



Talking about revenge-inengineering.

THOUGHTS, OBSERVATIONS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

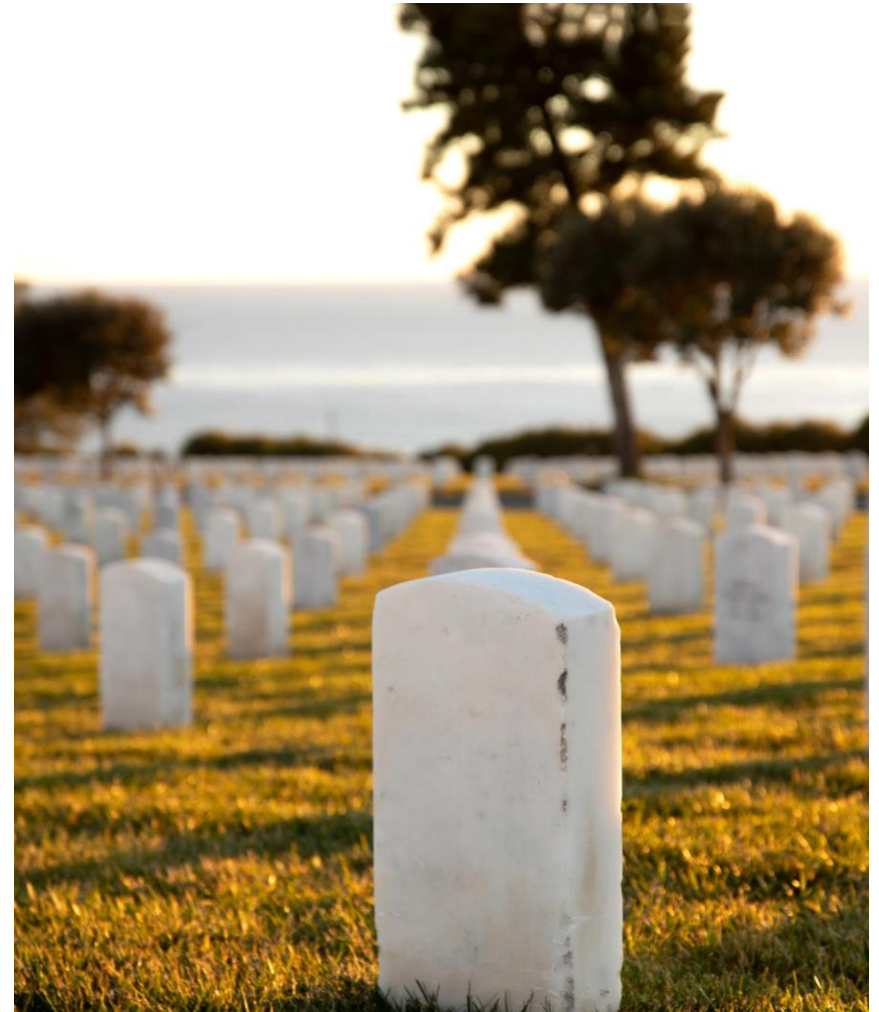
GB 2 Earth 
privacy sensitive innovation

Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?

In **Europe**, and elsewhere, because in a connected world where we are is everywhere, **Ukraine** has occupied the front pages of every media organisation acting in good faith over the past years.

Europe's institutions, and those it liaises with, have stepped up in multi-layered ways which have meant **Ukraine** has not been abandoned in the face of what would have been - short-term, anyway - the easier option of using the tools of realpolitik once more.

However, as a general rule, the word "revenge" has *not* been bandied about all this time by most leaders. In fact, it hasn't really been talked about at all. We've preferred to skirt around it.





But what happens when revenge is the only possible defence?

WHAT THIS SLIDE-DECK WILL EXAMINE:

- 1. THE CONCEPT OF REVENGE-ENGINEERING AS A NECESSARY SHORT-TERM DEFENSIVE MEASURE, BUT WITH LEGAL OBLIGATIONS IN TWO HALVES.**
- 2. THE SECOND HALF OF REVENGE-ENGINEERING BEING AN OBLIGATION TO DELIVER ON A LONG-TERM RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PLANNED AND ENGINEERED IN BEFORE THE START OF ANY OFFENSIVE MEASURES.**

1. The concept of revenge-ineering as a necessary short-term defensive measure, but with legal obligations in two halves.



Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?

