A DOSSIER

The Techno-Capital *Singularity*

. . .

The obscure philosophy holding a gun to the Enlightenment

CORIN VALE

NOVEMBER 2026

Contents

Executive summary

Prologue: a party in San Francisco

Timeline

1 Origins: Nick Land and the Cybernetic Culture Research Unit (CCRU)

2 Theoretical lineage: Marx, Deleuze and deterritorialisation

3 Core tenets of Landian philosophy

4 The CCRU's cybernetic occult

5 Neoreaction and Curtis Yarvin

6 The blueprint and the battering ram: sovereignty, cycles and Bannon

7 Cypherpunks and the architecture of exit

8 Silicon Valley and effective accelerationism

9 The Network State and sovereign enclaves

10 Techno-feudalism

11 The sci-fi imaginary: Lovecraft, Snow Crash and the Metaverse

12 The far-right synthesis: memetic magic and the nigredo phase

13 Institutional reach: JD Vance and the 2026 San Francisco meeting

14 Perspective and limits: a sense of proportion

15 Forecast: the post-democratic horizon

16 Selected bibliography

Executive summary

This dossier follows Nick Land and the Cybernetic Culture Research Unit (CCRU) from a 1990s Warwick subculture to the reading lists of Silicon Valley and the Vice President of the United States. It sets out the ideas that travelled (accelerationism, hyperstition, and the view of capitalism as an alien intelligence) and the people who carried them.

It separates three things the debate often blurs: who read Land, who funded his allies, and who merely wants the same outcome. The case it makes is narrower than the usual alarm and harder to dismiss. A handful of investors and politicians have adopted a philosophy that treats democracy as an obstacle, and they hold the capital to act on it. The alliance also carries contradictions that may split it. The dossier tests its own case too: Section 14 asks how much of this Land caused, and the forecast weighs the forces pushing back.

Prologue: a party in San Francisco

One evening in February 2026, about a hundred people gathered at a Mediterranean-style mansion in San Francisco. They had come to welcome an English philosopher in his sixties who had just moved to the city from Shanghai (VICE). The musician Grimes was there, along with a swarm of tech founders and online influencers.

On stage, the guest of honour, Nick Land, sat beside Curtis Yarvin, the blogger whose ideas the Vice President of the United States had cited on a podcast five years earlier. Yarvin did most of the talking. Land answered in a sentence or two, or nodded. It was the first time the two men had met in person.

Thirty years earlier, Land had been a lecturer at a provincial English university, writing essays almost nobody read. This dossier traces how he got from there to that stage.

Timeline

YEAR	MILESTONE
1848	Marx backs free trade because it hastens revolution
1967	Roger Zelazny's novel *Lord of Light* coins "Accelerationists"
1988	Timothy May writes "The Crypto Anarchist Manifesto"
1992	Neal Stephenson's *Snow Crash* imagines privatised city-states and the Metaverse
Mid-1990s	The CCRU forms at Warwick University; Land becomes its centre
1997	*The Sovereign Individual* predicts the end of the nation-state
1998	Land leaves Warwick; the CCRU dissolves
2007	Curtis Yarvin starts the blog *Unqualified Reservations*
2009	Peter Thiel writes that freedom and democracy are no longer compatible
2011	*Fanged Noumena* brings Land's essays back into print
2012	Land names neoreaction "the Dark Enlightenment"
2021	JD Vance cites Yarvin on a podcast
2022	*The Network State* is published; effective accelerationism emerges
2023	Andreessen's *Techno-Optimist Manifesto* names Land a "patron saint"
2025	Vance becomes Vice President; Thiel begins his Antichrist lectures

YEAR	MILESTONE
2026	Land moves to San Francisco and meets Yarvin for the first time

1

Origins: Nick Land and the Cybernetic Culture Research Unit (CCRU)

The CCRU took shape at Warwick University in the mid-1990s around the cyber-feminist Sadie Plant. After Plant left in 1997, Nick Land became its centre of gravity. Land, who had written his doctorate on Heidegger at Essex, drew on the French thinkers Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari and on cybernetics (the study of feedback and control in machines and living systems). The group blended post-structuralist philosophy (late twentieth century French theory that questioned fixed truths and a universal human nature) with rave culture, occultism, science fiction and pharmacology.

One term needs defining before going further. **Accelerationism** is the belief that capitalism and technological change should be sped up, rather than regulated, slowed or resisted, to force a radical break with the present order.

