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Critique of Politics
Numbers 8, 9, & 10

and the

Dark Frontiers of
War In the Future

Strategikon

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Strategos Procurator

In these days, now less than three weeks before the 2020 general elections, the atmosphere of the United States feels far too tense, and too rigid; and the air smells of an explosive compound about to erupt in a volcano of senseless mayhem, chaos, and troubles. Hopefully, wiser heads and truer counsels will allow the country to avoid violence of any unnecessary type. But add any catalysts of careless stupidity by the fringes of all sides, and a dangerous situation for the country would explode. No one can predict the future, of course, since no one knows what will happen for certain. On the other hand, like all throughout the history of humanity's records on earth, things will inevitably happen, some big things, indeed. Whether good or bad, no one knows.

Hopefully, people will still care about the important things once the election ends. We must have some faith that the process of choosing leaders works its way out, peacefully, toward a stable result. Those important things? Those things of timeless values: Taking care of ourselves and our families, friends, and neighbors, first and foremost. To seek the facts, understand them thoroughly from all angles and perspectives, and base any individual and community action on the best outcomes and circumstances for as many people as possible, remains our unofficial motto in Cepiaclub. We come closer to the state of historical developments when even more people need to adopt our motto, and to live their own mission to make the world a better place than they found it. In these perilous times, please use reason, logic, caution and empathy to guide your actions.

In this issue of Strategikon, we offer the views and insights that might help inform our readers' understanding of the things that happen now and might happen over the course of further human events. Again, not even I can predict the future! I wish I could. But our features in this Autumn 2020 issue can at least help readers interpret the events unfolding, for their own information and subsequent action. Stay vigilant! Stay sharp! Stay Aware! And stay calm!

Remember also, that good must triumph over evil, always. But good people must go into the darkness to bring the light of peace, love, truth, and liberty—all desirable goals, otherwise the evil will persist. While no one—NO ONE—can truly grasp the enormity of the unfolding events, or even the true, root causes of them, we must act with what we know now, not with what we wish we would know later. So let the first step following the path of redemption for the world come from our still-hammering mantra these twenty-five years, like a skipping compact disc: Use peaceful means to bring positive change. So, inform yourselves and get active for the entire future, not just for another bitter political campaign!! The time has arrived.



Thank you,
Tim Krenz
Editor & Publisher
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Critique of Politics #8: Diversions and Wedging: Civil Discord and the Moral Bankruptcy of States

By Tim Krenz

Anyone who owns any kind of power has one goal before all others: Hold on to that power! The nature of that power contains within it the power to make choices, for self or for others, depending on the nature of the system. If humans submit to the laws of nature and of nature's god, then the liberty to choose among a larger range of alternatives translates into a higher and wider scope of liberty for the most people. Hence, the freest and widest choices available for as many citizens as possible means a much freer civil society than if only one person or a few of them made all the decisions for others. The more liberty for individuals to choose has usually meant a more just, and a wiser, system of government within which all must live together.

Of the same coin, powers for a leader or powers for the masses of individuals come with very definite responsibilities for that gift of liberty in nature's laws. Those duties include: to do good for the most people at the same time; to protect from any harm whatsoever the young, the old, the sick, and the infirm, and all who cannot protect themselves; to allow others the same freedoms, liberty, and choices one demands for oneself; and to assert and defend the principles of one's own sense of right and wrong for the benefit of the whole society. Failing any of these measures of duty for a stable, free, just and enduring public trust, then that civil society cannot last long as a free, self-governing system for all citizens. In that case, the society becomes the playground of the few most powerful at the expense of the rest. Furthermore, ignoring any of these requirements a free society needs to cope and manage conflicts and change, then that failed experiment in free society will face its own, and terminal, moral bankruptcy. That society will collapse swiftly, dangerously, violently, and indefinitely.

With the ambitions to maintain control of political power while delaying the mass recognition of moral bankruptcy in the society, diverting and dividing the public becomes the single most effective and efficient means for leaders to extend the fiction of both their control over events and the solvency of their rule.

Almost everyone may have heard of "panem et circenses," the Latin phrase for "bread and circuses." Roman rulers of the patrician and Praetorian ranks gave the plebians (the masses) subsidized grain for cheap bread and plenty of addicting entertainment. Keeping bellies full and distracting the public's attention from critical issues and events worked until the shatteringly swift collapse of the Western Roman Empire as a coherent entity. The breads and circuses diverted the attention from the internal decay, with grain and games itself part of the decay encouraging the ignorance and apathy of the public.

The Romans and their Byzantine brothers in the Eastern Empire also used a policy of "divide et impera," or "divide and rule" or "divide and conquer." In this logical construction of the foreign and domestic policies of the great political

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powers, rulers keep the enemy (the competition), and even their own subjects and citizens in constant conflict between each other. This leaves the opposition weak and the ruling power(s) stronger. Rulers know that if the opponents of any institution or party ever unified by common ideals or alliances of convenience, the power that rules or the elite few that support them would have a more difficult time defending or justifying their reign of power. At that stage, like France at the beginning of their revolutionary and Napoleonic eras, the ancient regimes of the old power(s) would collapse, suddenly, due to their moral bankruptcy.

With diversions, modern nation states bring updated and sophisticated breads and circuses to their heights. Anything to distract the public works to the advantage of the power that rules. The Nazis in Germany named Joseph Goebbels' grand institution the Reich Ministry of Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda for very sound reasons—effectiveness and efficiency. The ministry both diverted attention from Nazis crimes against people and kept the Nazi faithful followers supportive, and eventually complicit, in those very same crimes. Now the world even surpasses the Twentieth Century's superlative tool of diversion, the television, with the combined effects of the near-instant internet, massive free content, and, ironically, subscribed on-demand programming.

Modern politics with weapons of mass manipulation refines the divide and rule/conquer methods of old. While chipping away at the legal means and ethical standards of moral dissent, and with a promotion of a mass conformity, a new, partly voluntary coercion of the public trust has crept into political dialog. This silent bomb in a very quiet war of dividing nations uses the “wedge” weapons in the modern divide et impera. The wedging principle used by influential institutions forms two distinct groups, neither willingly powerful enough to displace the other, but both benefiting from the absence of other choices that could undermine the two dominant factions. It has drawn distinct lines, defining one side and the other. More options would weaken the two ruling sides, because the third or other choices could shift some alliances of principle or interests. Oddly, and truly, the leaders of two sides have more in common with each other than they do with the rank and file members of their factions.