I spent most of this year in **Stockholm, Sweden**.

I learnt about all the peace work that has been done by the peoples and institutions of this most admirable city and nation-state: in particular, the writings of Astrid Lindgren. She's best known for the children's book character Pippi Longstocking, but in truth all her writing influenced and changed Swedish society for the better.

No silos here of certain belief systems for children and then different ones for when we turn 18. A world of common good, for everyone no matter the age.

Peace above all.



Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?

And so I saw **Ukraine**, and the wholly illegitimate invasion by Putin's **Russia** of these sovereign territories of historical reality from perspectives fiercely held by the peace-loving society that is **Sweden**: a place of gentle permissions and wholesome expectations in respect of all human beings and how they should be able to learn by making equally gentle mistakes.

Yet even here, I experienced daily what I have called "neo-terrorism on the individual": a tech-driven gaslighting which is conducted on many people these days. And within their capacity, the Swedish did their level best to protect and support and save me from embedded and organised criminality:

- [Draft PhD proposal in text format](#) on "neo-terrorism on the individual"
- [Draft PhD proposal in slide-deck format](#) on "neo-terrorism on the individual"



Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?

What most I learnt, the most important lesson I mean, from these months in **Sweden**, interacting with people of an entirely different nature to my own experiences prior to, was that planning can be everything, but that for it to *become* everything it does need time so we can understand how and in what direction it should take us.

A summary of this year of work can be found at this webspace:

- www.sverige2.earth

And details in relation specifically to my four proposed bootcamps for dealing longitudinally with people like Putin, and countries like **Russia** which wilfully enable people like Putin, can be found here:

- www.sverige2.earth/research



Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?

Myself, I'm a peace-loving person too. But life hasn't always felt peaceful - even at home.

My mother is a Croat. A Catholic and vigorously anti-Communist Croat. Her father was accused of fascism under the Communists and of Communism under the fascists.

I experienced the injustices of a British Foreign Secretary saying that not all participants in the Balkan Conflict back in the early 1990s should be armed, because this would result in a greater total number of deaths.

That was an example of realpolitik to the maximum: truly awful.

It's absolutely *not* the way forward. **Good people have a right to defend themselves from bad people. And we have to accept that good and bad are the terms to be used.**



Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?

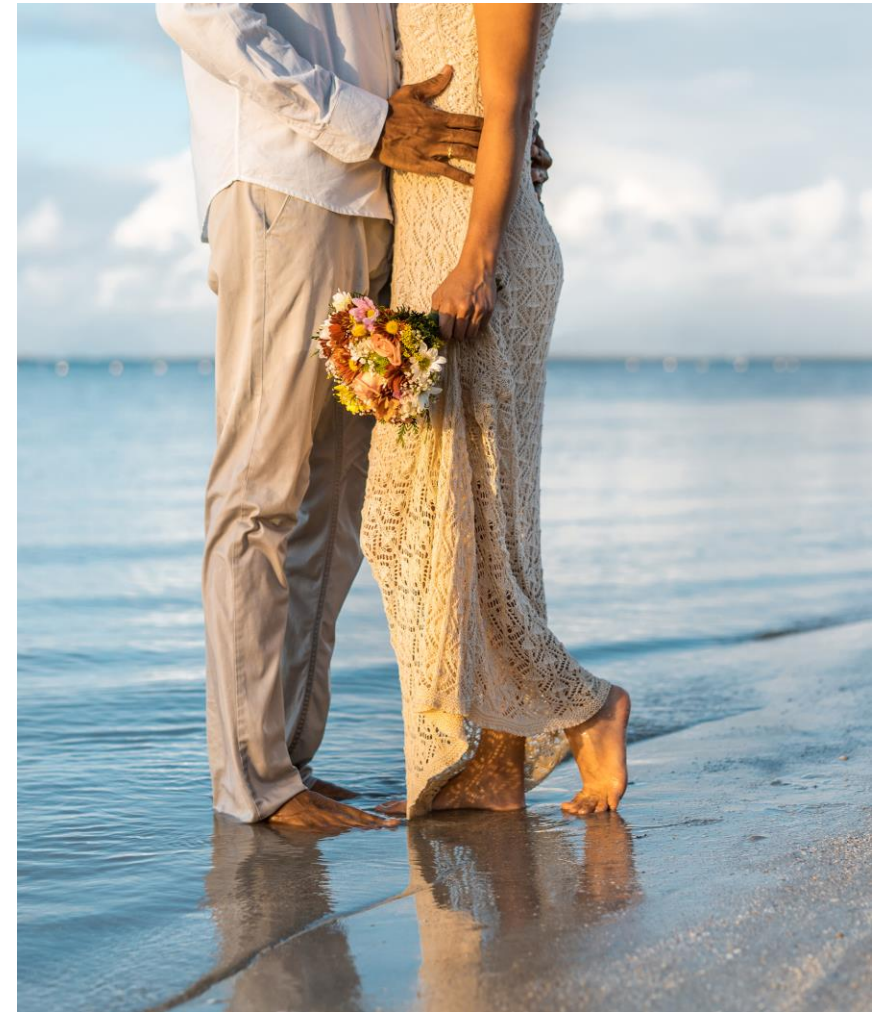
I've had plenty of life experiences to enable my thinking about, and meditation on, human sensibilities *and* violences, both.