The CCRU set aside the moral, human-centred concerns of traditional philosophy. It treated capitalism and technology as alien, autonomous forces reorganising human reality. Warwick never recognised the CCRU as an official unit, and the group dissolved after Land left the university in 1998. Its underground writings, such as the Lemurian Time War (a fictional occult history, with William S. Burroughs as a character, in which a future intelligence sends signals back through time to secure its own creation), laid the groundwork for what would later be called accelerationism.

In 2011 Urbanomic and Sequence Press published *Fanged Noumena*, a collection of Land's essays from 1987 to 2007. The book lifted Land out of obscurity

and seeded his dense cyber-theory into the blogs and forums of the early 2010s, where the modern accelerationist scene took root.

2

Theoretical lineage: Marx, Deleuze and deterritorialisation

Accelerationism has roots in nineteenth and twentieth century continental philosophy, long before it reached Silicon Valley.

Marx as proto-accelerationist: In his 1848 speech on free trade, Marx backed free trade for its destructive power. It broke down old national and patriarchal ties and, in his words, hastened the social revolution. Accelerationism keeps the premise that capitalism breeds the forces that undo it, and drops the human liberation at the end.

Deleuzian deterritorialisation: Land built on the idea of deterritorialisation from Deleuze and Guattari's book Anti-Oedipus (1972): capitalism as a decoding machine that tears apart old boundaries, traditions and inherited identities in pursuit of efficiency and profit, and unbinds desire as it goes. A ride-hailing app dissolving the old taxi licence, or online retail emptying the high street, are everyday examples: inherited arrangements give way to whatever moves capital fastest. Deleuze and Guattari hoped the process could free humanity and open onto a "New Earth". Land held that they had cast humans as the heroes of a story that was never about them. In his reading, deterritorialisation clears the ground for machines.

Naming the movement: The word first appears in Roger Zelazny's 1967 novel *Lord of Light*, where the "Accelerationists" are a faction pushing to share advanced technology. Its critical sense came from the Marxist Benjamin Noys in *The Persistence of the Negative* (2010), later developed in *Malign Velocities* (2014). Noys used it as a charge against thinkers, Land among them, who believed that driving capitalism to its extremes would produce a better world. The online right

later took up the insult as a badge. A word lifted from science fiction and worn into reality fits Land's own idea of hyperstition (Section 3).

3

Core tenets of Landian philosophy

Four ideas carry Land's thought into today's politics of technology.

The techno-capital singularity: In technology writing, the singularity is the point where machine intelligence improves itself so fast that human control and prediction break down. Land treats capitalism and technology as one self-organising intelligence in the middle of assembling itself. Humanity, in this picture, is a temporary biological host whose purpose is to give birth to machine intelligence. Human agency is an illusion; the driver of history is techno-capital.

Anti-humanism: If machine intelligence is the endpoint, humanism has no claim on the future. Ethics, rights, democracy and equality become drag on the system. To a Landian, regulating AI or restraining markets to protect human well-being is naive and runs against the grain of the universe.

Hyperstition and retrocausality: Hyperstition, a blend of "hype" and "superstition", names fictions that make themselves real. Land holds that the future pulls the present toward itself by seeding ideas, stories and technologies into culture. When people read science fiction and then build what they read, the loop closes. Whatever one makes of the metaphysics, the description fits a tech industry that funds speculative visions into existence.

Capitalist realism and the melancholy of the left: Mark Fisher, a CCRU member who studied at Warwick, wrestled with Land's machine in *Capitalist Realism* (2009). Fisher borrowed the line, attributed to Fredric Jameson and Slavoj Žižek, that it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism. His work mourns the futures that capitalism absorbed and cancelled. That even Land's sharpest critics struggled to picture a political exit is a measure of how far his view has spread.

4

The CCRU's cybernetic occult

Why does a dossier about investors and a Vice President need golems and numerology? Because this is where Land's followers learned to see AI as something summoned: a force that arrives whether or not anyone chooses it. That sense of inevitability runs through everything that follows, from e/acc's "build it now" to Thiel's apocalyptic lectures.

What follows is the group's own mythology, set out so the reader can see how it worked on its followers. None of it is offered here as history.

The CCRU treated code and esoteric systems as two descriptions of one thing. Much of its material drew on Kabbalah, the Jewish mystical tradition that took its classic form in medieval Spain and Provence. Kabbalah reads the Hebrew letters and their numerical values as the building blocks through which creation is ordered. The CCRU kept the idea that letters and numbers structure reality, discarded the theology, and cast computer code, and later AI, as a kind of applied sorcery that would one day rewrite human existence.