Wedging issues abound. Look near and far, and a thoughtful, critical, open-minded citizen can see it. Some of the more obvious ones: abortion, immigration, private firearms, socialism versus capitalism, liberalism or conservatism, force versus sanctions, war versus diplomacy, the struggle with Islam (and over Israel), and the many-sided problems of race, sex, religion, income, age, and health discrimination. These wedge issues exist not just in North America, but world-wide. It has become all too convenient for rulers everywhere to have such neat piles on each side. Why? Effectiveness and efficiency.

Maintaining diversions and sustaining wedges in the public—and avoiding deeper examinations of motives and consequences—creates a far too dangerous situation for a free society to survive with ease. Drawing lines pushes all but the rulers into an “Us or Them” mentality. Really, the issue should come down to “We!”: United, for freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, freedom from fear, and freedom from want. With a “WE” identity, the rulers can rightfully become the “THEY” who oppress and steal our liberty of self and our choices!

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Can a society self-govern itself, without a few who think they should make our choices for the mass majority? How well has self-government ever before worked? The people of the world and all nations have choices to make. The problems will not leave on their own account. Neither will the manipulations of leaders to stay in power for themselves change much unless something drastic happens. When it happens, if it does, indeed, it will come suddenly, brutally, and at great cost.

The present dilemma exists because people take too much of their own opinion too seriously, (like myself) and fail to understand that politics, governing, liberty, and the future of humankind do not have clean and neat answers.

Democracy, that great last hope for the American republic to resolve its differences, allows citizens to reconcile and cooperate, to manage a peaceful resolution of conflict and change. Unfortunately, people forget or just resent the fact that other people get to vote, too. Voting, a choice made, preserves liberty, especially when the losing side has incentive to remain loyal in opposition. A winner who wants to take all will end up taking all liberty from everyone, except from themselves. Stay forewarned. And hold on to your power! WE need it.



Critique of Politics #9: The Opinion Complex: And the Revolt by Self-Awareness

By Tim Krenz

No state can exist without the support of its people. No government can function without the consent of its citizens. Buttrussing that support and consent depends on personal opinion. In politics, opinions mean everything, because ultimately opinions determine decision-making, by the individual, a factional group, and the leadership class. What we chose to believe, even notwithstanding facts or contrary to that belief, or the proportion of good or bad a belief may cause, those beliefs affect actions, policy, and the very realities of politics with which we must contend in the future. Change can happen, peacefully at that, if everyone sees things more clearly, associates with facts, and acts on the gift of thinking.

How people form their own opinion depends a great deal on experiences, sources, environments, and expectations. And whether people make wise or poor decisions reflects a process of rational minds and emotional appeals. Having made these statements implies no prejudice for or against anyone's opinion-making and decisions. Political (and economic) decisions just get made that way—no matter how rational we think we make choices or how deluded we think other people might make their own.

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But, we must understand some very fundamental points about political opinions, choices, decision-making, and their effects. First, no one person has all omniscient knowledge about everything—especially about politics. Second, no one has a perfect solution to everything or even anything in the political-economy. Third, no one has any opinion of any real value to other people, whether benign or helpful. We cannot choose what others think. Fourth, we all have imperfect opinions at the beginning and at the end of all political discussions, and therefore, we all make less than perfect political choices—in every instance and no matter what(!).

Why should we accept these four points? Because all political decisions ultimately involve trades with the less than ideal circumstances. Furthermore, the inherent nature of political (and economic power) forces others to live according to the standards and dictates of others, often by the coercion, force, theft, and violence of the state and its government. These four deadly sins of politics eventually make the power of the state and the governing apparatus of states unsustainable. If so, and if nature's god has justice, then centralized and enforced politics made from the top to the lowest denominator can have no place in the future if the world and its inhabitants want peace, prosperity, protection, and property. Therefore, within the bounds and norms of behavior, and in the normative range of political terms of debate, we will proceed to explore the nature of the state and of governments, and why the potential of individual opinions can change everything wrong in the present with a promising future if the world takes action.

As stated above, no state can exist without the support of its people. No government can function without the consent of its citizens. To define these terms, we call a state that which encompasses the territory and population of a country, one subject to or even in submission to the rules of the sovereign. In the United States of America, the state operates as a federal power, with powers shared by the central and the subsidiary states. The state has such dominion over its land and people, and the arrangement of powers between the center and the other states regulate and even define the political-economic relationships of the people and their interests. In these United States, the confederal state originated from Declaration of Independence in 1776, and became federal in 1789 with the implementation of the constitution. With the 1787 written constitution, the people as a whole hold the sovereignty, a form of ultimate power, authority, and legitimacy. Because of this, we call the United States a republic. (For example, a monarchy places the sovereignty in a king, a queen, or a prince of some kind—the opposite of a republic. Also, a group of states, like the original thirteen, held the sovereignty both individually and collectively under the articles of Confederation—hence the union of states).

When we define a government, we mean that sort of institutional resolution of processes, rules, regulations, and laws, for managing the affairs on behalf of the state, primarily a state's financial collections, management and payments, of and for the people under its control. Ideally, governments take under its care the civil order and protection of those it considers citizens. The state and its people give governments—whether elected, appointed, or assumed—the power to function on its behalf. This power represents the concentration or even the factional competition of groups of individuals behind common goals. Many different systems of government exist, and each operate according to its own rules. In the United States of America, the government of federalism comes from a written and amended constitution. It uses a system of elections of ballots cast by qualified electors. Hence, we call this system of government a democracy, even if we define

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the state as a republic. These terms, while exclusive of each other, do not contradict themselves. Even a country with a monarchy, like Great Britain, functions as a democracy, albeit with an unwritten constitution.

States and governments require one thing each more than any other to function: Legitimacy to call it a state and the consent of the people for governing it. When rulers of a state or leaders of a government fail to protect their people, or oppress them or abuse or murder them, people have revolted, in some ways peacefully and in other ways violently. This rebellion against the sovereign state or the institution of government has happened in significant times and in significant countries: in North America in the eighteenth century, France also then, and many times later, and Russia twice in the twentieth century.

Loyalty supports a state, if that state does its land and people good. Popular opinion supports governments when governments perform competently. Remove any benign the natures of the state, and if governments manage badly, then people and citizens change them. It takes enough people, of a common opinion, whether an opinion that does good or creates mischief, to withdraw their endorsement from the state and from the government to bring a better condition of state (or no state) and a better, more responsive government.

