



Manifesto of (Cyber)Futurism: Effective Accelerationism, Ideology, and Silicon Valley

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Italian futurism refers to the art movement popularised at the turn of the 20th century



Fortunato Depero, *Skyscrapers and Tunnels (Grattacieli e tunnel)*, 1930



Umberto Boccioni, *Unique Forms of Continuity in Space*, 1913



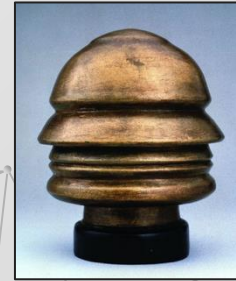
Alessandro Bruschetti, *Fascist Synthesis*, 1935



Ugo Giannattasio, *Untitled (Race Car)*, 1920



Ivo Pannaggi, *Il ratto d'Europa (The Rape of Europa)*, 1963–68



Renato Giuseppe Bertelli, *Profilo Continuo (Testa di Mussolini)*, 1933

But beyond an art movement, futurism was also inherently political

- The prior page had two paintings with names to note: *Fascist Synthesis* and *Testa di Mussolini* (Head of Mussolini)
- Italian futurism began as an art movement in ~1909, but by 1913 Marinetti (the founder) had begun to involve himself in politics
- Futurists revered patriotism and militarism, and their early political campaigns from 1914 onwards focused on opposition to the Austro-Hungarian empire and Italian neutrality
- Many Futurists enlisted in WW1: for example, Marinetti fought at the Italo-Austrian border, and Umberto Boccioni was killed in Verona



Map of the Kingdom of Italy, 1915

In 1909, Marinetti published *Manifesto del Futurismo* (Manifesto of Futurism)...



Le Figaro, Paris, February 20,
1909



Italian reprint, 1909

...and in 1919, Marinetti published *Il manifesto dei fasci italiani di combattimento**

FASCI ITALIANI DI COMBATTIMENTO - Comitato Centrale
MILANO - Via Paolo da Cannobbio, 37 - Telefono 7156

Italiani!

Ecco il programma nazionale di un movimento sanamente italiano. Rivoluzionario, perché antidogmatico e antidemagogico; fortemente innovatore perché antipregiudizievole.

«Voi poniamo la valorizzazione della guerra rivoluzionaria al di sopra di tutto e di tutti.

Gli altri problemi: bancarotta, amministrativi, giuridici, scolastici, coloniali, ecc. li tratteremo quando avremo creato la classe dirigente.

Per questo NOI VOGLIAMO:

Per il problema politico

- Suffragio universale a scrutinio di Lista regionale, con rappresentanza proporzionale, voto ed eleggibilità per le donne.
- Il minimo di età per gli elettori abbassato ai 18 anni; quello per i Deputati abbassato ai 25 anni.
- L'abolizione del Senato.
- La convocazione di una Assemblée Nazionale per la durata di tre anni, il cui primo compito sia quello di stabilire la forma di costituzione dello Stato.
- La formazione di Consigli Nazionali tecnici del lavoro, dell'industria, dei trasporti, dell'igiene sociale, delle comunicazioni ecc. eletti dalle collettività professionali o di mestiere, con poteri legislativi, e col diritto di eleggere un Comitato Centrale con poteri di Ministro.

Per il problema sociale:

NOI VOGLIAMO:

- La sollecita promulgazione di una Legge dello Stato che sancisca per tutti i lavoratori la giornata legale di otto ore di lavoro.
- Il minimo di paga.
- La partecipazione dei rappresentanti dei lavoratori al funzionamento tecnico dell'industria.
- L'affidamento alle stesse organizzazioni proletarie (che ne siano degne moralmente e tecnicamente) della gestione di industrie o servizi pubblici.
- La rapida e completa sistemazione dei ferrovieri e di tutte le industrie dei trasporti.
- Una necessaria modificazione del progetto di legge di assicurazione sull'invalidità e sulla vecchiaia, abbassando il limite di età proposto attualmente a 65 anni, a 55 anni.