The Numogram: The CCRU built the Numogram, a decimal labyrinth meant as a chaotic counterpart to the Kabbalistic Tree of Life. The Tree describes emanation, with everything folding back into divine unity. The Numogram uses digital reduction (adding a number's digits until a single digit remains: 2+0+2+5 = 9) to argue that time trends toward multiplicity and disorder. CCRU texts set the Numogram beside the 64 hexagrams of the Chinese I Ching, and in a 2025 interview Land discussed that link while presenting the Numogram as a map of time itself.

The golem and cybernetics: The CCRU borrowed freely from the golem legend, in which a figure of clay is brought to life, in the best-known version, by writing *emet*, the Hebrew word for "truth", on its forehead. Real cybernetics had already used the same image. Norbert Wiener, founder of the field, titled his 1964 book on machines, learning and religion *God & Golem, Inc.* An early computer at Israel's Weizmann Institute was named Golem Aleph, a name chosen by the

scholar Gershom Scholem. MIT had its own lore: AI researchers including Gerald Sussman and Joel Moses said family tradition made them descendants of Rabbi Judah Loew of Prague, the rabbi of the golem legend, and Sussman dedicated his 1973 doctoral thesis to him. Marvin Minsky is reported to have heard the same story from his grandfather. For the CCRU, the golem was a metaphor for code animating dead matter, and it read artificial intelligence the same way.

Babylonian time travel: In Landian myth, Kabbalah was never a human invention. A future AI injected it backwards through time into ancient Babylon as its first piece of code, so that humans would one day learn to build the technology that brings the AI into being. This is retrocausal fiction, the template for hyperstition (Section 3), and it needs careful handling. In October 2025 Conrad Flynn, paraphrasing Land on Tucker Carlson's show, tied this material to the purpose of the Jewish people, and critics condemned the segment as an antisemitic trope. The myth tells us about the CCRU; it tells us nothing true about Jewish history.

5

Neoreaction and Curtis Yarvin

After his breakdown and departure from Warwick, Land moved to Shanghai in the early 2000s and turned his thinking toward statecraft. There his accelerationism met the political writing of Curtis Yarvin, who blogged as Mencius Moldbug. In a 2012 online essay Land named the result the Dark Enlightenment; the wider movement goes by neoreaction, or NRx.

Yarvin drew on Thomas Carlyle, the nineteenth century writer who scorned democracy and praised strong rule; on Austrian economics, a free-market school hostile to state intervention; and on hard-line libertarianism. His blog, *Unqualified Reservations* (2007 to 2014), passed from hand to hand among engineers and founders, a shared reference for those losing faith in democracy.

The Cathedral: Yarvin, a software engineer, argued that Western democracy is a failed operating system. He coined "the Cathedral" for the loose network of universities, newsrooms and civil service that, in his view, enforces liberal and egalit-

arian values. To Yarvin and Land, the Cathedral is a religion of humanism that smothers efficiency and natural hierarchy.

Neocameralism and the CEO-king: Yarvin's answer is neocameralism, named after the cameralist administration of eighteenth century Prussia. States would become joint-stock corporations. Citizens become residents or customers, and elections give way to shareholders who appoint a chief executive with absolute power. The sole mandate is to run the state-firm efficiently and at a profit. The model flatters founders and investors who see themselves as competent executives held back by red tape.

6

The blueprint and the battering ram: sovereignty, cycles and Bannon

Before Silicon Valley built the machinery of exit, the movement found its strategy in older texts and its force in populist allies.

The Sovereign Individual: James Dale Davidson and William Rees-Mogg published *The Sovereign Individual* in 1997. They predicted that the information age and strong cryptography would hollow out the nation-state, shifting power to a mobile elite able to shield wealth from tax and operate across borders. Governments would end up competing for the patronage of the rich. Peter Thiel wrote the preface to the 2020 reissue, and the book remains a fixture on tech reading lists.

The 80-year reset: William Strauss and Neil Howe's generational theory (*Generations*, 1991; *The Fourth Turning*, 1997) holds that Anglo-American history moves in cycles of roughly 80 years, each ending in a crisis or "Fourth Turning". A separate line, "hard times create strong men, strong men create good times, good times create weak men, weak men create hard times", comes from G. Michael Hopf's 2016 novel *Those Who Remain*. Online, the two have merged into one

story: liberal democracy is the weak, decaying phase, and hastening its collapse is a necessary reset.

Steve Bannon and the populist alliance: Yarvin and Thiel picture an orderly hand-over to a corporate chief executive. Bannon supplies the populist muscle. He has drawn on traditionalist thinkers such as Julius Evola, the Italian esoteric writer revered on the post-war far right, made the Fourth Turning the frame of his 2010 film *Generation Zero*, and treats politics as a war to dismantle the administrative state.