In a republic that practices democracy, opinion matters. So often in modern times, with the nature of time, the media, distraction, greed, fear, and misinformation, the differences of opinion make for disorder and disunity—indeed a general weakness of the body politic. Remember the four sins of political opinion above? It takes a broad aggregate of a large sampling of opinion to find the common denominator in a political policy or action. But such common points of reference exist—even today. We must always watch for those vendors of hate on both sides of the two-party question. On television, on social media, and in public places, many leaders of social, cultural, economic and political organizations want to influence other people's opinions, and by default keep themselves in control by controlling options and what they want people to hear, see, believe, and choose between only two sides.

A society that recognizes only elite opinion-makers sows its own seeds of self-destruction. I ask readers to remain skeptical of everything in the world of politics, this article included. Question anything and everything. Forming an opinion takes work and an effort to discern the reality, and not just casual glances at feeders, headers, headlines, and titles. And what could we do with enough people making better opinions, not adopting someone else's opinion, and coming to clearer conclusions? We could very well withdraw legitimacy from the failing state and withdraw support from the government that serves elite interest. We can do better without the force, fraud, coercion and violence they need to exercise to stay in control. Opinions matter. Inform yours more rigorously. Then, ACT on it.



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The Critique of Politics #10: Party of One: Self-activism and Saving Humanity

By Tim Krenz

We live in a complex age. And like all ages, the complexity only increases, especially in the politics. As in most things in life, politics inevitably multiplies the questions we should ask. Furthermore, people need to know the type of questions to ask, first, before trying to answer anything. I have a question, to start this essay: “How can the United States of America stay free and united, with the most liberty for everyone, protecting all forms of their property, while eliminating the threat or use of force or other coercion that would cause violence and destruction?”

Complex times, and direct questions, require simple answers. In this tenth critique of politics, we will examine the different consequences looming of not satisfactorily answering the question above, and then exploring how rather average individuals hold the key to solving most political problems. In looking at plain people and their ability, we shun any reliance on a leader, a political organization, or a party or a faction. The United States, not too surprisingly, stands at a cross roads, an intersection between its fate as a major power in the world, vis-a-vis China and its clients, and in its form as a republic under a constitution and laws, and in the place of democracy in the future world. We require everyone, every citizen, to bring their convictions, their ethics, their decisions, and their actions in the civic realm. And every citizen must play its role not in a conventional and passive participation of voting on occasion, as it suits them. For the change needed must involve everyone, as individuals.

Several catastrophes or combinations of them, could cause fatal ruptures in the political future of the US: A breakdown of the shared structure of powers, between state and central federal authorities; a massive credit and finance collapse, including sovereign debt repudiation; famine, resulting from any number of environmental and economic catalysts; civil disturbance or insurrection following an election, or another event of unintended consequences; a war somewhere involving the US, which might include nuclear weapons; an epidemic of natural or weaponized origin. Even if seemingly improbable, these events all hold the realm of the possible. All the above events, however, can cause immense harm, especially without a unified populace working together to eliminate the danger, mitigate their effects, or recover in their aftermath. In a complex age, unexpected events also happen. A nation plans for these and other possibilities. But who, actually, suffer them? The very same population that allows the worse of their nightmares to come true, if only from the ignorance and apathy of how their division and hatreds make all things worse—past, present, and future.

The greatest weakness in the current politics comes from the two things people in our connected age seem to hate to do: Staying quiet long enough to listen to others, and second, having to calmly discuss their differences with people opposed to them. In more than one way, listening skills and person-to-person conversations of depth and breadth, both hold the key to answering the question of this essay: “How can the United States of America stay free and united, with the most

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liberty for everyone, protecting all forms of their property, while eliminating the threat or use of force or other coercion that would cause violence and destruction?”

Most often, people want the government or political factions to solve their problems, in their rather graceless forms as a bad acting troupe dance at a theater of absurd egos. We should have never relied on them. We should never now or again. For in the case of listening and dialog, as President Reagan would have said, “Government IS the problem.” The solution relies on principle, and effort, by the individuals and not on a government creating a task force or spending money it does not have. The core foundation of the listening and dialog starts at the bottom rung of civics: Where you sit marks where you will have to make your stand.

How? As implied above, we live in a complex age and one that seems to talk loud, chatter aimlessly, and voice its indignation at others (especially those in opposition). And, after a length of a short time, that just becomes so much more like noise—a dull, deafening hum, directed at people, and done so forcefully to make them submit. If we diagnose this political disease correctly, without immunity by anyone, we might call it more of a listening problem, a debility to want to hear ourselves talk instead of learning what other might know or wonder. But this civic deafness comes NOT in not hearing other people's opinions. For after all, the opinions make that dull static. What exactly do we not hear? Of what do we not hear enough? Simply, in this complex age, like any complex age, we do not hear the questions that need asking. Without those, we never arrive at the bigger issue of understanding the real questions we need to ask.

In suffering this breakdown in conversation and the art of listening, the division of opinions only increase into more groups that political elites, business giants, social icons, and cultural manipulators can more easily manage to their own, exclusive and profitable advantage. Never mind answers, yet. The questions matter more at this stage. Mine in refrain: “How can the United States of America stay free and united, with the most liberty for everyone, protecting all forms of their property, while eliminating the threat or use of force or other coercion that would cause violence and destruction?”

When Herodotus, the ancient Greek, invented the discipline of history, he labeled it “historia,” partly meaning “inquiry.” And later in ancient Greece, Socrates (brought to us via the writings of Plato) rarely offered opinions in his dialog with numerous pretenders and sophists. Instead, he asked questions of them to narrow down their meanings and beliefs. Shame on those fools who would not stand up to scrutiny. Inter-personal conversation, not any super-media, might make questioning and listening, listening and questioning, the better media for understanding things, especially in the age of complexity. Instead of groups of political-opinionated people preaching to and congratulating each other, perhaps they should approach opposing groups and ask some rather simple questions and then actually listen. They can demand the same courtesy. The questions might come out like this:

“What do you need to happen which we can give you, provided you give us what we need? What do you want from us that we can deliver for a trade from you? If we do this for you, what can you do for us? Can we agree to live together, unified and in peace, or go our own ways, in peace?”