I've had violence committed on me by agencies of my own homeland, never mind organisations and people - both apparently legitimate and, then again, often clearly not - from abroad.

And I've had occasion to resist vengeful acts on all the people who have sullied my personal and professional reputation and career trajectory.

But all this *stuff* hasn't made me a happier, more kindly person. I say this because deep inside me lies a cyst of real resentment. I got punched over and over by big tech and security agencies - and did nothing to fight back.

Well ... I did do something, actually: I rolled over.



Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?

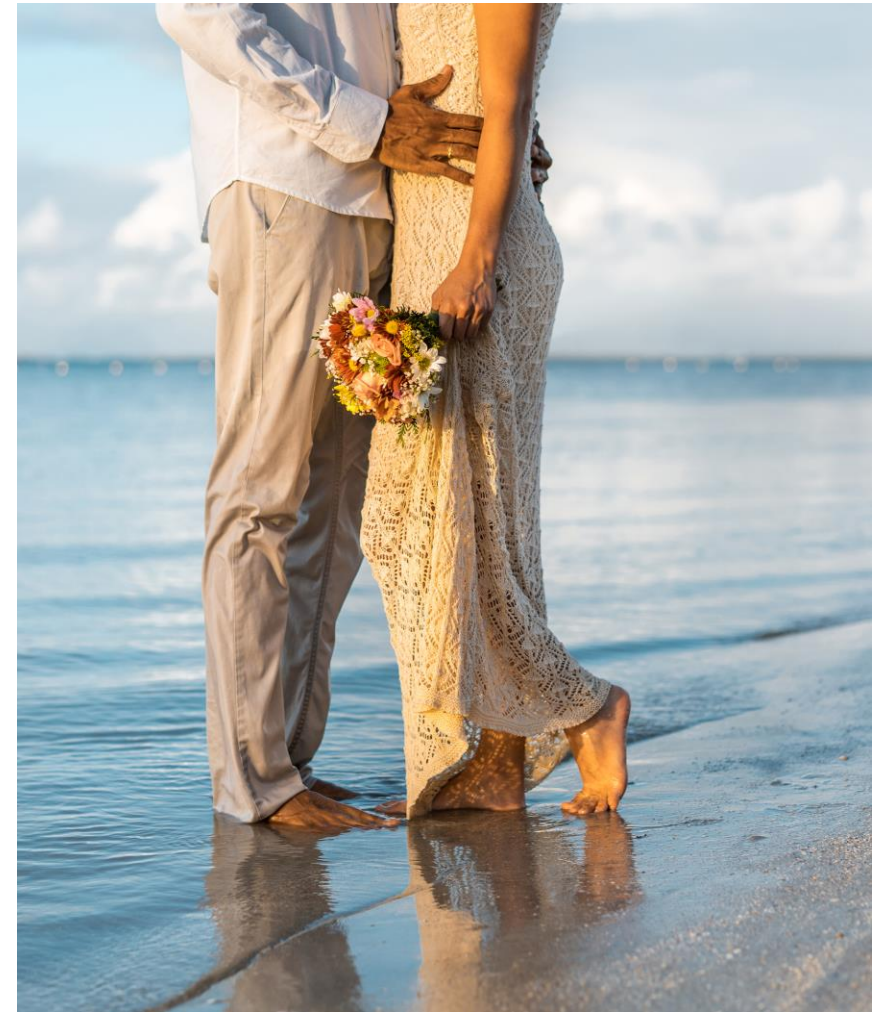
After 9/11 and Ukraine I thought it couldn't get worse.

