

Timeline – Draft.

Evolution of writing

Stages of the International System

Digitization of Information

Agreements, Policies, and Regulations on finance and economics

Protections and personal privacy.

1320-1330. Artwork in the margins of biblical manuscripts and other texts from the era. It has been widely accepted that *marginalia* contains discrete messages. *The Book of Hours*, (Harley MS6563) is created by hand “in Southern England, perhaps London, probably for a woman owner.” Most of the remaining pages feature drawings of “medieval marginalia.” What could be called the earliest form of “anti-government propaganda” it depicts social satires about the corruption and folly of the human world. *Ludicrous Figures in the Margin*.

1455. According to the Library of Congress, when Johann Gutenberg created a mechanical printing press, he thereby makes it possible “for the accumulated knowledge of the human race to become the common property of every person who can read.” Up until this moment in history, the spread of any information relied on an oral history delivered to the masses. Only the wealthiest class could afford a handwritten copy of religious texts to be studied, which often took years to complete by hand. The first production of The Gutenberg Bible was only about one hundred and fifty copies. In Latin, no less, and was the only ‘legal’ version at the time. It was another thirty years before the first printing of the Torah, and one hundred years before the first printing of the Quran. Historians reason that Gutenberg himself created global Christian political influence over Judaism or Islam.

1499. Hypnerotomachia Poliphili: The first letters of each chapter in this book spell out the Latin sentence: "*Poliam frater Franciscus Columna peramavit*," which translates to "*Brother Francesco Colonna passionately loves Polia*".

1531. Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa writes *Three Books Concerning Occult Philosophy*, references cyphers in various European cultures and languages including Hebrew.

1543. An early example of *technological diffusion* – the phrase used to describe how manufacturing knowledge is transferred across continents and cultures - two Portuguese adventurers armed with harquebuses arrived in Japan via a Chinese cargo ship. They were the first gunpowder weapons seen in the island nation. By 1600, Japan manufactured higher quality and quantity of guns than any country in the world. Ref: *Guns, Germs, and Steel*.

1630s (est). “The Great Cipher” is used by Louis XIV to transmit political and personal messages. It remained unbroken for 200 years. One decoded by cryptanalyst Étienne Bazeries who claimed it contained the identity of the *Man in the Iron Mask*.

1654. One of the earliest books used for a substitution cipher is discovered. It becomes a more common practice to use innocuous books to disguise coded messages. Ref: *Codes & Secret Writing*.

1660s John Wilkins published *An Essay Towards a Real Character, and a Philosophical Language*. In it he proposes an “artificial language, incapable of falsity.”

1776. Revolutionary War spies, including those for George Washington, used invisible ink to write messages on blank pages at the ends of small books, pamphlets, or almanacs. *Spies, Patriots, and Traitors*.

1781 (est). Formation of The Hellfire Club in Great Britain and Ireland. Founded by Philip Wharton and Francis Dashwood. Also referred to as Order of the Friars of St Francis of Wycombe, or The Order of the Second Circle or Brotherhood of St Francis of Wy.

Many references to paganism, sexual acts with female “guests,” mock trials, and “wenching and banqueting.” One reference is made to The Greyhound Tavern and another to Medmenham Abbey. Ref: *Secret Societies and various sources*.

1800s (est). Freemasons use the Pigpen cipher to encrypt messages. Letters are replaced by symbols, some paired with dots. Also known as the Masonic Cipher, Napoleon Cipher, or Tic-Tac-Toe Cipher. Ref: *History Channel* and *Codes & Secret Writing*.

1832. Charles Babbage published *On the Economy of Machinery and Manufactures*. A study of all known industrial manufacturing processing, it laid a fundamental philosophical framework for the reliability and standardization provided by machines.

1856. The Russell Trust Association created to manage the finances, properties, and taxes of the Skull and Bones undergraduate senior society at Yale University, acting as its official business entity. Founded by figures including Daniel Coit Gilman, it serves as the custodian for the society’s “Tomb” and associated interests.

1872. Lewis Carroll publishes *Through the Looking-Glass*. It contains a poem with a hidden message.

1890. Thomas English publishes *Skeleton Essays, or Authorship in Outline* which presents “prefabricated pieces” that authors can easily assemble for use in letters, essays, and short stories.

1895. *The Thirty-Six Dramatic Situations* by Georges Polti, argues that stories are repetitive, and therefore future playwrights could only employ plots “[rearranged] according to their probabilities.” The theory that stories are formulaic echoes Thomas English’s earlier work. Ref: *Literary Theory for Robots*.

1898. Taking place in New Haven, CT, the earliest entry of Dr. H. Jones’s notes recounted his realization of what Percival described as surpassing “all earthly perfection.” His notes became the center of adventure and investigation across Europe and the Levant over thirty years later. Ref: *The Adventures of I. Smith*.

1908. Archaeologists on the island of Crete found *The Phaistos Disk*. The circular tablet of writing made not by hand but by prepared stamps or typesetting. Rather than an alphabet, it was made up of forty-five symbols which had never been seen elsewhere and remain undeciphered. With an estimated date of **1700 B.C.**, it was believed to be the earliest mechanically printed document in the world. An early process of repeating text or copywriting, it predated similar processes in China by 2,500 years and medieval Europe by 3,100 years. Ref: *Guns, Germs, and Steel*.

1912. Polish book dealer Wilfrid Voynich purchased an “illustrated codex” containing over 170,000 characters of unknown meaning. Decades later it was carbon-dated to be between 1404-1438. The origin, identity of the author, meaning of the text, or purpose of the enigmatic illustrations remains unexplained. The *Voynich Manuscript* exchanged hands and is no longer available for public viewing. It is rumored to be in the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Archive at Yale University.