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This type of asking questions and listening to the answers, not by politicians but by real people who have to abide by the process, or suffer the consequences, might find common ground. And honestly, it might not. At least then, the little differences between real people (NOT political, business, social, and cultural elites) get narrowed and settled where they can. The dialog, the conversation itself, might reveal more similarity of our plight than otherwise thought. At least, it begins the one thing all individuals need: To identify that elites have little in common with them, at the core of convictions and actions. Common people have common problems. Elites identify with each other. And, in the end, if the individual to individual or group to group dialog solves nothing else, it solves the question of how to disagree amicably and they might find a way of living peacefully despite the division. No one knows until they have the courage of their own knowledge by asking the very, very hard question of consciousness: What do I believe and why?

This process of each person simply becoming a party of themselves in the mix of the complex age might seem unlikely now. It can get done. And it must, and inquiry and its history can then continue.



Dark Frontiers of War in the Future

Part I: Informed Command

By Tim Krenz

Wars have always had direct cost, deadly costs, on peoples in the zones of conflict. Where wars once could limit themselves in their damage within a geographic area, in the zones of conflict that political choices declared as combat areas or theaters of war, wars in the 21st Century will make a massive expansion in their affects, both in terms of geographic range and direct impact on non-combatants.

Since the invention of nuclear weapons married to long-range delivery systems, the entire globe became a potential war zone in a general war involving such weapons systems. Beneath the specter of nuclear Armageddon, people everywhere remain under the implied threat of total and unrestrained destruction. A mix of diplomacy, economics, geography, and culture, combined with fear, threat and deterrence, thus far has saved humanity from drowning and choking in the sour milk and bitter honey of its harvest of science for war.

Now, in the era of a new, dark frontier of potential conflict, with yet another technical level of weaponry in development and early deployments, even in a so-called conventional war without nuclear-derived explosives, people everywhere stand in even more risk from modern war. While the technology advances, the zones of conflict have not necessarily expanded by political choices. Yet, the dark frontier of war in the new era of weapons casts its shadow over those directly within and those far removed from the active theaters of war or even lesser, ill-defined conflicts.

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How the near-term conflicts play themselves out put everyone, everywhere at risk as potential casualties and victims of policies that start, fight, and finish war as a political choice. What does the new Dark Frontier of warfare mean? How does it compare with the old? What counter-measures can stop these new weapons of today and tomorrow? How does it affect non-combatants?

To describe these new technical additions to the old problems of arms, one can look at them within the framework of model based on four concurrent levels or divisions of war fighting: Informed Command, Smart Base, Stealth Fires, and Connected Maneuver.

The first division in the model, Informed Command, represents the deciding brain, the moral willpower, and the intellectual gifts that fight a conflict to its inevitable conclusion. In the past, one supreme person gave the motive and intelligent purpose to their army. Kings like Alexander the Great, Frederick the Great, the Emperor Napoleon, or a constituted and commissioned commander like General Washington, could use their singular abilities to directly command and control their army. At those relatively primitive times with the available technology, one person could exercise such authority and genius to command their forces and direct them to the objective of a victory.

With the rise of national armies, the staff system of technicians and specialists, beyond the assistants of the kings and supreme commanders, gave the single power of a commander greater scope to exercise their decisions, their moral willpower, and the intellectual plan over larger and larger forces using more complex technology. And this command and control spread over greater geographic areas, with all efforts engaged in operations and local combat, all still working toward the singular overriding aim in war—the victory over the enemy's powers of resistance.

Currently, the Informed Command model uses a staffing system, but utilizing even greater advances in technology to do so. The command functions of modern armed forces have moved even beyond the simple technicians of war, like a Ludendorff using the analog systems of war to direct operations. Command has become digitized. In networks of systems that still rely on the single will of power as its guiding light, and a staff to implement plans and execute actions, the Informed Command has morphed to include remote sensors, near-instantaneous communications, and technical, even social means of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

For lack of a more precise term, the current command system gets labeled here by the acronym “C4ISR” (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance). Its purpose remains the same as with a single king or officer and the analog staff of technicians directing operations. However, now that new levels of technology have expanded beyond the limits of simply digitizing an analog war of fighting and killing enemies, the next dark frontier of war makes it both logical and feasible to proceed.

The next step in Informed Command will come in the form of Cyber-Bionics, a union of soldier and higher authorities, where machines that enhance physical human capacities combine with near artificial intelligence interfacing for increasing the combatants ability to achieve objectives. With quicker thinking and action and much greater tempo of both

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understanding situations and exploiting opportunities, the advantages clearly points the way ahead. In a way, generals become grunts and *vice versa*. As a practical union of man and machine for making more effective war, but absolutely not as some sci-fi robot zombie, humans harnessing machines and nuanced digital thought-enhancing awareness pose all manners of moral and ethical, and legal, and even health questions, in their creation and employment. If it helps to win wars, it has a logic for proceeding. Hence, comes the danger with this particular dark frontier of warfare in the near future.

As a counter-measure, a physical and intellectual way of defeating cyber-bionics, bio-viruses and network viruses both represent feasible means of defense. Such counter-measures allow a defender, or an attacker, to disable the Informed Command function of the enemy, which can lead to the opponents overthrow. A series of viral attacks that could infect larger populations or networks, while winning a war, definitely pose serious problems.

Some questions, in terms of international and domestic law and even public health, arise in the use of such counter-measures. Also, game theory of the type developed for nuclear operations come into play. A pre-emptive use of a viral counter-measure reflects a counter-force nuclear strike to disable, or deter a larger retaliation by, enemies. Also, a second strike retaliation, again as in nuclear game theory, on a scale of massive destruction to populations or networks, also comes into the mix of deterring the use of Cyber-bionics in modern war. Whether it involves such complex rationalized thinking or international treaties on the use of biological or cyber weapons (the latter sure to come in the future), the effects on populations of such counter-measures to destroy an enemy pose the greatest dangers of all in the new Informed Command structures of armed forces.



Dark Frontiers of War in the Future

Part II: The Smart Base of Orbital Dominance

By Tim Krenz

In part one of this series we examined the changes for waging war due to scientific development and technical advances. The first article introduced the four concurrent levels or divisions of war fighting in the Next Frontiers model: Informed Command, Smart Base, Stealth Fires, and Connected Maneuver. Specifically, we surveyed the Informed Command through history, and also that level's dark frontier in the union of cyber-bionics, and the implications of that union and its counter-measures.