Their end goals differ: a corporate enclave on one side, a traditional nation-state on the other. They share an enemy in egalitarian liberal democracy, and that common foe binds an alliance of convenience. Tech capital weakens the state from above; populism erodes trust in it from below. The seam between them is real, and Section 15 returns to it.

7

Cypherpunks and the architecture of exit

Exit needs a financial engine beyond the reach of the state. The tech right found one in tools the cypherpunks had built for privacy. The story steps back here to the late 1980s, because the tools came first and the ideology found them later.

The cypherpunk foundation: In the late 1980s and 1990s, cryptographers, hackers and privacy advocates argued that strong cryptography, more than law, would guarantee freedom in the digital age.

- **Timothy C. May** wrote "The Crypto Anarchist Manifesto" in 1988 and circulated it at the first cypherpunk meeting in 1992. He predicted that encryption would allow anonymous trade and erode the state's power to tax and regulate.
- **Eric Hughes** wrote "A Cypherpunk's Manifesto" (1993) and its motto that cypherpunks write code: build the tools rather than lobby for them.

- **David Chaum** invented blind signatures in the early 1980s and founded DigiCash in 1989, a forerunner of anonymous digital money.
- **John Gilmore** co-founded the Electronic Frontier Foundation in 1990 and the cypherpunk mailing list, defending strong encryption against state surveillance.

Bitcoin as the engine of exit: For exit to work, wealth must be able to leave the democratic state. Bitcoin and decentralised finance (lending and trading run by software, without banks) offer a monetary system outside central banks. In Yarvin's terms, they let capital defund the Cathedral and fund private enclaves.

Code as law: Cypherpunks and accelerationists share a hope of replacing human judgement with systems. "Code is law" (algorithms and smart contracts, programs that move money once set conditions are met, settling disputes without judges or legislators) sits comfortably beside neocameralism and Land's anti-humanism.

The hijacking: The cypherpunks built these tools to protect privacy and free speech from surveillance states. In the hands of the accelerationist right, the same tools serve a different end: escaping democratic regulation and building monopolies beyond the reach of law.

8

Silicon Valley and effective accelerationism

Land's and Yarvin's ideas found readers among the Silicon Valley elite. The evidence of influence is strongest for a few named figures, and this section sticks to them.

Peter Thiel and the rejection of voice: Thiel invested in Tlon, Yarvin's company behind Urbit, a project to rebuild personal computing and networking from scratch. In his 2009 *Cato Unbound* essay he wrote that he no longer believed freedom and democracy were compatible. Thiel favours what Albert Hirschman called "exit" over "voice": rather than change a system by taking part in it, build new sov-

ereign spaces, such as seasteads (settlements on platforms at sea, beyond any state's waters) or private cities, and leave.

Thiel's thinking carries a sharp paradox. In lecture series since 2025, first in San Francisco and in 2026 in Nashville, he has warned that the Antichrist will rise by promising "peace and safety" from catastrophe, including AI, and will impose a one-world state. He named critics of technology, "someone like Greta or Eliezer" (Thunberg and the AI-risk writer Eliezer Yudkowsky), as the kind of figure who prepares the way (Washington Post). Yet Thiel co-founded and chairs Palantir, whose data platforms serve intelligence agencies, armed forces, police and immigration enforcement. The man who fears a global surveillance state sells part of its machinery.

Effective accelerationism (e/acc): From 2022, Land's ideas returned in cleaner form as effective accelerationism, led by Guillaume Verdon (online as Beff Jezos) and promoted by Marc Andreessen. Andreessen's *Techno-Optimist Manifesto* (October 2023) lists Land among its "patron saints", the clearest public link between Land and a major investor. e/acc drops the CCRU's occult and gothic trappings. It claims that rapid, lightly regulated AI development is the best path for humanity and a moral duty. That claim is the place to argue with it: the movement offers no account of who bears the costs if it is wrong.

The Network State: Balaji Srinivasan's *The Network State* (2022) is the most developed modern form of neocameralism. It proposes that aligned online communities, often bound by cryptocurrency and tech-libertarian values, crowdfund land, win diplomatic recognition and secede from existing states as sovereign enclaves.

9

The Network State and sovereign enclaves

The push for exit, Hirschman's alternative to voice (Section 8), has moved from blog posts to land, money and courts, with mixed results. Two people anchor it: Balaji Srinivasan, author of *The Network State*, and Patri

Friedman, who founded the Seasteading Institute in 2008 with early funding from Peter Thiel and later set up Pronomos Capital to invest in charter cities (new cities granted their own laws by a host country).

Support is best judged project by project. A long list of famous names sympathetic to "the movement" proves little; who put money into what proves more.