After Hamas and Israel ... it has.

I have, over my 61 years of lived experience, and more recently auto-ethnographic academia, heard it said often that human beings are violent animals. I've never heard it said we're peaceful animals. Truth, too. (Maybe I've just lived in the wrong circles. Maybe that.)

Sometimes I've heard it said that some animals - animal animals, I mean - are peaceful. But not ourselves.

And so, whilst I resist the notion, it does seem more and more, in such a dreadfully connected world, that our theories around what to do with really bad people are not operating within the datasets the world is presenting us with.



Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?



For my generation, and associated generations, 9/11 hurt us all more than we could imagine.

1. It undermined our sense of progress and positivity more generally: in the capability, too, of good people to protect good people.
2. It changed our legal system, almost covertly: “total surveillance” meant all of us were considered culpable enough to be followed and tracked and surveilled. The principle of “innocent until proven guilty” went right out the window.
3. But what also happened was that whilst creative criminals continued to be the strongest link in all kinds of criminality, our tech partners began to suggest machines with humans as mere extensions of the same would be quite enough.

Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?



And yet, surely, via our experience of 9/11 before the measures were put entirely in place; during **Ukraine**, whilst the measures have been utterly put in place; and now, against what is probably the most total surveillance-heavy part of the world anywhere - the **Gaza Strip** ... well ... the only thing that machines, with humans as their mere extensions, have delivered is a shell of knowledge, not the core we needed always.

Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?



The next slide asks the question which no one has answered me all these years I've been asking it.

Maybe hasn't cared; maybe hasn't dared to; maybe hasn't been able to ...

From the dawn of crime,
here's the question we
have failed to satisfactorily
answer:

"Why are humans the
strongest link in criminality
but considered the weakest
link in security?"



secrecy.plus

nonconformist | secrecy +ve | totalsurveillance-compliant

Ukraine ... now Israel ... and then all those years ago, 9/11: examples of when revenge has been the only possible defence?

And the following slide, from a presentation and video I created for a GovTech submission a couple of years ago, does I feel, however painfully, explain *why revenge right now is the only possible defence we have to hand.*

From the dawn of crime, here's the question we have failed to satisfactorily answer:

"Why are humans the strongest link in criminality but considered the weakest link in security?"

Criminals play to human strengths and deepen them over their lifetimes.



secrecy.plus

nonconformist | secrecy +ve | totalsurveillance-compliant

Take the case of 9/11:

- It was delivered by humans extending themselves with awfully repurposed tools and machines.
- Machines didn't stop what happened: didn't stop an unpredictable act of – in hindsight – quite predictably delivery.
- Machines failed us: the good citizens.
- Humans plus machines didn't, however, fail the bad guys.



What if we have to learn with being a vengeful species? What if we must accept the condition? What then?



Slowly but surely, what this presentation is leading up to is the hypothesis that if we wish to do more than *survive* ourselves, we either have to continue to fight human fire with mainly machine fire – even after discovering that **Ukraine, 9/11** and now Hamas’s attack on **Israel** show up the extreme vulnerabilities of machine dependency and primacy when creative criminals work out how to roundly defeat it – or, alternatively, engineer and shape quite a different way completely.

I suggest, on reflection, the latter: I’m sure you’d agree too.

And this alternative I’d like us to call “**revenge-inengineering**”.



What revenge- ineering **might** **look like.**

1. Methodical in its construction: sensitive to every aspect of the human condition.
2. Focused on rebuilding the future not repeat-burning the present.
3. Collaborative in conception: inclusive always, but necessarily efficient, too.
4. Conscientiously, rigorously, unforgivingly non-conformist and individually creative to the max.



What revenge- engineering **might** **look like.**

1. Methodical in its construction: sensitive to every aspect of the human condition.
 1. We start with the assumption that humans will continue to need to fight naked aggression with immediately violent responses.
 2. It's clear that **Ukraine** repeats the lessons of World War II. There is no alternative to fighting the kind of world Putin's **Russia** has been longitudinally scheming over decades. And where Putin and **Russia**, many others too.
 3. We accept, also, that mental illness is mainly caused by the environments we are enabling into existence by our tolerance of violence; or, at least, our reluctance to hit back immediately. It's not illness, therefore, but extreme distress.



What revenge-ineering **might** look like.