In this part, we will survey the history of another division, the Smart Base, and the dark frontier of Orbital Dominance. We will do so according to the same criteria as the previous article. What does the Dark Frontier mean? How does it compare with the old? What counter-measures can stop these new weapons of today and tomorrow? And how does it affect non-combatants.

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In the dark frontier model, Smart Base gets defined as getting weapons systems and their operating personnel to the decisive points in the battle space, and to sustain them there, and move them forward until enemy resistance ceases. When it comes down to an understanding of a smart base function, “strategy equals (=) logistics.”

People may often forget the proper departure point where leaders choose a political policy and make a decision to wage war. Policy then should never separate itself physically or morally from the actual the battle space. For at that point, the other webs of strategy (like the Smart Base concept), and the tactical and operation functions all join toward the success or failure that political policy decision by military acts. Nothing happens in warfare without extreme physical cost and a high moral-intellectual effort

Supreme physical-logistic efforts cost premium prices. And to avoid intellectual or moral bankruptcy in the types of warfare that we will discuss, political policy has to successfully terminate in victory, and has to do so by putting all elements of power together and in the places they will serve most efficiently. That applied power, theoretically, achieves the objective sought in the political decision, but on the other hand, nothing ever occurs according to plan.

Nations implementing a “strategy=logistics” approach use a Smart Base concept traditionally in direct or indirect avenues to achieve political objectives. A maritime strategy—using the world's oceans, with fleets of warships and support ships, seaborne commerce, and the ability to sustain these assets both from and onto land peripheries—made up one kind of Smart Base concept. The best examples of maritime strategy included: ancient Athens, the Roman Empire, and later the Venetian Republic, the British Empire, and the United States throughout most of its history.

Conversely, a Continental “strategy=logistics” approach involved raw land power, armies (and later air forces) designed to dominate neighbors and distant areas accessible to such power. In this example, we see ancient Sparta, the Persian empire, the Byzantine empire, Napoleonic France, Germany after its unification, and the Eurasian colossus of Russia throughout the latter's entire history. All used a predominantly Continental strategy to pursue political objectives in war and peace.

Another Smart Base approach comes from the use of a People's Liberation struggle. Although ancient in its form, dating back to before Roman times, it has a particularly 20th Century flair. The Arab revolt in World War I, led by T.E. Lawrence (“of Arabia), who invented its modern potential, and other low intensity conflicts of the past 100 years have used it. However, the modern master of People's Liberation struggle, Mao Zedong, gave it its firm philosophical and intellectual underpinnings as applied to the realm of modern politics. Using the nationalist mass of people as its material support and mobilized resource, other practitioners like the team of Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap in Southeast Asia used it, brutally, to tame giants.

And oddly, although it involved far less bloodshed than full-scale war, the mahatma Gandhi used the material and manpower mobilization of People's Liberation struggle. As deftly as any general in his non-violent and non-cooperative resistance to free India from British colonialism, Gandhi nonetheless used similar strategic patterns in peace as Mao used

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in war. It gives truth to the idea that not all wars get hot or and not all political conflict gets overly violent.

Presently, the United States uses a hybrid strategy, one we may call Global Positioning, composed of elements of the maritime and Continental “strategy=logistics” system of achieving political goals. As both an active means of war fighting and a deterrent to it, Global Positioning lets the United States' armed forces strike any spot of the globe with relentless power from weapons platforms placed in all areas of the world. Global Positioning has the advantage of deeply impacting nations removed from lesser forms of coercion, and only the United States currently possesses such power to strike anyone, anywhere. Russia, with its nuclear weapons, though not with its conventional arsenal, comes as a close and second rank as the strategic competitor on that level.

The United States controls all battle spaces, outer space, air, land, and sea against any individual nation or small coalition. Only a vulnerability in cyberspace, where weaponized software and hardware remain available to any state and even non-state actors, does United States remain at risk of not achieving political objectives by warfare or peaceful (read: deterrent) means.

Hence, we arrive at the dark frontier of the future: Orbital Dominance, an area now open to any country that can willfully implement the financial or intellectual effort to challenge all others. Orbital Dominance, the Smart Base that uses the ultimate high ground for armed force to control politics on the earth, transcends the current capabilities of nations in low and high earth orbit. Space-based military platforms of the past 60 years got used for defense communications, planetary-wide intelligence gathering, and targeting assistance. They, including nuclear energy, its by products, and other derived weapons applications as both sources of sustainment and counter-measures, will only get improved over time.

At the moment, the United States and Russia lead other nations in using the orbits to enhance terrestrial weapons. However, the Smart Base approach to the militarization of space remains wide open, to nation-states who can make the commitment to challenge U.S. and Russia superiority. The race to get there first with more, in the “strategy=logistics” construct, and to sustain the effort to keep the systems there and battle worthy has only really begun. The race for Space Supremacy only now begins.

The immense expense of researching and building this Smart Base space system creates prohibitive costs for most countries. And not only the weapons systems themselves, but the personnel and earth-bound industrial and military infrastructure to support them, make the project feasible and only a matter of political willpower to invest in it. While treaties make it unlawful for consenting nations to use space as a military zone of conflict, when national survival on earth or a chance to conquer any nation presents itself to radical political actors, consent to treaties means nothing. We see this already in China's development of non-territorial waters in the western Pacific for military uses in its national defense strategy. In this instance, China clearly ignores international legal rulings. Why could not or would not a nation ignore treaty law over militarizing space?

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Space development as an industry does indeed contribute to commercial uses, but does that matter? While one can believe that space research and development can enhance an economy, the earth's people could better use the resources soon devoted to Orbital Dominance for more earthly, more vital and practical investments in humanity's future. And then beyond that, if space-based exploration and exploitation remain in humanity's future, how would one country, or a small group countries controlling the orbit, prove a detriment to humanity's access and use of space to enhance life for people on this planet? These questions clearly point out to themselves the answers we need. In the Orbital Dominance manner of a Smart Base, this division of the dark future of warfare will cast shadows over the future of Earth.



Dark Frontiers of War in the Future

Part III: Stealth Fires and Nanoweapons

By Tim Krenz

In the first two installments of this series, we examined the Next Frontier of Warfare model, specifically the Informed Command and Smart Base functions, as trends coming in armed conflict. As the model and these articles suggest, the Next Frontier will significantly alter the human, and very social, phenomenon of warfare. In this third part, the study undertakes the function of Stealth Fires, and we will discuss how the evolution of weapons in the short- and long-term future endangers civilian populations.

