

## The Slave

*Pietro Elisei, Vasily Popovich, Manfred Schrenk, Tatiana Popovich, Judith Ryser*

(Dr. Pietro Elisei, President – ExCom member, ISOCARP, Netherlands, elisei@isocarp.org)

(PhD Vasily Popovich, IST BUREAU LLC., vp617616@gmail.com)

(DI Manfred Schrenk, CORP – Consulting Research Projects, 1200 Vienna, Austria, schrenk@corp.at)

(PhD Tatiana Popovich, IST BUREAU LLC., bonixpavlova@gmail.com)

(Arch. Judith Ryser; Urban Thinker, London, UK; judith@urbanthinker.com)

### 1 ABSTRACT

As great modern thinkers have noted, contemporary society faces serious challenges that threaten its identity in our familiar historical sense. One of the greatest challenges is the danger of the return of slavery at this new stage of historical development. All the signs of this return are present. Moreover, this new slavery promises to be far more brutal than previous forms of this social vice and threatens not only physical limitation but also encroaches on the most intimate part – the very soul of man.

In this article, we highlight the signs of modern humans becoming slaves and all the objective and subjective conditions that contribute to this transformation. We also identify the signs of destructive influences on individuals and ways to protect against this state of slavery.

The main subject of our article is the problem of the loss of individuality. We suggest that this is a fundamental component of the process of modern man's transformation into a new kind of slave.

Keywords: philosophy, slavery, digital twins, freedom, digital society

### 2 INTRODUCTION

We have repeatedly returned to the issue of slavery in our previous works [PIETRO Elisei, at all], analysing available sources on this topic. We have not addressed the opinions and judgments of many researchers, sociologists, and ordinary journalists. We were interested in research with a purely philosophical focus, as we are not simply interested in people's "impressions" or "emotions", although these are also very important. We are primarily interested in analytics, i.e., scientific knowledge, which is typically inherent in classical philosophical scholarship. Today, we're seeing the same effect in society we recently observed in computer science: practice outpaces theory. In reality, this isn't true, but that's the appearance. The reason for this is the incredible acceleration of business, the pursuit of profit, which blurs the lines between the classic stages: scientific development, experimental prototype, testing, series production, modernization, and so on. Fierce competition virtually eliminates scientific discussion, as new ideas are intercepted and quickly adopted. Those with fewer morals and familiar human principles gain an advantage. Stealing ideas and copying other people's technology is practically uncritical; it's becoming the norm. Such chaos in business and social life creates a "muddy water" effect, in which those who are simply looking for profit achieve their goals, while the majority does not see or understand what is really going on.

As a result of these new circumstances, we experience two phenomena: the loss of individuality and, based on this, the emergence of slavery at a new stage in the development of civilization. Let's examine these phenomena in more detail.

### 3 LOSS OF INDIVIDUALITY

In our opinion, this idea (the loss of individuality) was well articulated in E. Fromm's work "Escape from Freedom." The enormous pressure that the social environment places on the individual renders them inert to all important challenges that affect them personally. Let's briefly examine the cycle of modern human development, which creates the platform for their transformation into a slave.

#### 3.1 Childhood

Modern families offer little care for their children; parents must work intensively to stay afloat in modern social life. Job loss is practically the end of everything, as modern people are entangled in insurance and loans calculated based on their current employment status for decades to come. In other words, families are held hostage by a bank. Being born into a hostage family is not the happiest childhood. A family that is relatively successful in a slave community has no chance of raising a child who is not a slave, as they have already lost the ability to identify themselves as free people. Numerous examples can be cited here, one of

the most famous being the conflict between the South and the North in the American Civil War. Many slaves fought in the Southern army because they were satisfied with their servitude. They were afraid of losing the meager wealth they had. When serfdom was abolished in the Tsardom of Muscovy in 1861, the former serfs were left lost; they simply didn't know how to live without a master. They were not ready for freedom, for an independent existence.

### **3.2 Nursery, kindergarten**

These are the first social organizations focused on creating social pressures for the ruling class (the top brass). Intensive brainwashing of children begins here. The struggle against individuality begins here. Children are taught to obey blunt orders, not to seek answers, but simply to obey. They are shown that disagreement with the teacher is harshly punished and that it's easier not to think, but to blindly follow what the adult says. There is no point in trying to figure out whether the adult is right or wrong.