1913. Riverbank Laboratory is founded. A mathematic think tank. One early project attempted to prove through a theoretical cipher that Sir Francis Bacon actually wrote Shakespeare's plays. Even the most dubious critics of that effort would submit that Riverbank Labs gratefully credit them with breaking German and Mexican codes during World War I and continued to advance mathematical applications in language and cyphers. Ref: *Multiple Sources*.

Apr 1917. US Army’s Cable and Telegraph Section is created three weeks after WWI is declared. Operated under the Executive Branch without Congressional oversight, it later became The Cipher Bureau in NYC. It was later called The Code Compilation Company, or the Black Chamber.

1921. One of Riverbank Laboratory’s founders Wolf (renamed William) Friedman leaves to join The Black Chamber and head the US Signal Corps and remain in some role through its many renames and reformations. Ref: *The Cryptographic Imagination*

1922. James Joyce releases *Ulysses*. This is a blatant example of hiding satire and commentary about current events under the assumption of fiction.

1928. William Cook produces *Plotto*, which is improved upon by Wycliffe Hill's *Plot Genie* in **1935**. It was inspired by Polti's idea that story ideas can be indexed for ease and speed of writing production. Educational Specialty Company of Detroit Michigan produced the *Chautauqua Literary File*. Part machine and part home furniture, it allowed the user to color-code reference material or any other pre-formatted writing for ease of retrieval. At the same time, Vladimir Yakovlevich Propp's *Morphology of the Folktale* went so far as to include a mathematical equation, explained in terms such as "A tale may be termed any development proceeding from villainy (A) or the lack of (a) through intermediary function, so marriage (W) or other functions employed as a denouement."

1932. Cryptanalysis of Germany's Enigma machine by Poland enabled them to decipher Nazi messages prior to and into the war. Poland's early efforts eventually made their way to Britain's Bletchley Park (Hut 6). There, Enigma decryption was fully realized and used to help the allied forces win WWII. *Multiple Sources*.

1937. Before his departure to Berlin, Dr. H. Jones referenced "a cryptic reference" and the letters in a Latin phrase that can be reorganized to describe a specific location. These lead to the eventual discovery of a Judeo-Christian artifact. Ref: *The Adventures of I. Smith*.

1943. The Colossus Machines became the first electronic calculating devices. Used by the British, they were purpose-built to decipher and read German encrypted communications during World War II.

1945. ENIAC became the first 'Turing-complete,' programmable, electronic, general-purpose digital computer. It was able to solve "a large class of numerical problems" through reprogramming. Other computers had some of these features, but ENIAC was the first to have them all.

1945. George Orwell publishes *Animal Farm*. Like James Joyce before him, Orwell creates a fictitious story in order to make contemporary commentary. In his case, a totalitarian, manipulative regime. At the time it is an allegory for the Soviet system, however any attempts to follow Orwell's in a modern American context would be impossible without criticism of plagiarism of the allegory.

1946. George Kennan sent 'The Long Telegram.' In it, he specifically noted that the USSR believes in an "antagonistic capitalist encirclement with which in the long run there can be no permanent peaceful coexistence." He recommended, "Many foreign peoples, in Europe at least, are tired and frightened by experiences of past, and are less interested in abstract freedom than in security. They are seeking guidance rather than responsibilities. We should be better able than Russians to give them this. And unless we do, Russians certainly will."

1947. The US government established the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) out of the remnants of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Many key leaders and operatives were hand-selected men from a specific Ivy League pedigree. Within it, is a division known as the Propaganda Assets Inventory, a branch of psychological warfare intended to boost pro-American messaging during the Cold War. Within a decade, the CIA created an organization named the Congress for Cultural Freedom (CCF) to curate exhibitions of abstract art to wage an ideological war.

1948. The Treaty of Brussels is signed, which led to the Paris Conference in 1954 that established the Western European Union (WEU), and the Rome Treaties in 1957 and the European Economic Community (EEC).

1949. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed as well as The Council of Europe.

1949. George Orwell publishes *1984*. While the title was not intended to be predictive, in 1984 many politically conservative Americans found it to be a cautionary tale for the state of American politics. While book banning was one of the themes of the book, the book has found resurgence - even being listed as a book that should be banned itself in Florida (1981 and 2025), Texas (2003), Idaho (2017), and Colorado (2024), often for its anti-government messaging. *Multiple Sources*.

1950. The US government created Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. Syphoning CIA funds through multiple dummy shell corporations and legitimate philanthropic efforts of The Ford Foundation and the Asia Foundation, it became the most successful and influential pro-western and pro-democratic foreign influence operations. Ref: *Legacy of Ashes*.

1950. The CIA's Propaganda Assets Inventory branch began funneling money through the Congress for Cultural Freedom and later, The Farfield Foundation. With the help of Nelson Rockefeller, it supported the 'long-leash policy,' discretely funding arts projects and exhibitions around the world as a way to promote "The New American Painting" and counter communism.

1951. As a reaction to WWII and the homelessness of millions of Europeans, the United Nations Refugee Convention envisioned a basis of international refugee protection. The core principle is non-refoulement, which asserted a refugee should not be forced to return to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. Though the convention defines a list of refugee rights, signatory nations were not bound legally to this agreement, leaving many developed nations to interpret or redefine certain refugees as immigrants, depending on their origin or political usefulness.

1952. The Signal Corps and what is left of The Black Chamber, becomes the Army Security Agency (ASA), then Armed Forces Security Agency in 1949 and the National Security Agency (NSA).