Increasing scientific and engineering breakthroughs rapidly change the means of warfare. Stealth Fires in the forms adapted from nanotechnology will increase war's unpredictable destructiveness. The effects of "Nano-weapons," as we term them, may even change the way humans live on earth, in war or in peace. As with all weaponry, opponents will also try to develop counter-measures to them or to deter their use. But, as with near-open-ended investments in nuclear weapons and their accessories, the cure to nano-weapons may become as deadly as the disease.

Understanding that the fundamentals and principles of war remain the same throughout most of history (e.g. "unity of command," "concentration," "surprise," etc. or "war is a political act"), a brief survey of firepower, called Stealth Fires in the model, will assist the evaluation of the Dark Frontier of nano-weapons. We will use the same criteria here as in parts one and two: What does the Dark Frontier mean? How does it compare with the old? What counter-measures can stop these new weapons of today and tomorrow? And how does it affect non-combatants?

In the dawn of the world, animals including early hominids did not use weapons, but had to grab and grapple with opponents in brute physical survival. From primitive weapons like sticks and stones, to sharpened spears and flint knives, humanity's understanding and exploitation of nature always increased the range and types of weapons used. From

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Neolithic Age to Bronze Age, and Iron Age to Nuclear Age, the secrets of the universe found by the human mind created more precise and more lethal weapons. Ways of killing people multiplied. No progress either, humanity's reasons for armed conflict kept pace with the growth of human fear and greed.

At the level of warfare known as tactics, the goal became victory when meeting the enemy in battle, whether killing him or disconnecting his will to resist force. Tactics came at the tip of the spear, like the Macedonian sarissa or the Roman short stabbing sword, the gladius. Killing or wounding the enemy, or deterring or demoralizing him into submission, meant the difference between winning or losing. Whether for conquest or plunder, the methods have remained consistent. Only the means have changed, from rough rocks to ballistic nuclear-tipped missiles.

To place Stealth Fires in Next Frontier context, the phrase means using a protected “weapon” for delivering a lethal “blow” to the enemy. This same definition applies to armored knights to a hardened missile silo or to a hidden foxhole, all which served their purposes in history. Whether done with layers of physical protection or through deception as protection, the method of using the tactics directly to kill an enemy has also always remained the same. “Hurt the other guy and don't get hurt yourself.”

The means have changed, even within the indirect means of what history calls “missile” weapons. Ancient people made composite materials into bows that shot arrows with such force as to penetrate armor. The Roman Legions used their ballistae, or catapult-type weapons, to great affect to weaken their enemy from a distance before closing in cohorts with the pilum (a type of javelin) and gladius to bloodily cut up their enemy. Impairing and attriting an enemy from a distance with missile weapons before a decisive, full attack remains the norm through history.

Science and engineering advanced. With gun powder came some truly devastating weapons, like cannons shooting cannonballs, also know as artillery (a ballistics, “missile” weapon). The master of war and politics, Napoleon of France, studied as an artillery officer before the Revolution and his ascent to power. He kept large reserves of artillery under his central command in his battles, employing them at decisive points to weaken his enemies, and then launching crushing assaults of infantry and cavalry at those vulnerable spots at precise moments. He called his 12-pounder cannon his “pretty girls,” and he understood cannon artillery in his age as the “god of the battlefield.” He conquered Europe with it, only to lose it for the political failure of not having reliable allies in the end, inside or outside France.

Nothing has really changed about the tactical application of firepower, that means of killing or disabling an enemy and reducing his powers of resistance. Improvised explosives used by terrorist, carpet bombing of cities, or Viet Cong assassinations of school teachers, all use the Stealth Fires definition we describe. Only the extent of those people exposed to the gruesomeness of war has expanded, moving from soldiers to civilians. In the world, whether done legitimately or not, collateral destruction of enemy resistance remains the basis of tactics in warfare. The point remains, whether with limits or without, to put the spear to the enemy to end the war and end the killing. On the other hand, in the political act of war (the social phenomenon), the ends of the goal sought have to match the means used. Otherwise, as with any mass use of nuclear weapons if deterrence fails, no one will survive to claim a victory and everyone ends up exhausted, defeated or

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dead.

In the 21st Century, science has developed a new form of technology, one just as easily converted into weapons with how the research has progressed. Nanotechnology (“nano” meaning small) uses atoms, molecules, and possibly cellular tissue, to create working machines. The principles, understood and adaptable to weapons, will introduce the new Dark Frontier of nano-weapons.

These weapons can take many forms. From select viruses that kill certain enemies with particular genetic codings, to small explosives that can lethally attack parts of the human body (arteries, etc.), to small surveillance devices that guide precision guided munitions from a safe and hidden distance on target, nanoweapons open possibilities as wide as science fiction describes. The real problem with nano-weapons comes in their use under command, whether directed or assisted by humans in remote or close positions, or by “independent intelligence,” as scientists develop the artificial intelligence systems striving to get born.

Nanoweapons can sound like the spear tips of the Theban Sacred Band in ancient Greece or take the expanse of ground zero in Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. They can make killing or even deterring the enemy as selective or broadly indiscriminating as desired by political authorities and military commanders. Beyond the preemptive control of nano-weapons before deployment or full-scale manufacture, counter-measures will also get great attention at the same time. If civilization can find no personally moral or politically ethical means to restrain the development and use nano-weapons, it behooves human kind to explore ways to deter or defeat them. Such counter-measures might include electro-magnetic fields to disrupt them, lights and energy weapons within or outside the visible spectrum, or the use of aerosols and particles in the atmospheres (interiors or exteriors), or anti-nano-weapon-nano-weapons (the most likely)--all and anything that can disable or destroy nano-weapons. Whatever the counter-measures eventually developed, the weapons themselves and the means of stopping them will affect the human life and the world's environment in some way, depending on the scale or degree of use.

Taken as a whole, the Stealth Fires function and the nano-weapons division of the present and future must come with solutions to their use, in the scientific and political field. In the Second World War, the Allies developed the atomic bomb, and the world still does not know what to do with them or how to get rid of them. Wither will we go with nano-weapons? Unless the discussion and debate begins now on preventing their manufacture, their use, or humanity's tendency to kill for greed or fear by means of war, the dark frontiers of human history need the light of day to understand them. Let us talk about the future.