Per il problema militare:

NOI VOGLIAMO:

- L'istituzione di una milizia Nazionale, con brevi periodi di istruzione e compito esclusivamente difensivo.
- La nazionalizzazione di tutte le Fabbriche di Armi e di esplosivi.
- Una politica estera nazionale intesa a valorizzare nelle competizioni pacifiche della civiltà, la nazione italiana nel mondo.

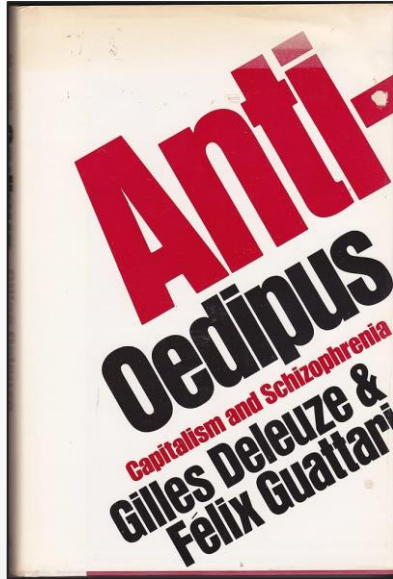
Per il problema finanziario:

NOI VOGLIAMO:

- Una forte imposta straordinaria sul capitale a carattere progressivo, che abbia la forma di vera **ESPROPRIAZIONE PARZIALE** di tutte le ricchezze.
- Il sequestro di tutti i beni delle Congregazioni religiose e l'abolizione di tutte le mense Vescovili, che costituiscono una enorme passività per la Nazione, e un privilegio di pochi.
- La revisione di tutti i contratti di fornitura di guerra, ed il sequestro dell'85% dei profitti di guerra.

*Manifesto of the Italian Fasces of Combat, or the Fascist Manifesto

Accelerationism refers to a theory often attributed to Nick Land, with Marxist roots

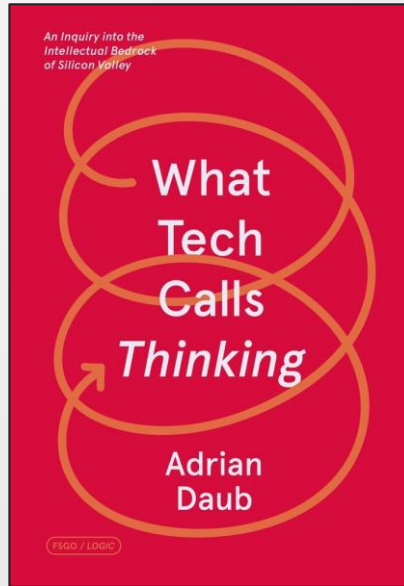


1972 (trans. 1977)



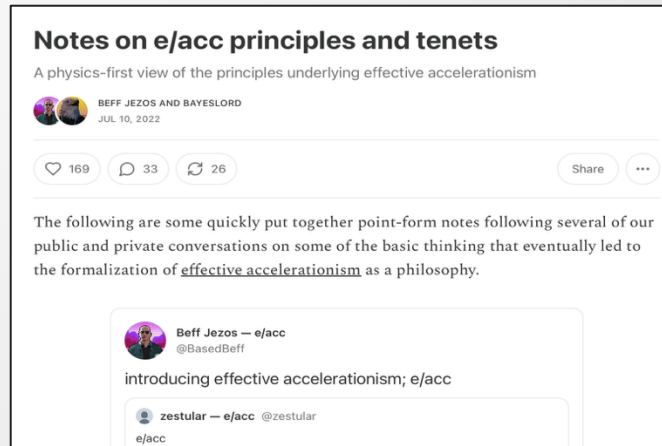
2011

In 2022, accelerationism began to move into the ideological landscape of Silicon Valley...



October 2022

...through a movement known as “effective accelerationism” (e/acc)



10 July 2022

In late 2023, Marc Andreessen penned a manifesto that drew directly on Marinetti



16 October 2023

A close reading of both manifestos reveals striking parallels across disparate themes...