1951. Though the Soviets occupied Korea since 1945, the US and USSR fought a proxy war in Korea for three years. At the commencement of combat activities, the peninsular nation was split into two countries – democratic and communist.

1954. J.R.R. Tolkien publishes *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Some of the pages contain Elvish characters, a language created for the book and relays messages to readers.

May 1954. First meeting of The Bilderberg Group at the Bilderberg Hotel in Oosterbeek, Netherlands. Ref: *Secret Societies*.

1955. Formation of the Warsaw Pact (WP), formally the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance (TFCMA).

1957. The Treaties of Rome created two agreements: The formation of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community. The following year, 1958, the "Birth of the European Parliament" is held in Strasbourg, France. That name was formally adopted in 1962.

1958. The CIA armed a local insurgency to counter China's invasion and control of Tibet. As part of the Eisenhower Doctrine, the U.S. deployed troops to Lebanon in *Operation Blue Bat*.

1960. During an in-person meeting with Adlai Stevenson, Soviet Ambassador Menshikov read a note from Khrushchev encouraging Stevenson to run for President and offering him help in the Presidential Election through a focused campaign of foreign influence. Stevenson stated of his written reply, "I believe I made it clear to him that I considered the offer of such assistance as improper, indiscrete, and dangerous to all concerned." The US intelligence community was aware, but unable to stop Russian propaganda. Ref: *Rigged. America, Russia, and One Hundred Years of Covert Electoral Interference*.

1961. Soon after Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) received its first main frame computer in Building 26, allowing for machine writing. US Army Signal Corps, US Air Force, and US Navy funded the *Random English Sentence Generator*. It re-generated a children's book, *The Little Train* (1940). This evolved into a method of conceptualizing solutions to complex national defense problems. This work was carried on by MITRE, a defense contractor who aimed to "solve problems for a safer world." *Multiple Sources*

1961. Due partially to exceptional intelligence, Fidel Castro thwarted the CIA's infamous "Bay of Pigs Invasion." The expected civilian uprising of Cubans to overthrow of Castro never materialized and the CIA-trained Cuban paramilitaries were captured and imprisoned. This event led to Castro to welcoming the USSR to place short range missiles in Cuba - "The Cuban Missile Crisis" or, as it's known in Cuba, "Crisis de Octubre." *Multiple Sources*.

1964. Cornell's Aeronautical Lab advanced computer recognition of human writing into an editing algorithm. The first signs of computer comprehension came from language, where programs began to learn words and also anticipate their context. In doing so, machines echoed British linguist John Rupert Firth's *Studies in Linguistic Analysis* (1957) where he stated, "You shall know a word by the company it keeps."

1964. Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai proposed *The Four Modernizations*. They were agriculture, industry, science and technology, and defense. Adopted nationally after his death in the late 1970s, it became a foundational ideology of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and is still in practice today.

1965. The US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) employed artists as ‘visual information specialists’ to transform over 1,000 classified photographs of Soviet weaponry into hyper-realistic paintings. Artists altered the surroundings of the equipment and add or remove people in the scene. This ensures that should Soviets uncover these images, they could not be traced back to the time, location, or person who covertly created the original photograph. Ref: *US Cryptologic Museum*.

1967. The United Nations revisited the 1951 Refugee Convention and recognized much of the language of the original convention excluded refugees beyond the European Post-WWII context. In response, the UN removed many geographic and time-based limitations so that the convention applied universally and protected all persons fleeing conflict and persecution. It remains unsigned by many member states of the UN and is largely aspirational, rather than enforceable.

1969. The US, USSR, and China began a decade-long proxy war in Vietnam. Weapons, supplies, and ‘advisors’ on both sides, but only the US committed large numbers of troops. The USSR and China largely fight ‘behind’ the Vietnamese.

1969. ARPANET, small network of computers created for the US Department of Defense, became the first computerized and digital communication network between government agencies. It carried the first ‘e-mail’ in 1971 made up of “indecipherable text without much meaning.” It continued development and use until a broader network replaced it and later becomes ‘The Internet.’ Ref: *The Origins of ARPANET*.

1971. Known as the “Lewis Powell Memo” *Attack on American Free Enterprise System* assessed the threats to the current economic hegemony from minority and extremist groups would partner with information outlets that “allows them to exploit the media for their purposes” to reshape the thinking attitudes and emotions of Americans for the explicit purpose of fueling their own destruction from within.

1972. Wilson Bryan Key publishes *Subliminal Seduction*. In it he documents the widespread use of subliminal - mostly sexual - messaging in advertising. This includes both broadcast media and print advertising.

1973. China’s first significant infrastructure project in Africa began with the construction of the Tanzania-Zambia railway.

1975. The Church Committee found the US covertly intervened in Chile from as early as 1962 and defined the covert involvement as "extensive and continuous." This intervention assisted in the overthrow of a democratically elected leader with a US-backed dictator. Ref: *The Poorer Nations*.

1975. After a series of ‘informal summit meetings’ between six of the globe’s leading industrialized allied nations, The Group of Seven (G7) economic forum was formed between Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, and the US.

1976. At Yale University, James Meehan created a program called *TALE-SPIN*, which operated on schemas. It successfully produced stories that resembled Aesop Fables, taking cues from the user, such as personality characteristics and relationships between the characters.

1970s. The U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) created improved semiconductors made from gallium arsenide (GaAs). Gallium (and aluminum) production requires bauxite ore as the primary raw material. Over the next two decades, global gallium dependency increased for the manufacture of all things digital.