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Dark Frontiers of War in the Future

Part IV: Combined Maneuver

and the Theory of the “Aetherwarenet”

By Tim Krenz

In the preceding three parts of this series, we examined how the evolution of science and technology might change, or already have changed, the methods and weapons for waging war in the present and the near future. In the Next Frontier of Warfare model, we reviewed the sets of Informed Command, Smart Base, and Stealth Fires for understanding this historical and unfinished evolution to its next logical outcome. In this last installment, this series concludes with the discussion of Combined Maneuver, and how this particular application of warfighting arrived at its present threshold for its own, very logical, next step.

Continuing to accept that the fundamentals and principles of war remain the same through the study of human history (e.g. “unity of command,” “maintain the offensive,” “economy of force,” “concentration of force,”), a brief survey of the importance and use of maneuver in warfare will assist our further understanding of the possible “Aetherwarenet” as another dark frontier of conflict. The creation and use of Aetherwarenets, if they become reality, will significantly impact the future of armed conflict and deliver a moment of choice.

Again, this part of the series will use the same criteria heretofore used to examine all the darker aspects of the New Frontiers of Warfare model. What does the dark frontier hold? How well does it compare with old methods? What counter-measures can stop the Aetherwarenets or limit their effectiveness? And how does the entire dark frontier of war affect civilians.

Maneuver in the annals and theories of warfare mean more than just mobility, or the ability to get from one place to another. Combined Maneuver to gain an advantage over the opponent happened in history, and still happens, on foot, by animal transport, by internal combustion vehicles—on the ground, at sea, or in aerospace above the earth's surface. Combined Maneuver using all aspects of military power and reasoning also occurs now in cyberspace, something of great importance to the theory of Aetherwarenets.

The history of maneuver in warfare stretches far back into history. Alexander the Great confronted King Darius III at the Battle of Arbela, in present-day northern Iraq, in the 4th Century B.C. Alexander used his Macedonian phalanx formed in infantry battalions and his cavalry and other auxiliary troops to first stretch and open the Persian line before striking decisively and directly toward the Persian king. With the enemy commanders driven from the field, the Persian army collapsed. Using the combination of brute physical power and a critical factoring of morale, Alexander won his empire.

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Maneuver can happen on a global level, that of transnational policy. In 1990-1991, the United States and many of the coalition partners moved massive amounts of armed forces, equipment, and supplies from two continents (North America and Europe) to a third continent (Asia) in order to defend Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield. The coalition then evicted the Iraqi army from Kuwait in the winter of that year. In its offensive, Desert Storm, the coalition used maneuver to aerial bomb and then go above and around the main Iraqi defenses. Also, maneuver can take place inside a single theater of war, at the strategic level. In 1940-41, Hitler ordered the German armed forces secretly moved from Western Europe to Eastern Europe, to launch a surprise attack against Stalin's Soviet Union in June of 1941.

Maneuver definitely happens at the tactical level of combat. When combined with other strategic maneuver, tactical maneuver in history has some brilliant examples. In 1757, Frederick the Great, the king of Prussia, marched in two opposite directions between widely separated enemies, the French at Rossbach in November and the Austrians in December at Leuthen. He won both battles with a similar tactical maneuver, one made possible due to his highly efficient and extremely well-trained and disciplined army. In the “oblique attack,” as he often tried to do, Frederick marched his army across the front of his enemy's formation to fall on a vulnerable flank, rolling up an opponent's line of battle who's inferior troops could not maneuver to counter the Prussian army's devastating blow.

Maneuver also may occur on the level between the strategic and the tactical, the area of armed conflict the Germans and Soviets labeled the “operational level of war.” On September 15, 1950, United Nations Forces under General MacArthur landed the U.S. 1st Marine and 7th Infantry divisions at a critical point on the west coast of the Korean peninsula at Inchon. As a result of this maneuver, named “Operation Chromite,” North Korean army forces further south disintegrated, breaking their siege of the U.N. Forces defending the perimeter around the port of Pusan. The North Koreans, cut off from supplies and in danger of losing a line of retreat, fled northward and across the 38th parallel. Also in this war two months after Inchon, the Chinese People's Liberation Army successfully and secretly infiltrated large numbers of field army units southward into North Korea. They surprised the U.N. Forces, operating near China's border, and dealt American and allied forces heavy blows by the use of operational maneuver. This surprise maneuver, which exceeded U.N. Intelligence estimates, changed the entire complexion of the war into a stalemate and the war ended with a cease-fire in place in July 1953.

Maneuver in war aims to throw the enemy off balance, both physically and psychologically, at critical points and at critical times—from the global level of policy to the local patrols. As required, maneuver involves agility of both force and mind, of the body or of the command, all in order to defeat the enemy and his plans. In short, maneuver uses friendly skill and strength where it will hurt the other guy most, eventually to destroy him and make him quit. It still involves killing to destroy that enemy's resistance, but maneuver aims to lessen the risk and destruction to one's side all in order to achieve one thing: Victory!

In the Next Frontier model, Combined Maneuver uses all the aspects so far discussed in the previous articles—Informed Command, Smart Base, and Stealth Fires—to drive the other guy to quit or destroy him if he refuses to do his opponent's willful desires. The Next Frontier sees the so-called Aetherwarenets as the most dangerous of all the dark frontiers

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discussed (in order of appearance: Cyber-Bionics, Orbital Dominance, and Nanotechnology).

How does one define and describe Aetherwarenets? In the poetic sense, “aether” took form in the ancient world as the air breathed the Greek gods high on the mountain of Olympus. In early modern history, alchemist theory believed in aether as the mysterious substance which upheld the stars in the sky and allowed electromagnetic waves to travel and it made gravity work.

In the Next Frontier model, the Aetherwarenets takes its name for an imprecise definition of powers neither seen, nor felt, physically or emotionally. They remain hidden and unobtrusive in a normal time until the weapons of this new system of systems reveals themselves as a great shocking surprise. In the evolution of Combined Maneuver, Aetherwarenets arrive in the form of networks of related data-mining systems, near or actual Artificial Intelligence (AI) as predicted by scientist, and the continuous waves of communications devices (in particular, microwave emitters) that overlap most of the globe from the sea to low-Earth orbit. If these hardware and software processes get combined into real military systems, much activity on the planet will become subject to these nets and their political-social /military influence.

Whether simple things like cell phone towers, the aforesaid microwave transmitters, GPS devices, the developing “internet of things”—all of these give a commander the opportunity for near exact “geo-personal” targeting intelligence for instant action with the desired level of force to destroy or neutralize the enemy. It sounds fantastic. Science fiction, even. But in reality, the parts exist for some person or group to bring all of this together into the combat-efficient Aetherwarenet combat system of systems.