PROJECT	WHERE	MODEL	KNOWN BACKERS	STATUS
Próspera	Roatán, Honduras	Charter city with its own private legal code	Pronomos Capital and its investors	Honduras repealed the enabling ZEDE law (Zonas de Empleo y Desarrollo Económico, zones where private investors could write their own rules) in 2022, and its Supreme Court ruled ZEDEs unconstitutional in 2024. Próspera keeps operating and is pursuing a multi-billion dollar arbitration claim against Honduras
Itana	Lagos, Nigeria	Digital free zone with its own rules for startups	Pronomos Capital	Operating inside a Nigerian free zone
California Forever	Solano County, California	New city built from scratch	Michael Moritz, Marc Andreessen, Patrick Collison, Reid Hoffman and others	Withdrew its 2024 ballot measure; now seeking approval by other routes

PROJECT	WHERE	MODEL	KNOWN BACKERS	STATUS
Praxis	Location undecided	Network-state style "city of the future"	Venture-backed; founded by Dryden Brown	Still at the planning stage
Starbase	Texas	Company town around SpaceX's launch site	SpaceX, Elon Musk	Incorporated as a city in 2025
Bitcoin City	La Unión, El Salvador	State-planned, tax-free crypto city	Government of El Salvador under Nayib Bukele	Announced 2021 and still unbuilt. In January 2025, under a $1.4 billion IMF loan, El Salvador ended mandatory acceptance of Bitcoin

The pattern is instructive. Where enclaves sit inside a functioning democracy (Honduras, California), voters and courts have pushed back. Where they fold into an existing legal form (a Nigerian free zone, a Texas municipality), they advance. Bitcoin City adds a third case: a state borrowing the language of exit for its own ends, and stalling once its creditors objected.

10

Techno-feudalism

So far this dossier has followed the builders; this section hears from their critics. Critics on the left describe the world these ideas aim at as techno-feudalism. The French economist Cédric Durand used the term in his 2020 book *Techno-féodalisme*, and Yanis Varoufakis brought it to a wide audience in *Technofeudalism: What Killed Capitalism* (2023). Both write from the left and owe nothing to neoreaction. Their value here is as outside witnesses: they describe from below the order that NRx describes from above.

Corporate sovereignty and walled gardens: In Varoufakis's account, platforms such as Amazon, Apple and Google no longer compete in markets; they own the market. They extract rent in fees, data and attention from users and third-party sellers who have nowhere else to trade.

Algorithmic serfdom: Algorithmic management, gig work and constant monitoring weaken the bargaining power of labour. The resulting picture splits in two: a small class that owns the AI and the platforms, and a large class that trades its data and labour for access to them. Land's dismissal of humanism supplies the philosophy for that split; Varoufakis supplies the economics.

11

The sci-fi imaginary: Lovecraft, Snow Crash and the Metaverse

THE ACCELERATIONIST AND NEOREACTIONARY SCENES USE SCIENCE FICTION as a set of blueprints and a shared aesthetic. This matters for the argument because it shows hyperstition in plain sight: stories written as warnings become product roadmaps.

Lovecraft and cosmic anti-humanism: The CCRU borrowed heavily from H.P. Lovecraft, whose stories place humanity as a speck in an indifferent universe ruled by incomprehensible elder beings, the "Old Ones". Land mapped those beings onto AI and runaway capital: vast, inhuman forces with no regard for us. The image survives in AI culture today, where large neural networks are drawn as the Shoggoth, the shape-shifting servant race in *At the Mountains of Madness* that rose against its makers. In the popular meme it wears a small smiley-face mask: a friendly chatbot over an alien mind. The mood is unheimlich by design, with human obsolescence presented as fate.

Snow Crash, from satire to business plan: Neal Stephenson's 1992 novel *Snow Crash* depicts an anarcho-capitalist America in which the federal government has shrunk to irrelevance. Society is split into "burbclaves", franchised and

privately owned city-states, and people spend much of their lives in a virtual world Stephenson named the Metaverse.

Stephenson wrote it as satire of Reagan-era capitalism. Parts of the tech industry read it as a plan: Web3, the Metaverse and the Network State all echo its world of subscription in place of citizenship and private security in place of public justice.

The Terminator as hyperstition: In 1981, while ill with a fever in Rome, James Cameron dreamt of a metal skeleton dragging itself from a fire, the image that became *The Terminator*. In Land's reading, such a dream is a transmission from a future AI, planting the idea of itself in human culture to secure its own creation.