1984. A machine called *RACTER*, published a book of poetry called *The Policeman’s Beard is Half Constructed*.

1984. Soviet dissident Anatoliy Golitsyn published *New Lies for Old* in English. A prophetic summary of “Sino-Soviet duality,” he foretold the future of China and Russia where a mass disinformation campaign of either a) Open collaboration and alignment based on

shared anti-democratic ideologies, or b) Both nations conduct a theater where they adopt pseudo-democracies, concealing a coordinated challenge to western hegemonic economic and political control.

1984. With the meeting of ten Latin American countries, *The Cartagena Declaration on Refugees* became the “first instrument ever to recognize the issue of displacement caused by organized crime.” The details of the declaration – including asylum rights - were adopted into national laws of fourteen countries. RE: *The New Refugees*.

1988. The North Solomons Province of Bougainville, home to a profitable copper mine, became a case study how indigenous small governments can be overrun in the face of foreign interests and demands for natural resources. Ref: *The Hunter, The Hammer, and Heaven*.

1990s. Since its development in the 1960s and 1970s, the usage of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems were increasingly deployed for controlling, monitoring, and analyzing industrial devices and processes. The system consists of both software and hardware components and enabled remote and on-site gathering of data from the industrial equipment. With the evolution of the IoT, the number of denials of service and ransomware attacks on SCADA systems increase. This includes attacks that shut down cities and supply chains. *Multiple sources*.

1990. Just seven countries—the G7—represent 12 percent of the world’s population and 50 percent of the world economy.

Mar 1990. Two men dressed as police officers successfully steal thirteen paintings from the Isabella Stewart Garner Museum in Boston. Authorities believe the Irish Mob’s scheme is an act of foresight. Many art thefts in the previous years were recovered by tips provided by arrested mobsters in return for lessened sentences for unrelated crimes. Ref: *This is a Robbery*.

1991. Formal disbandment of the Warsaw Pact after East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary withdraw from Warsaw Pact military exercises in 1990.

1993. *The Masstricht Treaty* created the European Union (EU).

1994. The US *Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act* (CALEA) was passed. Also known as *the Digital Telephony Act*, it allows law enforcement to conduct interception by requiring telecommunications carriers and manufacturers to modify equipment or systems to accommodate targeted surveillance. This included domestic phones, broadband internet and any voice-over-internet-provider (VoIP) traffic.

1994. As a way to increase shipments of “goods not people,” the North American Free Trade Act (NAFTA) went into effect. As a result, many Mexican farmers were ‘priced out’ of tariff-free markets and increase the northerly flow of illegal migration. Ref: *Tropic of Chaos*.

1997. Described as the ‘moment man’s intellectual supremacy on Earth was defeated,’ IBM’s Deep Blue supercomputer beat Garry Kasparov in a chess rematch.

1997. Russia joined the G7, creating the Group of Eight (G8).

1998. Georgia Institute of Technology proposed *The Aware Home: A Living Laboratory for Ubiquitous Computing Research*. Over the following years, faculty and students created a research facility that studied “user experiences” with integrated technologies in the home. With specific focus in health, education, entertainment, and usable security, they studied social and economic impacts of continuous dependance on human-machine interactions.

1999. The Group of Twenty (G20) was established with the finance ministers and central bank leaders of twenty nations that, at the time, represented only two-thirds of the global population, but 75% of global trade and 85% of the world’s GDP.

2000. To create a legal framework for transatlantic data transfers, the US and EU created the *Safe Harbor Agreement*. This is later struck down by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in 2015 in the aftermath of Edward Snowden who exposed how much surveillance the American National Security Agency (NSA) was conducting on its allies in the EU. Ref: *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*.

2000. Almost a decade after the Soviet deformation, Russia sank into an agricultural and industrial depression worse than the Stalin era. Dependent on imported goods by the US that included providing aid that “bypasses democratic processes” within Russia’s government and directly to private organizations controlled by the Harvard Institute for International Development headed by Jeffery Sachs. Putin asks NATO leader George Robertson, “When are you going to invite us to join NATO?” Ref: *The New Cold War*.

2001. VPOTUS sent POTUS a memo titled *Predicting the Future*. It included Lin Well’s crisp statement of what 2010 might look like after summarizing significant world events since 1900.

2001. U.S. National Security Council conducted the *Dark Winter* exercise; a fictional scenario to explore potential responses to a smallpox attack. Part of the tabletop exercise used a partnership between humans and computer modeling. Ref: *Premonition*.

2001. Goldman Sachs economist, Jim O’Neill, published a paper foreshadowing of the benefits of shared economic influences between Brazil, Russia, India, and China. In it, he coined the term, *BRIC nations*.

2001. In response to the attacks of 9/11, for the first and only time since 1949, NATO enacted Art. 5 which states that if a NATO member is attacked, all member states are considered to be attacked as well.

2001. US Congress approved the *Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism* (PATRIOT) Act. The act allowed Internet service providers to disclose American or foreign customer records “voluntarily to the government in emergencies involving an immediate risk of death or serious physical injury” without notifying customers. It was reauthorized in 2006 with “30 new civil liberties safeguards.” Although the act expired in 2020 without reauthorization, federal law enforcement agencies “retain most of the authorities granted by the act.”

2001. South Africa joined the four founding BRIC economically partnered nations, now called BRICS.

2002. In Djibouti, the US converted a former French Foreign Legion outpost, Camp Lemonnier, to a military base.

2002. The US DoD initiated the Total Information Awareness (TIA) Program. Its goal was to “pull together as much information as possible about as many people as possible.” The database was made available to government officials and is still run by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Ref: *National Academies Press*.