### **3.3 High school**

Intensive ideological indoctrination begins. Education is based on approved textbooks, approved by government agencies. In some cases, religious figures and officials are brought in. Children begin to learn to lose not only their freedom but also their souls. Social behaviour patterns are instilled: "the boss is always right", bosses are appointed by superiors, etc. Children are taught to behave in a group based on strict obedience to superiors. They are taught to write denunciations and complaints against their friends and colleagues.

### **3.4 University**

The final stage in creating a social type for society. A student, learning from tests, learns to guess the desires and opinions of his superiors. Knowledge is unnecessary, as it can lead to doubts, which are severely punished. There is no dialogue between students and teachers, as the teachers are former students, uneducated people with slave instincts.

### **3.5 Job**

There are two fundamentally different paths here. The first, and most important, is state corporations that masquerade as business entities. In such state-owned companies, hierarchy degenerates instantly. The manager is "one of our own" and only "one of our own"! Otherwise, how can one control finances? "One of our own" similarly chooses "one of our own". And so it goes, right down to the last official. Competence, education, and experience are purely for show, just to tick a box in one's personal file. A frenzy of power struggles ensues, both horizontally and vertically. Depending on one's "origin", each official's vertical ceiling is determined. The second category, rapidly declining, are private companies with businesses independent of state corporations. These companies are a liability to state corporations, but due to their small financial size and inability to attract large financing, they naturally disappear from business undetected, although, due to certain legislation, they are often created or "acquired" (i.e., taken over) to allow senior officials to dissipate funds and steal, without their superiors noticing.

## **4 THE EMERGENCE OF SLAVERY**

People who have lost their individuality are practically ready-made slaves. The absence of individuality is practically a loss of freedom, since it is of no use to a person who has not identified themselves as an individual. They are members of a herd, not a wild one, but an artificially created one, a domestic one, where everything depends on the master. Very little remains to fix the slave's position. It's also worth noting that instead of a slave-owning system, today we have states where there are no slave owners: everyone is a slave. Regardless of their formal governmental roles – the president, members of the government, and other officials – they are all just as much slaves as the general population. This is due to the fact that the real owners are not always located within the state; their location, like their names, is carefully concealed. Thus, we have a state whose citizens own nothing. And even if they do formally own something, it can easily be taken away due to the lack of effective legislation and corresponding state institutions for which private property is a sacred concept. In other words, a modern slave society is a unique formation, one that many in power strive for, not realizing that such a state is only beneficial to them when they represent power. However, since they are essentially "overseers" and do not represent real power, as they lack it, they can at

any moment become the most reviled slaves, with all the ensuing consequences. For a slave state to exist, basic but immutable elements are necessary: provision of food necessary for survival and basic social amenities: housing, primitive medicine, and the semblance of entertainment. Periodic “executions” (frequent announcements of the exposure of corrupt officials, traitors, foreign agents, etc.) are also a necessary attribute. The population must be afraid; many people must be imprisoned and sent to concentration camps. The number of people with higher education should be reduced, because they pose a potential danger – freethinking.

## **5 POTENTIAL DANGERS OF MODERN SLAVERY**

Modern slavery transforms humans into primitive creatures, worse than any other animal. The modern slave loses their pre-established, natural instincts, inherent to animals, and gains nothing meaningful in return. Such a being becomes a completely unexpected phenomenon, possessing a whole host of unexpected properties.

### **5.1 Simple logic**

The absence of simple logic at the level of first-order predicates. A slave cannot establish cause-and-effect relationships. He cannot understand the connection between phenomenon and essence. Thus, he can only follow commands. A slave society requires instructions from outside. It (society) cannot exist on its own, as it quickly degrades.

### **5.2 Orders**

The slaves’ tendency to follow orders exclusively is greatly appreciated by their top managers. But this joy is short-term. Following orders exclusively quickly takes the form of an “Italian strike”. A lack of initiative and creativity kills all social and production processes. Slaves are incapable of producing even the most basic things. They can only repeat, and even then, only with the help of competent supervisors and a brutal repressive machine.

### **5.3 Main motto**

The slave’s main motto – “I’m like everyone else” – creates a disregard for their own lives. Slaves can die en masse during repressions or military operations, without much thought to what’s happening. It is enough for the phenomenon to be widespread.

### **5.4 Delayed effect**

The appearance of calm and control in society inevitably leads to a social explosion, characterized by exceptional cruelty and even more massive, senseless repression, this time by rebellious slaves. The main prerequisite for such an explosion is the absence or sharp decline of basic living conditions: affordable food, relatively comfortable living conditions (water, electricity, heat).