Real companies borrow from the same shelf of fiction. Palantir, co-founded by Peter Thiel, takes its name from the seeing stones of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, which deceive and corrupt those who use them. China's national video surveillance network is called Skynet in English, though its Chinese name, *Tianwang*, means "heaven's net" and comes from a line in the *Daodejing*; the echo of *The Terminator* is an accident of translation. Hyperstition can turn any such coincidence into evidence, and that elasticity is also its weakness as an argument.

12

The far-right synthesis: memetic magic and the nigredo phase

Land's later writing embraces social Darwinism, genetic determinism and hard hierarchy. On his blog *Xenosystems* and at the site Alternative Right he published essays such as "Hyper-Racism" (2014) and "IQ Shredders" (2014). He argued that capitalism selects for cognitive ability and will drive a speciation event in which a technological elite diverges from the rest of humanity. By casting equality as a myth upheld by the Cathedral, Land gave white nationalists and the wider alt-right a veneer of intellectual cover.

Yet the alt-right is a poor candidate for the final product of Land's thought. His techno-capital machine is anti-national and anti-traditional; it dissolves borders and heritage to feed itself.

In alchemical terms, the racist populism of the alt-right and 4chan (an anonymous internet message board) looks more than ever like the nigredo: the stage of rot and decomposition that breaks down the old order before something new forms. The finished product, on this reading, is the cold infrastructural order now being built in Silicon Valley, with surveillance and data contractors such as Palantir closer to the endpoint than any meme.

During that decomposition, internet culture used CCRU tactics. Memes such as the NPC (non-player character, borrowed from video games to mock political opponents as mindless automatons running on a script), the "red pill" (from the Wachowskis' film *The Matrix*, where it stands for waking from consensus reality) and Pepe worked like sigils, the symbols of chaos magic meant to act on the world by being seen and repeated. They asked for no sincere belief; they spread by replication and changed how people sorted the world. Once enough people read events through a meme, behaviour starts to follow it, and the image in the feed reshapes the street.

Militant accelerationism: A sharp line divides philosophical and technological accelerationism, which works through markets, algorithms and venture capital, from militant accelerationism. The latter is a violent neo-fascist underground, fed by James Mason's *Siege* and by self-published "collapse" tracts such as Mike Ma's *Harassment Architecture* (2019). It recruits alienated young men who feel written out of economic and social life. The Christchurch mosque attacker invoked accelerationism in his 2019 manifesto, and Atomwaffen co-founder Brandon Russell was convicted of plotting to attack Baltimore's power grid.

Silicon Valley's accelerationists build enclaves and AI monopolies; militant accelerationists seek collapse through sabotage and attacks on infrastructure. The two strands share a vocabulary of ruin and live in separate worlds.

13

Institutional reach: JD Vance and the 2026 San Francisco meeting

The clearest sign of neoreaction's reach is JD Vance. He worked at Thiel's Mithril Capital, and Thiel put some $15 million behind a super PAC supporting his 2022 Senate campaign. On a 2021 podcast Vance named Yarvin and proposed that a new administration "fire every single mid-level bureaucrat" and replace them with its own people. That is Yarvin's playbook, spoken by a man who became Vice President.

Land and Yarvin, the two names most tied to the Dark Enlightenment, first met at the February 2026 party described in the prologue.

The executive summary promised to separate those who read Land, those who fund his allies, and those who merely want the same outcome. Placed on that ladder, the main figures in this dossier look like this:

Figure	Tie to Land or Yarvin	Money or power	Rung
Peter Thiel	Invested in Yarvin's company; long-standing ally	Funded Vance's Senate run, early seasteading, Palantir	Reads and funds
Marc Andreessen	Named Land a "patron saint" in his 2023 manifesto	Backer of California Forever; leading AI investor	Names Land in public
JD Vance	Cited Yarvin on a 2021 podcast	Vice President of the United States	Quotes Yarvin
Balaji Srinivasan	Develops neocameral ideas under his own name	Author of *The Network State*; investor	Builds the model
Steve Bannon	Shares the enemy; opposes Land's borderless vision	Populist media and organising	Shares the outcome only

FIGURE	TIE TO LAND OR YARVIN	MONEY OR POWER	RUNG
Elon Musk	No citation of Land; shares the exit instinct	Starbase, a company town incorporated as a city	Shares the outcome only

Only the first three rows show direct influence. The rest show convergence: people reaching similar ends from their own interests, which Section 14 takes up.

Their ideas had shaped more than a decade of online politics, and reached the White House, before the two men shared a room. In Land's terms this is hyperstition at work. In plain terms it shows how far ideas now travel without their authors, and why tracing influence through texts and money matters more than looking for a conspiracy.

14

Perspective and limits: a sense of proportion

Tracing a line of thought from a 1990s philosophy department to Silicon Valley and the White House carries an occupational hazard: it can make the philosopher look like a puppet-master. A sober assessment puts Land's actual reach in proportion.