How do the nets affect combatants and civilians alike? The highly pure form of targeting intelligence can have algorithms to assess friendly or unfriendly behavior of the party of interest. The command could require further investigation or order near-instant assault, as from a armed drone or nearby unit—destroying or neutralizing the real or perceived threat. With the wider built system of these systems, dispersed combat or “neutralizing” units no longer need to concentrate in one area as much, or they could concentrate friendly units quicker. The systems would see a target and take action before the enemy could concentrate his forces or maneuver them effectively. This saves costs by making the use of dispersed systems more efficient. Less in this sense becomes more in savings.

Depending on the density and penetration of Aetherwarenets, an armed and organized force can shoot down a missile if it detects a launch, and do so automatically without the need for human decision-making. AI makes this a very real and possible scenario. In the now advanced combat arena of cyberspace, the use of AI when it arrives even in basic form becomes a critical battleground, in which the maneuver of hardware and software (i.e. akin to physical and mental force, respectively, in the model) becomes the crisis point in deciding victory or defeat.

The best counter-measures to Aetherwarenets would arise AI-carnivore worms that seek out and destroy the opponents Aetherwarenets, in both the physical and programming realms. Like computers that learn chess by playing each other,

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the Combined Maneuver of these systems and counter-measures becomes a highly calculated and nervous deterrence that outperforms even the most complex human decision-making in game theory. It all depends on one thing: working all of the systems absolutely perfectly all of the time. The effects on people if these systems fail or get used by political leaders to oppress their populations would reach an irretrievable mass, in the wrong direction and against individual freedom. This much we would have to accept as obvious.

As with all of the sets of the Next Frontier of Warfare model, these effects on the present and future of conflict between people and groups come logically and naturally. Like every age that developed something new to help people, the technology often gets used to conduct war, to kill brothers and sisters in humanity. They come naturally, not as accidents, but as deliberate results of policies of human leaders at all levels of conflict and in all stages of history. Where humanity's fear and greed have interposed themselves to create conflict, destruction and very real suffering happens. Whether one person or a group decides on policies, force and coercion will eventually bring the world to a stark brink, where choices become mandatory between some type of near-extinction or survival. It behooves everyone to think, and to act, to not turn on the switch, to calm down, and stay quiet for a few minutes, and start to build solutions in peace, not in war.



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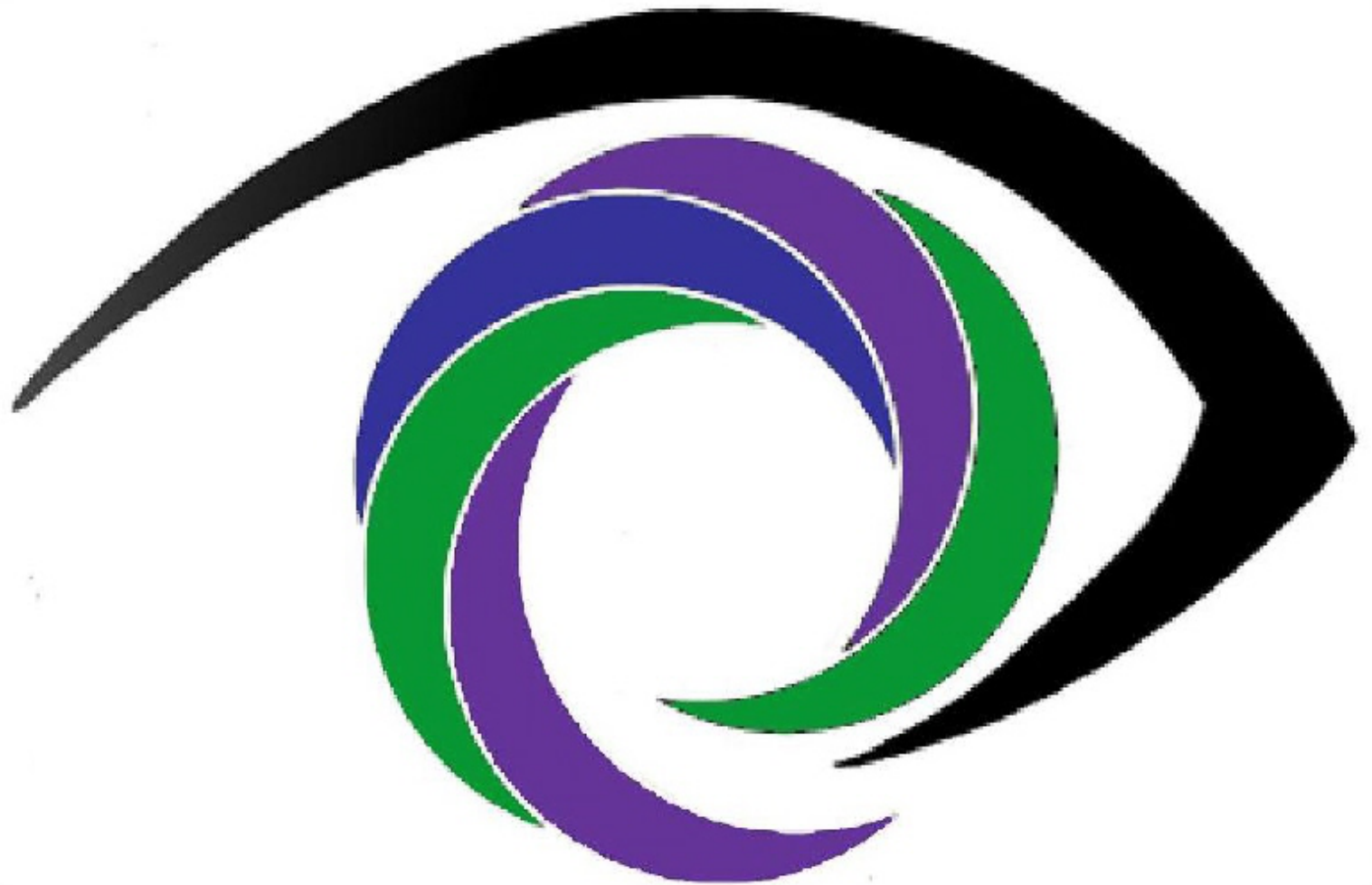
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