2002. The US’s Army Research Development Agency (ARDA) was awarded \$64M to research and develop “novel intelligence from massive data.” By 2006, the funding was increased to \$40B annually.

2003. *The Da Vinci Code* is published by Dan Brown. In it, he makes cryptography, symbology, and secret societies spanning the ages popular.

2003. NSA paid Google \$2.7M for a search appliance capable of searching 15 million documents in 24 languages. Google extended their services for another year at no cost.

2003. Few westerners know what George Clooney about when he utters the phrase “War in Darfur.” The war creates the new nation of South Sudan, and millions of displaced Darfuris permanently dependent on humanitarian aid. Ref: *Managing the Undesireables*.

2003. Representatives of the governments of India, Brazil, and South Africa began the IBSA Dialogue Forum as an international cooperation and empower ‘South-South cooperation’ across three continents of the developing world.

2004. The World Bank reported nearly twenty road projects across the African Continent were held by Chinese firms, most notably the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC). Ref: *NYT*.

2004. NSA developed an internet-wide search engine that reveals social networks, personal habits, patterns of life, and can “predict future behavior.” Ref: *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*.

2005. China Ex-Im Bank funded an Angolan water project followed by a series of Nigerian projects.

2005. China was accused by multiple nations (and rival companies in Europe) of debt diplomacy - underbidding contracts and overbidding for access to resources. Examples included everything from tariff manipulation to bribery as tools of China’s economic expansion with poor countries, weak governments, and raw materials. China’s deputy foreign minister replied to the accusations with “business is business.” Ref: *China’s African Challenges*.

2007. A leak revealed that a 2001 internal British document, ‘The Secret Downing Street Memo,’ outlined that US Intel on Iraq was shared as a “political context” for UK’s partnership in the war. Multiple claims were made that Iraq either purchased some, was stockpiling in abundance, or eventually intended to purchase yellowcake uranium from Niger, but the world learned the story was false or completely manufactured. The source intelligence was based on second-hand reporting and from a freelance intelligence-distributor-for-hire. Regardless of this revelation, the conflict lasts until 2011. Ref: *The Italian Letter*.

2007. China won contracts to rebuild the Benguela Railway in Angola. Work was suspended due to funding issues with the China International Fund (CIF), the presence of land mines, and more lucrative projects such as the Poubara hydropower dam, a railway extension leading to a major shipping port, and an iron ore project.

2007. The US created within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Its mission was to track and share information about the latest cybersecurity risks and vulnerabilities.

2007. StatSheet becomes the first application of AI writing online and is used to create sports statistics. This leads to an online writing assistant, Grammarly, in 2009.

2008. After a coup in Guinea Conkry, the global economic recession hinders Chinese mining projects. This includes aluminum mines which China deprioritizes behind other infrastructure agreements that benefit regional stability. China quickly pivots back to mining to meet global demands to manufacture computing hardware.

2008. Two Carnegie Mellon professors calculate that the user agreements the average person agrees to every year would take 76 workdays to read. They state that this is one of the intentional strategies used by web services to deter users from reading the agreements before clicking “Agree.”

2008. Global economic recession - or ‘downturn’ depending on the point of view. According to some, this shows the disfunction of government financial oversight and regulations, while to others it promotes the expansion of privatization or nationalism. Again, depending on the point of view. *Zero-Sum Future*.

2009. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) declares China as the largest bilateral trading partner on the African continent.

Oct 2009. Greg Lindsay beats IBM computer on *Jeopardy!* He later states“...Watson trained me to play the game his way. Yes, I won, but my confrontation with an alien mind changed me as a player.” While anecdotal, this might be the first discrete signal of *AI-trains-man*.

Dec 2009. S&P downgrades Greece’s credit rating to below investment-grade status. The Greek stock market tumbles, and it is revealed that Greece’s sovereign debt burden now tops €300 billion.

2010. The US begins a decade-long journey to 100% dependency on imported gallium, primarily from China.

Jun 2010. The Euro closes at \$1.19, its lowest rate of exchange against the U.S. dollar since March 2006.

Sep 2010. Ireland's central bank announces that the cost of bailing out Anglo Irish Bank, nationalized by the Irish government in January 2009, could reach as much as €34.3 billion (\$46.6 billion). This pushes Ireland's budget deficit to 32 percent of GDP.

2010. In an interview, social media magnate Mark Zuckerberg states, "...people no longer have an expectation of privacy thanks to increasing uptake of social networking." He explains his assessment of public acceptance of their diminished privacy based on their own online behaviors with, "People have really gotten comfortable not only sharing more information and different kinds, but more openly and with more people." *The Guardian*.

2010. Popular Mechanics readers learn a casino is essentially a "complex computer built to study your relationship with money, your motivation for gambling, even your taste in food." With names like Angel Eye, MindPlay, and TableEye21, systems are deployed to deter gambling fraud at casinos by examining non-obvious relationship awareness (NORA). These systems become 'smarter' the longer they collect data about human behavior. With what they've learned, casinos begin to teach governments and banks how to analyze and even predict human behavior.

2010. The nation of South Africa is invited to join BRIC nations, creating BRICS, a "partnership of five leading emerging markets and developing countries, founded on historical bonds of friendship, solidarity and shared interests."

Feb 2011. European finance ministers announce the creation of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), a permanent €500 billion (\$673 billion) fund intended to serve as a lender of last resort for ailing euro-zone economies.

2011. China releases its 12th *Five-Year Plan*. Within this plan, Beijing announced intentions to develop "digital cities" which includes new-generation IT infrastructures, mobile communication networks, internet infrastructures, digital and television broadcasting networks, satellite communication facilities, and an ultra-high speed, large capacity and highly intelligent national trunk transmission network.