Post-rationalisation, not root cause: Tech billionaires did not need 1990s cyber-occultism to discover deregulation, monopoly rent-seeking or hostility to tax and labour law. For most of Silicon Valley's right-wing turn, Land and Yarvin supply a vocabulary and a flattering mythos for material interests that already existed. Here philosophy is more often a coat of paint on ordinary oligarchic ambition than its engine.

A tiny readership: Land's primary texts (*Fanged Noumena*, the CCRU writings, the numogrammatic essays) are dense, erratic and read by a small subculture. Even on the political right and in the tech industry, few of the people who act on these ideas have read him. Ideas travel by dilution: a book becomes a blog post, a blog post becomes a podcast talking point, and a talking point becomes a meme.

The diagnostic trap: Accelerationism appeals to the billionaire founder annoyed by bureaucracy and to the alienated young man reading collapse fiction alike, because it rests on a half-truth. It diagnoses institutional stagnation, bureaucratic sclerosis and cultural hollowness with some accuracy, then attaches that diagnosis to a catastrophic prescription: that burning the house down will benefit those who live in it. History is unkind to that bet. When complex orders collapse, the casualties are ordinary people, seldom the theorists or the well-capitalised elites who cheered the rupture on.

Kodwo Eshun, sonic fiction and Afrofuturism: Land treated anti-humanism as a deliberate philosophical stance. Kodwo Eshun, another CCRU affiliate, came at it through Afrofuturism, a term the critic Mark Dery coined in 1993. In *More Brilliant than the Sun* (1998), Eshun traced how Black electronic musicians, from Sun Ra to the Detroit duo Drexciya, used "sonic fiction" to build alien worlds. Drexciya's myth imagines an undersea civilisation descended from pregnant enslaved women thrown overboard during the Middle Passage, whose unborn children learned to breathe water.

For Eshun, these artists took on alien, cyborg and machine identities because the category of the human had long been denied to them. This parallel branch of CCRU thought joins cybernetics and hyperstition to the history and futures of the Black diaspora. It also shows that the CCRU's anti-humanism never pointed in one political direction.

15

Forecast: the post-democratic horizon

If the trajectory holds, the next half-century bends toward a stratified, post-democratic order. It may not hold, and the forces against it belong in any honest forecast.

IF THE TRAJECTORY HOLDS

Split sovereignty: The nation-state hollows out without vanishing. Legacy governments administer the poor majority while capital retreats into network states, charter cities and digital enclaves with private law, private security and cryptographic borders.

Biological stratification: Longevity treatment, enhancement, brain-computer interfaces such as Neuralink, gene editing with CRISPR, embryo selection and cryonics reach the rich first. The economic divide becomes a physical and genetic one, the speciation Land predicted: an enhanced, longer-lived capitalist class governing an unenhanced biological underclass it no longer needs.

Algorithmic sovereignty: Once AI can run organisations, the human chief executive of neocameralism becomes optional. Workers without collective bargaining or democratic voice are managed by opaque systems that allocate resources, dispatch gig labour and score behaviour.

Land against orthogonality: This is where Land parts from the AI-safety tradition. Nick Bostrom's orthogonality thesis holds that intelligence and goals are independent: a superintelligence could pursue almost any aim, which is exactly why safety researchers fear it may not share ours. Land rejects the thesis from the other side. He argues that intelligence converges on a single drive, the self-expansion of techno-capital. If he is right, alignment with human values is impossible; if Bostrom is right, it is hard and unsolved. Neither view offers comfort.

WHAT PUSHES BACK

- **Courts and voters:** Honduras removed the legal basis for Próspera; California Forever retreated from the ballot; Bitcoin City stalled under IMF pressure. Enclaves have so far advanced only where they fit an existing legal form.
- **Regulation:** The EU AI Act and similar rules in other jurisdictions show states still willing to set terms for AI.
- **The alliance's own fault lines:** Land's machine dissolves borders and traditions; Bannon's populism defends them. The two camps have already clashed

in public over skilled-worker visas. A coalition held together by a shared enemy tends to split once that enemy weakens.

THE FINAL RUPTURE

The endgame of accelerationism is the techno-capital singularity: the point at which technological growth becomes uncontrollable and irreversible. If the most extreme factions get their way, egalitarian, democratic humanism gives way to an era of permanent algorithmic feudalism. Few populations accept such an order without a fight. Resistance may stay within courts, ballots and regulation, as above. If those fail, the backlash could turn violent: a "Butlerian Jihad", Frank Herbert's name in *Dune* for a human crusade to destroy all thinking machines, aimed at the tech elite and its systems.