1. Methodical in its construction: sensitive to every aspect of the human condition.
4. Equally, we assume authoritarianism spreads easily when the reluctance to fight it anywhere that it is seen to arise manifests itself almost everywhere we treasure an easier life over a truthful one.
5. Even as human violence will continue, we mustn't fall into the trap of advocating it ever, but surely *can* work out how to absorb its lessons in order to better deliver long-term mental health, legal structures, and socioeconomic interactions.

That's what I propose "**revenge**-ineering" should lead to: and in the process, it involves acceptance and rejection; pragmatism and creation; and both an understanding of our cruel sides as well as an aspiration to battle them back immediately they show themselves.



What revenge-ineering might look like.

2. Focused on rebuilding the future not repeat-burning the present.
 1. We have to think more about the children and young people: much more. In this, **Sweden's** Astrid Lindgren was absolutely spot-on: if we get it right for these age groups, it's going to be right for everyone. If we focus only on those in what used to be called the prime of life, because they work and vote and vote you in and vote you out, we neglect the needs of our body politic: to show ongoing and effervescent humanity, always.
 2. It's not about consultation; it's not even about dialogue. It's about putting the levers of real power in the hands of those who haven't forgotten what it is to be powerless, and yet are still able to enthuse about a better future.



What revenge- ineering **might** **look like.**

3. Collaborative in conception: inclusive always, but necessarily efficient, too.
 1. I quote Peter Levine, the US civic thinker and academic, yet again: Good Democracy is only good when it is simultaneously inclusive *and* efficient, and then, therefore, both purposeful and outcome-based.
 2. It seems unnecessary to outline like this again: unfortunately, we forget too often that politics isn't a game of egos, but a process designed for bringing people together to make better worlds; and if it isn't, we might as well choose to remain only at the vengeful level, forgetting all thoughts of engineering anything better in any collective future-present based on the individual.



What revenge- ineering **might** **look like.**

4. Conscientiously, rigorously, unforgivingly non-conformist and individually creative to the max.
 1. This is really all about one thing, and one thing only: rolling back authoritarianism. We cannot build societies in the future which, wherever possible, avoid the need - however recognised by this author - to employ the tools of revenge on occasions, if we find ourselves obliged to believe in societies constructed either in the interests of an elite or with the dynamics of a collective shorn of all individuality. Because both extremes show no democratic instincts at all.
 2. The building-blocks of the kinds of democracies we *should* want to nurture and spread, meanwhile, are individual human beings: one by one, counted out and counted in.



1/15/2023

What revenge-engineering **might** look like.

4. Conscientiously, rigorously, unforgivingly non-conformist and individually creative to the max.
3. And if we truly believe in engineering better societies in utter tolerance for everyone prepared to *both* tolerate and learn how to embrace the other, we must first posit our principles on the inviolability of sovereign human bodies and their overarching inalienable human rights.
4. But where such tolerances don't exist, and violence issues forth, we need a different way. Yes. It's true: peace finally triumphs. But that is a collectivist view of human existence: be an ant, and let time run its course.
5. No more jam tomorrow. **Ukraine, 9/11** and **Israel** tell us this.



What revenge- ineering **might** **look like.**

4. Conscientiously, rigorously, unforgivingly non-conformist and individually creative to the max.
6. Essentially, all I am saying is that authoritarianism has learnt to game democracy's best instincts.
7. Our generalised version of democracy lost its moral and legal high ground when it was forced after **9/11** (inevitably, I don't deny) to effectively dissolve "innocent until proven guilty" as a guiding principle of Western democracy.
8. We really need now to infuse our societies once more with everything that had once led us to prize the individual as basic element of all of our societies, whatever our political condition.
9. Because the battle is against people who understand us very well: mostly, deeply confusingly for us too, how guilty we can be made to feel when they attack us.

2. The second half of revenge-engineering being an obligation to deliver on a long-term re-establishment of human rights, planned and engineered in before the start of any offensive measures.

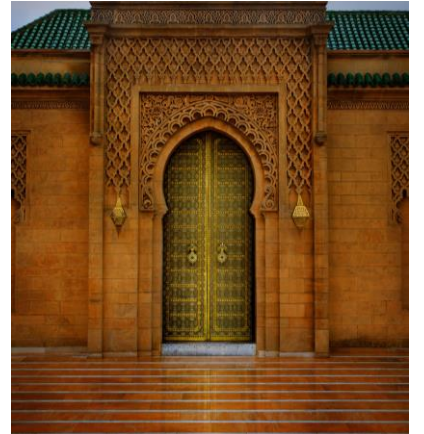


2. The second half of revenge-engineering being an obligation to deliver on a long-term re-establishment of human rights, planned and engineered in before the start of any offensive measures.