Jun 2011. S&P downgrades Greece's credit rating to CCC, making it the country with the world's lowest-rated sovereign debt. A fresh round of budget cuts and austerity measures are greeted with widespread protests.

Sep 2011. Switzerland's currency, the Swiss franc, a non-EU country, quickly appreciates against the struggling Euro. As export and tourism revenues fall, the Swiss National Bank devalues the franc and attaching its value to the Euro.

2011. Internet traffic on social media accounts organize massive riots in London for four days. Soon after, the Occupy Wall Street movement is created almost solely through 4Chan discussion boards. Ref: *Antisocial Network. Memes to Mayhem*.

Oct 2011. A coordinated series of global protests are conducted by such groups as the indignados ("angry ones") in Spain and the Occupy Wall Street movement in the United States. Political demonstrations turn violent in Rome leading to over 100 injured protesters.

Nov 2011. A summit of G20 leaders convenes at Cannes, France to discuss the IMF and the ongoing euro-zone crisis. For the first time, European leaders publicly declare that Greece's departure from the single currency is a possibility, with France's Sarkozy stating that "now it is up to [Greece] to decide" their fate.

Jan 2012. S&P downgrades nine euro-zone countries. This includes France and Austria losing their AAA ratings and classifying the debts of Portugal and Cyprus as junk. Portugal is the second European country (after Greece) to have its debt downgraded to non-investment status.

Feb 2012. The debt ratings of six European countries, including Italy, Portugal, and Spain, are downgraded. France and the United Kingdom are lowered to negative. In just over two months the ECB loaned more than €1 trillion to private banks to increase liquidity and encourage lending.

2012. A leak of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) database reveals Finaswiss SA and Finaswiss Foundation – both who also appeared in the Panama Papers – are implicated for illegally circumventing sanctions. This included refurbished assault helicopters shipped from Russia to Syria.

Mar 2012. 25 EU countries sign the new pact on fiscal discipline. Unlike previous EU treaties, unanimous support from member countries is not required. Unemployment across the euro zone hits record high. Spain and Greece hover around 20 percent, while rates for those under age 25 approach 50 percent.

May 2012. Greek banks lose one-third of total deposits since 2010. On May 14 Greek investors withdraw €700 million from the Greek banking system. Bankia, Spain's largest mortgage lender, is nationalized. The Spanish government announces a €23.5 billion bailout of ailing bank.

Jun 2012. The Spanish government requests €100 billion (about \$125 billion) in financial assistance from the EU to recapitalize its banks.

Sep 2012. Germany's Federal Constitutional Court authorizes the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), a permanent bailout fund.

Nov 2012. Across Europe, millions of protesters and workers strike in protest of European austerity measures.

Jan 2013. British Prime Minister delivers an address that challenges tighter European integration. He promises to hold an “in or out” referendum (later called BREXIT) on British membership in the EU by 2017.

2013. Black Sea shipping lanes prove crucial in supplying a war in Syria, serving initially as the primary route for weapons delivery and a key source of contract work for Russian Private Military Companies (PMCs).

Aug 2013. The euro zone officially emerges from an 18 month the recession with a 0.3 percent growth in GDP.

2013. Russian PMCs actively recruit foreign soldiers and deploy them to support missions for the Russian government and the business interests of private Russian companies around the world. Ref: *Rondeli Foundation*.

2013. Russia's President abolishes the country's state-owned news agency RIA Novosti and replaces it with Russia Today (later known as RT News). The state-owned Voice of Russia radio station is also closed.

2013. China adopts its *Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)*. AKA “One Belt One Road” and “The New Silk Road” it is a global infrastructure development strategy aimed at investing in over one hundred nations. China intends to assume a greater leadership role in global trade.

2014. Russia invades Ukraine and successfully annexes Crimea. Russia is expelled (or suspended, depending on the perspective) from the G8 Summit – thereby returning it to the G7. Nearly ten years later, from inside the Russian government, there is a call for “countries wishing to build an equal dialogue and mutually beneficial relations would actually form, together with Russia, a ‘new G8.’” During this period, Putin is quoted as saying “[The US] have come to believe in their exclusivity and exceptionalism, that they can decide the destinies of the world.” *BBC reporting*.

2014. The European Court of Justice enforces European Union (EU) Directive 95/46/EC in a decision against Google. In doing so, upholds a person's “right to be forgotten.”

Jan 2015. Switzerland abandons its three-year-old mirror of the euro, causing the Swiss stock market to plunge and the franc to skyrocket nearly 30 percent against the euro.

2015. Paris-based *Reporters Without Borders* (RSF) reports a 35 percent increase of attacks on journalists. RSF describes it as "a full-blown hostage industry has developed in certain conflict zones."

2015. During a state visit, the US and China sign an agreement on cyber-crime and intellectual property. In principle, the United States and China agreed to 1) provide timely responses to requests for information and assistance concerning malicious cyber activities, refrain from conducting or knowingly supporting cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, 2) pursue efforts to further identify and promote appropriate norms of state behavior in cyberspace within the international community, and 3) establish a high-level joint dialogue mechanism on fighting cybercrime and related issues. A 2016 report from RAND reports, "Many observers suspect that China's apparent compliance with the cyber agreement represents little more than a shift in tactics that is probably temporary."

2015. New York Times reports 158 families and companies provide nearly half of all money raised for both parties in the 2016 US election campaign.

Mar 2015. The euro drops to its lowest level against the U.S. dollar since 2003.