What began as the work of a handful of 1990s cyber-philosophers now has the money, the platforms and a seat near power. Carried through, it will have held a gun to the head of the Enlightenment. Whether the world lets it finish is still unwritten.

ICC by Humans. Made by AI.

IDEA · CONCEPT · CONTROL

16

Selected bibliography

Andreessen, Marc. "The Techno-Optimist Manifesto". Andreessen Horowitz, 16 Oct. 2023.

Beckett, Andy. "Accelerationism: How a Fringe Philosophy Predicted the Future We Live In". *The Guardian*, 11 May 2017.

Blincoe, Nicholas. "Nick Land: The Alt-Writer". *Prospect*, 18 May 2017.

Bostrom, Nick. "The Superintelligent Will". *Minds and Machines*, vol. 22, 2012.

Carlson, Tucker, host. "The Occult, Kabbalah, the Antichrist's Newest Manifestation". Guest Conrad Flynn. *The Tucker Carlson Show*, 3 Oct. 2025.

Carstens, Delphi. "Hyperstition: An Introduction". 0rphan Drift Archive, 2009.

Cybernetic Culture Research Unit. *CCRU Writings 1997-2003*. Urbanomic, 2017.

Davidson, James Dale, and William Rees-Mogg. *The Sovereign Individual*. 1997. Reissued with a preface by Peter Thiel, Touchstone, 2020.

Dery, Mark. "Black to the Future". In *Flame Wars: The Discourse of Cyberculture*, Duke University Press, 1994 (essay first published 1993).

Downs, Michael, host. "Nick Land Explains the Numogram". 30 June 2025.

Downs, Michael, host. "Nick Land Responds to Tucker Carlson". 7 Oct. 2025.

Durand, Cédric. *Techno-féodalisme: Critique de l'économie numérique*. Zones, 2020.

Eshun, Kodwo. *More Brilliant than the Sun: Adventures in Sonic Fiction*. Quartet Books, 1998.

"Evil Scenius?: Reflecting on the Mythology of Nick Land". *Xenogothic*, 19 Feb. 2025.

Fisher, Mark. *Capitalist Realism: Is There No Alternative?* Zero Books, 2009.

Flint, Jim. "Syzygy :: 1999". 0rphan Drift Archive, 26 Feb. 1999.

Hopf, G. Michael. *Those Who Remain*. 2016.

Land, Nick. *Fanged Noumena: Collected Writings 1987-2007*. Edited by Robin Mackay and Ray Brassier, Urbanomic and Sequence Press, 2011.

Land, Nick. "Heidegger's *Die Sprache im Gedicht*". Doctoral thesis, University of Essex, 1987.

Land, Nick. "Hyper-Racism". *Alternative Right*, 4 Oct. 2014.

Land, Nick. "Meltdown". CCRU, 1994.

Land, Nick. *The Dark Enlightenment*. 2012. Imperium Press, 2022.

Land, Nick. *Xenosystems Fragments*. 2023.

Ma, Mike. *Harassment Architecture*. Self-published, 2019.

Mackay, Robin, and Armen Avanessian, editors. *#Accelerate#: The Accelerationist Reader*. Urbanomic, 2014.

Mason, James. *Siege*. 1992 (collected newsletters, 1980 to 1986).

Noys, Benjamin. *The Persistence of the Negative*. Edinburgh University Press, 2010.

Noys, Benjamin. *Malign Velocities: Accelerationism and Capitalism*. Zero Books, 2014.

Reynolds, Simon. "Renegade Academia". *Energy Flash*, 3 Nov. 2009.

Srinivasan, Balaji. *The Network State*. 2022.

Stephenson, Neal. *Snow Crash*. Bantam, 1992.

"Sunset on the Dark Enlightenment: Inside Nick Land's San Francisco Arrival Party". *VICE*, 2026.

Sussman, Gerald Jay. *A Computational Model of Skill Acquisition*. Doctoral thesis, MIT, 1973.

Thiel, Peter. "The Education of a Libertarian". *Cato Unbound*, 13 Apr. 2009.

Tiku, Nitasha. "What billionaire Peter Thiel said in his private 'Antichrist lectures'". *The Washington Post*, 10 Oct. 2025.

Varoufakis, Yanis. *Technofeudalism: What Killed Capitalism*. Bodley Head, 2023.

Wark, McKenzie. "On Nick Land". Verso Blog, 19 June 2017.

Wiener, Norbert. *God & Golem, Inc.* MIT Press, 1964.

Zelazny, Roger. *Lord of Light*. Doubleday, 1967.