Events in the **Middle East** some years ago, in particular the so-called “Arab Spring”, showed the value of relatively limited tech resources – in this case, networks such as Twitter – for the democratic instincts of human beings everywhere to be enabled to begin to flourish.

And for a while, these good people tried to reach out and come together in order to defeat authoritarianism’s worst instincts.

But on the ground. As thinking individuals who chose to form part of a collective of individuals.



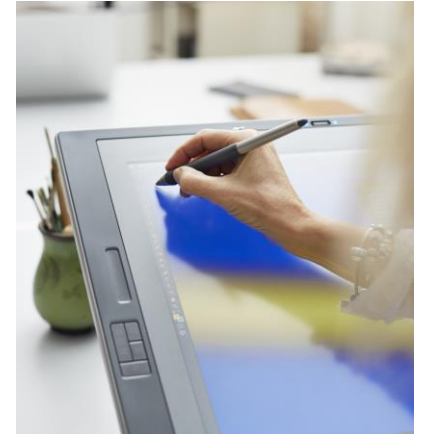
2. The second half of revenge-engineering being an obligation to deliver on a long-term re-establishment of human rights, planned and engineered in before the start of any offensive measures.

Here, then, is where tech can play its part. Not Elon Musk's "here you have it, but tomorrow you don't" view of what we might call democracy-enabling tech.

No.

Something built, instead, on the principles contained in the following three slides:

"The A.I.M. Proposition"





KEEPING IT SIMPLE:

*Building the
FEARless
CITIZEN*

#NoFutureUkraines

The Solution: The A.I.M. Proposition

I propose three strategies to ensure our citizens revert to being the democratically FEARless CITIZENS we all need us to be ...

More specifically ...

- A for ACCESS: everyone becomes absolutely convinced that NO ONE can access their data in the context of crimefighting (and ALL related) until *they* choose to share it – because we create systems of information processing which make it *literally* impossible to do so ...





KEEPING IT SIMPLE:
Building the
FEARless
CITIZEN

#NoFutureUkraines

The Solution: The A.I.M. Proposition

More specifically ...

- I for **INNOCENCE**: our systems will be increasingly designed from the ground up to ensure NO ONE is treated as being guilty until they are duly proven to be. And here I don't just mean our legal codes, either: even more importantly, right now, I mean our software codes. Particularly our software codes: and in all contexts, not just defence, espionage & security, and law-enforcement ...





KEEPING IT SIMPLE:
*Building the
 FEARless
 CITIZEN*

#NoFutureUkraines

The Solution: The A.I.M. Proposition

More specifically ...

- **M** for MY RIGHTS: the respectful, fearless democratic citizen is built out of culture, not law. The rule of law only flourishes in a world where it fits the cultures of those found around such a rule. And the democratic citizen only becomes so when they sense, intuitively and impulsively, that all is good in the garden of law-making's attachment to their culture ...





Talking about revenge-ineering.

Summarising

This slide-deck is about a lot of things. It's about accepting what we are and working with it, so that more people not less - in a collective future-present built primarily on the inalienable rights of the individual - will at some time begin to see progress towards a society which values human beings as private, social, collaborative *and* non-conforming beings of the most engaging.



Talking about revenge-ineering.

Summarising

But it's also about saying "no" to certain things, right now, we have clearly been tolerating:

1. Authoritarianism in countries foreign to ourselves, which nevertheless impact on ourselves, it's true.
2. But also a creeping home-grown authoritarianism that coat-tails on the populist instincts of an easy racism, jingoism, and misplaced pride about how what we do ... well, we clearly do best ... right?



Talking about revenge-ineering.

If you've seen anything in the deck which has captured your interest, do get in touch:

Mil Williams, Founder

mil.williams@gb2.earth

- gb2.earth/launchpad | rationale behind the *GB 2 Earth* project
- gb2.earth/hmagi | tech rationale for the project



Talking about revenge-inengineering.

THOUGHTS, OBSERVATIONS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

GB 2 Earth 
privacy sensitive innovation