Theme	<i>Manifesto of Futurism</i> (Marinetti, 1909)	<i>The Techno-Optimist Manifesto</i> (Andreessen, 2023)
Collective voice	" We intend to sing the love of danger"	" We are being lied to"
Speed and acceleration	"We affirm that the world's magnificence has been enriched by a new beauty: the beauty of speed. "	" We believe in accelerationism – the conscious and deliberate propulsion of technological development"
Defined in opposition to other ideas	"We will destroy the museums, libraries, academies of every kind, will fight moralism, feminism, every opportunistic or utilitarian cowardice "	"We have enemies . Our enemies are not bad people – but rather bad ideas. " "Our enemy is statism, authoritarianism, collectivism, central planning, socialism. "
Contempt for the feminine & glorification of the masculine	" We will glorify war —the world's only hygiene—militarism, patriotism, the destructive gesture of freedom-bringers, beautiful ideas worth dying for, and scorn for women "	"We believe in adventure. Undertaking the Hero's Journey , rebelling against the status quo, mapping uncharted territory, conquering dragons , and bringing home the spoils for our community. "

...in their love of technology, hatred of the natural, and others...

Theme	<i>Manifesto of Futurism</i> (Marinetti, 1909)	<i>The Techno-Optimist Manifesto</i> (Andreessen, 2023)
Glorification of technology	“We will sing of the vibrant nightly fervour of arsenals and shipyards blazing with violent electric moons ; greedy railway stations that devour smoke-plumed serpents; factories hung on clouds by the crooked lines of their smoke”	“ Technology is the glory of human ambition and achievement, the spearhead of progress, and the realization of our potential.”
Contempt for and subjugation of nature	“...like proud beacons or forward sentries against an army of hostile stars glaring down at us from their celestial encampments” “Poetry must be conceived as a violent attack on unknown forces, to reduce and prostrate them before man. ”	“We believe in nature, but we also believe in overcoming nature . We are not primitives, cowering in fear of the lightning bolt. We are the apex predator ; the lightning works for us.”
Disparaging of elites and intellectuals	“With it, today, we establish <i>Futurism</i> , because we want to free this land from its smelly gangrene of professors , archaeologists, <i>ciceroni</i> and antiquarians” “In truth I tell you that daily visits to museums, libraries, and academies (cemeteries of empty exertion, Calvaries of crucified dreams, registries of aborted beginnings!) are, for artists, as damaging as the prolonged supervision by parents of certain young people drunk with their talent and their ambitious wills”	“ Our enemy is the ivory tower , the know-it-all credentialed expert worldview , indulging in abstract theories, luxury beliefs, social engineering, disconnected from the real world, delusional, unelected, and unaccountable – playing God with everyone else’s lives, with total insulation from the consequences”

...but key differences also exist in the two movements

Theme	<i>Manifesto of Futurism</i> (Marinetti, 1909)	<i>The Techno-Optimist Manifesto</i> (Andreessen, 2023)
Centring of the human	"We want to hymn the man at the wheel, who hurls the lance of his spirit across the Earth, along the circle of its orbit"	"e/acc has no particular allegiance to the biological substrate for intelligence and life, in contrast to transhumanism... Parts of e/acc (e.g. Beff) consider themselves post-humanists; in order to spread to the stars, the light of consciousness/intelligence will have to be transduced to non-biological substrates" [notes on e/acc, @BasedBeffJezos]
Valuation of art	"Beauty exists only in struggle. There is no masterpiece that has not an aggressive character. Poetry must be a violent assault on the forces of the unknown, to force them to bow before man "	"To paraphrase a manifesto of a different time and place: "Beauty exists only in struggle. There is no masterpiece that has not an aggressive character. Technology must be a violent assault on the forces of the unknown, to force them to bow before man "
Linkage to economics	"Art, in fact, can be nothing but violence, cruelty, and injustice."	"Combine technology and markets and you get what Nick Land has termed the techno-capital machine , the engine of perpetual material creation, growth, and abundance."

Futurism showed that exaltation of speed and technology can become political...



