Off“, lay people „Worse-Off“
  - Technical experts are ethically obliged to engage in counter-development
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# One last remark

Why argue from the extreme end?



Other Basic Laws

Resistance



Resistance guarantees the demand for physicality and is a fundamental law just as well





# The Argument

- Political measures & their technologies have to be physically and cognitively accessible.
  - High technologies can introduce specific inaccessibilities into political measures.
  - Inaccessibilities have to be avoided or removed by Counter-Development.
  - Counter-Development is a new ethical duty for the technical community.
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