### **5.5 The learning disability effect**

This effect is increasingly common among young people under 40. It essentially means that after a certain age, a person loses the ability to learn. Having climbed a simple social ladder (family, kindergarten, school) based on repetition, guessing, and testing, a person is no longer able to learn as was previously the case. Textbooks and literature are no longer a source for developing such qualities as understanding. A person simply memorizes, but is unable to interpret the information and knowledge they receive. They can study instructions, but they need someone to show them how to act using an example. Then they will remember the example. Change the conditions slightly, and they are unable to apply their knowledge.

### **5.6 Artificial Intelligence**

The widespread use of technologies collectively known as AI has had a profound impact on the entire modern industrial manufacturing industry. As with any large-scale phenomenon, there are positive and negative aspects. The positive aspect is a significant increase in the speed and quality of creating new computer products. There has been a significant reduction in the number of unskilled employees, software developers, and so-called “coders”. The negative trend manifests itself in the illusion that AI can do everything. People begin to blindly believe everything generated by a neural network. Critical analysis is

impossible for the reasons discussed above. Thus, modern AI burrows modern people even deeper into the quagmire of slavery. There is no need to think, just ask. Considering the fact that neural networks can be “corrected” as easily as Wikipedia, for example, the extent of the danger becomes obvious.

## 6 CONCLUSION

We have very briefly examined the problem of slavery in the modern world. Signs of this shameful phenomenon were ubiquitous in the past, and they persist in modern society. The extent of this presence varies greatly both historically and by region and historical traditions. The natural question arises: “What is to be done?” In our opinion, the main lever for influencing humanity’s slide into a new era of slavery is raising the level of education, moving away from test-based learning, and weakening the pursuit of profit. The first point is raising the level of education. Easy to say, but difficult to do. The first reason for the difficulty is where to find teachers? When you have easy access to information, it is very difficult to motivate people to acquire new knowledge independently and learn to think. Business requirements also arise here. Problems must be solved faster than competitors. A whole system of contradictions arises. Even now, leading companies are demanding the use of AI in software development, as it has a number of advantages. The AI subsystem seeks ready-made solutions that have already been tested and proven. A modern programmer (not a coder) needs to select a suitable option that is insured against gross errors and inaccuracies. But over time, the programmer will increasingly lose their skill in choosing the appropriate option, as they will have no basis for their choice, as they have not done it themselves and do not fully understand what is going on. Eventually, they themselves will become irrelevant. Thinking that AI will be able to offer you a suitable option in every case is a grave misconception. Such a system is even theoretically impossible (see K. Gödel’s theorem on the incompleteness and inconsistency of axiomatic theories containing natural arithmetic). The obvious conclusion is that such global AI networks will inevitably degrade and ultimately lead to complete collapse. There will be no one to fix or edit them. The second thesis is to stop the relentless pursuit of profit. This is a very difficult question, since it means introducing some kind of artificial regulation into business, which in turn is fraught with negative consequences. This cannot be achieved without coordinated cooperation among key players in the global economy. Despite the obvious difficulties, there is no doubt that decisions will be made and the problems outlined in this article will be resolved.

## 7 REFERENCES

- Pietro Elisei, Vasily Popovich, Tatiana Popovich, Manfred Shrenk, Judith Riser. Dynamic of Conscious, Individual and Collective Unconscious. CORP 2025, Proceedings/, – <https://www.corp.at>. Graz, Austria, 14-16 April 2025
- Pietro Elisei, Vasily Popovich, Tatiana Popovich, Manfred Shrenk, Ivan Griaznykh. Digital Human. Introduction. CORP 2024, Proceedings/Tagungsband, – <https://www.corp.at>, 15-17 April 2024
- Pietro Elisei, Vasily Popovich, Tatiana Popovich, Manfred Shrenk, Ivan Griaznykh. Digital Space of a Human. From Philosophy to Computer Science. CORP 2024, Proceedings/Tagungsband, – <https://www.corp.at>, 15-17 April 2024
- Pietro Elisei, Darinka Golubovic-Matic, Vasily Popovich, Tatiana Popovich, Manfred Shrenk, Vladimir Shutkov, Artem Zagvozdkin. Intelligent Social Network. CORP 2023, 18-20,, Ljubljana, Slovenia. September, 2023
- Erich Fromm. Escape from Freedom – Philosophical arkiv, Nyköping (Sweden), 2016. – 231 pp. ISBN 978-91-983073-5-1
- , 1951, "Some basic theorems on the foundations of mathematics and their implications", in Solomon Feferman, ed., 1995. Kurt Gödel Collected works, Vol. III, Oxford University Press, pp. 304–323. ISBN 978-0195147223.