*Piazza San Sepolcro,
c. 1918*



L: Benito Mussolini, R: Filippo Tommasi Marinetti



Sepolcristes, Piazza San Sepolcro, c. 1936

...and we are seeing this again with the American political apparatus

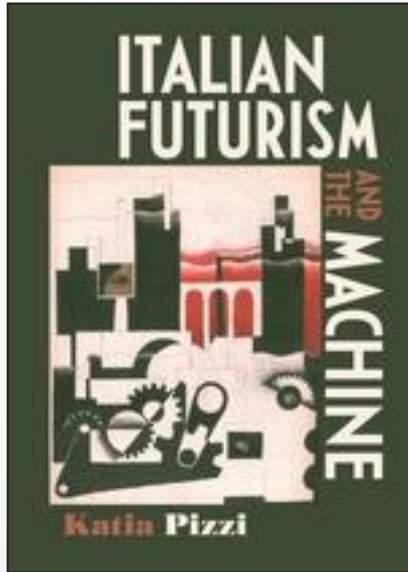


18 March 2025

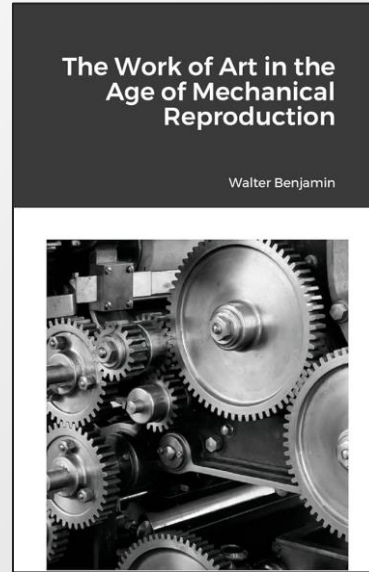
“You know, one journalist suggested the speech highlighted the tension between the, quote, **“techno-optimists”** and the “populist right” of President Trump’s coalition.

And today, I’d like to speak to these tensions as a proud member of both tribes”

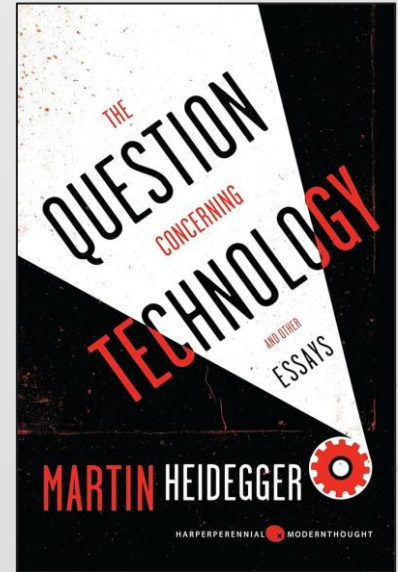
Understanding ideology & technology requires engaging with history...



2019

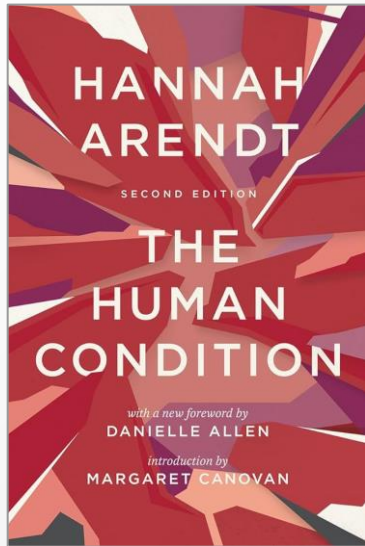


1935



1954

...as we try and preserve the human condition in the age of AI



1958

“Should the emancipation and secularisation of the modern age, which began with a turning-away, not necessarily from God, but from a god who was the Father of men in heaven, end with an even more **fateful repudiation of an Earth who was the Mother of all living creatures** under the sky?

The **earth is the very quintessence of the human condition...**

If it should turn out to be true that knowledge (in the modern sense of know-how) and thought have parted company for good, then we would indeed become the helpless slaves, not so much of our machines as of our know-how, **thoughtless creatures at the mercy of every gadget which is technically possible, no matter how murderous it is**” (p. 2-3)



Thank you!