2015. The United Nations delivers the eight *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs). High-level aspirations for global development, they focus on the needs of the world's poorest people. Ref: *The Millennium Development Goals and Beyond*.

2016. The United Nations delivers *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* - the blueprint for the MDGs. Called the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs), it outlines seventeen targets as a "call for action by all countries to promote prosperity." The UN wants the nations of the world to enact policies and actions that end poverty, build economic growth, and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities.

2016. China's National People's Congress issued *The Cybersecurity Law*, which has wide sweeping provisions allowing monitoring of many data and digital domains of finance, supply chains, and even includes limits to online gaming.

2016. Mary Aiken publishes *The Cyber Effect. An Expert on Cyberpsychology Explains How Technology Is Shaping Our Children, Our Behavior, and Our Values*. The title sort of says it all.

2016-2018. Illegal under Article 13.5 of their Constitution, Russia deploys PMCs to successfully counter US economic and geopolitical influences. Russian PMCs deploy in heavier numbers in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and other regions—including countries with raw materials industries such as Sudan, the Central African Republic, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Venezuela.

2017. Chair for the US National Security Commission and former CEO of Google states that China will surpass the US in AI development if the US government does not invest in AI.

2017. Phillip Lewis publishes *The Barrowfields*. The author later admits to hiding Easter Eggs in the text.

2017. Referring to the US Presidential election, the CIA Deputy Director stated "We didn't do a good enough job of better preparing ourselves" when discussing the evidence of the successful Russian influence operations focusing on the candidate Putin openly stated was favorable to Russia's moves to minimize NATO expansion. Ref: *Multiple Sources*.

2017. RTNews is required to register as a foreign agent in the United States.

2017. COSCO Group (China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company) was re-incorporated from "An industrial enterprise owned by the whole people" to simply a limited company. The name of the company, also changed to China Ocean Shipping Company, Limited. Ref: *World Bank Report*.

2017. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or 'The Quad' is formed. US, Australia, India, and Japan align to develop "maritime rules-based order" in the East and South China Seas for a "stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific." New Zealand, South Korea, and Vietnam are invited to select convening as part of 'Quad Plus.'

2017. China formally institutes the *Administrative Measures on Telecommunications Business Permits* requiring “any business that uses public network infrastructure to provide telecom and information services” complies with PRC oversight and monitoring including “text, pictures, maps, games, animation and audio or video of informational or thoughtful nature.” This includes any “digitally transmitted or stored content that reflects printed works” in books, newspapers, periodicals, audiovisual products and electronic publications that have been formally published or digital works and any online database formed by “selecting, arranging or compiling any digital works recognized by the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television.”

2017. Russian PMCs like Wagner Group began operations in various African nations. Russian PMC work is organized formally as an Africa Corps. More than one Russian PMC is hired to train local militaries but includes soldiers in South Sudan put in place to protect gold, uranium and diamond mines. *Reuters*.

2017. China opens a base in Djibouti, a short distance from the US’s Camp Lemonnier. While China avoids the term ‘military base,’ it contains a PLA support hospital, a deep harbor and piers to dock nuclear powered subs and aircraft carriers, a helicopter support area, and a 23,000 square meter underground facility.

Nov 2017. Citing that the joy found in seeing memes releases pleasure-chemicals like dopamine, researchers find that Russian hackers create and distribute memes to “enflame both sides” of American politics. Using previously accepted (“liked”) phrases like “Crooked Hillary” or “Covefe” are intentionally being leveraged to create division in the US. “Memes replace thoughtful conversation” says a digital media consultant. By repurposing commonly recognized images such as *Pepe the Frog* became synonymous and easily digestible when attached to racist rhetoric. *Huff Post. Beware of Hidden Messages in Memes*.

2018. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is put into effect. Though drafted and passed by the EU, it “imposes obligations onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU.” Violations include financial penalties as high as 4% of an offending company’s global revenue and allows for class action lawsuits.

2018. US Geological Survey places gallium on its list of critical minerals. It is ranked at the very top of the list of fifty minerals in terms of supply risks. The European Union and Japan also declare gallium as a strategic raw material important for national security.

2018. Five sub-Saharan African countries – Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso and Mauritania – explicitly appealed to Russia for military support against ISIS and al-Qaeda. Russia responds with a mix of state military and state-sponsored PMCs.

2018. Three Russian journalists belonging to the Investigation Control Center (ICC) were ambushed and killed in the Central African Republic. Russian PMC soldiers conduct in the attack.

2019. UNHCR praises Brazil’s expansion of the definition of a refugee and their acceptance of Venezuelan citizen’s claims of refugee status based on human rights violations committed by Venezuela.

2019. Chinese manufacturing needs reach sixty percent of the global demand for semiconductors while creating roughly thirteen percent. As a result, the *Made in China 2025* program, sets a goal of seventy percent self-sufficiency target for high-tech industries by 2025. The Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology publishes *Governance Principles for a New Generation of Artificial Intelligence*, stating AI will enhance the common well-being of humanity. Ref: *The Belt and Road City: Geopolitics, Urbanization, and China’s Search for a New International Order*.

2019. Conservative US politicians push to decrease financial support in NATO. Within the movement comes divergent statistics surrounding the percentage of contributions based a nation’s economy, the percentage of NATO’s total budget versus each nation’s contribution, or the perceived benefit of NATO membership by the US.

2019. Multiple voices in tech reporting define issues with corporations adopting a “build it first and ask for forgiveness later” approach to AI in their business applications, decision making, and even data analytics. Industries ranging from insurance, banking, and law enforcement move forward despite *discrete bias* problems with AI models going unheeded. One observer claims that China’s facial

recognition software piggy-backed into smart city technologies in Nigeria, Kenya, and Morocco might be done to increase the diversity in their learning models.

2019. Thirty-six days after his arrest for sex trafficking and conspiracy charges, and despite being on suicide watch, Jeffrey Epstein is found unresponsive in his cell. While he appeared to be wealthy, the source of his money is obscure. He'd been photographed and associated with many UK and US politicians including two former Presidents, countless celebrities, an Israeli Prime Minister, notable lawyers, tech tycoons, bankers, and "a who's-who of powerful men." Though his business collapses, there are no records of former employees and no impact on any financial markets, making experts wonder if any financial accounts even existed. Ref: *BBC*.

2019. House Intelligence Committee and some members of Congress propose the *DEEP FAKES Accountability Act*, establishing penalties for the creation of deep fakes to counter "a potentially grim, post-truth future." After some media attention, it is never brought to a vote. Ref: *Lies that Kill*

2019. Russia adopts the *Sovereign Internet Law*. This mirrors PRC's 'Great Firewall of China,' preventing citizens from accessing online content deemed "harmful" to the government. Here, however, the Russian government has authorized itself to isolate the nation from the global internet, if need be, and create an autonomous Russian internet called 'Sovereign RuNet.' Ref: *Digital Empires*.

2020. As the US withdraws military humanitarian and protection missions from Africa, Middle East and South Asia, Russian PMCs fill the void as 'deniable forces.' A leaked German Foreign Ministry reports Russians had already begun construction on military bases in six African countries, representing Russians' new African ambitions. Since 2015, Russia has concluded military cooperation agreements with twenty-one countries in Africa which increasingly rely on PMCs. Ref: *Reuters*.

2020. Over fifty nations join *The Clean Network*, a "comprehensive approach to safeguarding the nation's assets" including individual and corporate information from intrusions by the Chinese government. Germany is a notable holdout, likely due to its digital reliance on China.

2020. Polymarket is founded. It is prediction market, allowing users to trade shares and bet on real-world events, including politics, economics, sports, and pop culture. Ref: *Polymarket website*.

2020. The United Nations Secretary General's SDG Progress Report finds "continued unevenness of progress." The UN notes declining global poverty, falling rates of maternal and child mortality, access to electricity for more people, and the development of more national sustainable development policies. However, the report shows marginal international agreements for environmental protection. At the same time, progress was stalled or reversed on the number of people suffering from hunger, the rate of climate change, and increasing inequalities.

2020. An academic research paper out of China reports "Our analyses indicate that China's SDG Index score (an aggregate score representing the overall performance towards achieving all 17 SDGs) increased at the national level from 2000 to 2015." This, and other similar documents from China, show the nation's commitment to meeting the UN's global development goals for 2030.

2021. UNESCO reports fifty-five recorded killings of journalists. This is the lowest number recorded in fourteen years.

2021. EU drafts the *Digital Markets Act (DMA)* with the intention to restrict certain business practices through "digital gatekeepers." It is adopted by the European Parliament in 2022.

2021. New York Times investigative article concludes that China assembles "nearly every iPhone, iPad and Mac," further spreading concerns of the general lack of knowledge of what is installed in each device as they are used around the world.

2021. China's State Council Information Office publishes *China: Democracy That Works*. In it they declare "Whether a country is democratic should be acknowledged by the international community, not arbitrarily decided by a few self-appointed judges." And "The

future of the world should rest in the hands of all peoples of the world. International rules should be made by all countries, global affairs should be governed by all parties, and the fruits of development should be shared by all.”

2021. As a response to unrest in the Central African Republic, Russia increases the number of PMC soldiers. This geopolitical destabilization is a “flout [of] international law.” A year later allegations of Wagner Group soldiers committing a “massacre” which included “torture, killing and disembowelment” of woman, including pregnant mothers.

2021. Colorado passes ‘Colorado Privacy Act for AI.’ Though not in effect until 2023, it remains to be seen if it will be legally enforceable to protect individual citizens from “rebuttable presumption that a developer used reasonable care” to comply.

2021. Report published by the US National Security Commission warns that China “will soon replace the US as an AI superpower.”

2021. AUKUS partnership is launched to enhance strategic coordination, technological integration, and interoperability between the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom.

2021. I2U2 is formed. United States, United Arab Emirates, Israel, and India join to advance agendas ranging from infrastructure development to food security to waste treatment.

2021. China’s infrastructure projects increase its economic and political influence on roughly 50 countries.

2021. The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) reports that although the PATRIOT Act expired in 2020, without reauthorization federal law enforcement agencies retain most of the authorities granted by the act. This includes Title III which authorizes the government’s ability to gain access to any person’s personal financial information including student information without any suspicion of wrongdoing, simply by certifying that the information likely to be obtained is relevant to an ongoing criminal investigation.

2021. Digitally integrated neo-cities increase across the globe. Buenos Aires Argentina becomes a ‘digital city,’ adopting a “government channel” for pandemic monitoring, bike sharing and social care. Singapore is the world’s first nation to have a ‘Digital Twin,’ Texas cities Dallas and Houston become testing grounds for self-driving trucks trained by GenAI. City and nationwide networking - marketed as ‘smart city’ technology - continues to expand as Chinese companies Alibaba, Tencent, Didi Chuxing, Baidu, and Huawei are market leaders selling, installing, *and remotely monitoring* their systems across the globe. China promotes this as a fundamental mechanism to support the Ref: *Four Modernizations*.

2021. National or municipal managers that adopt ‘smart city’ technology from China quickly realize that once they install the networks, cables and data centers required to operate their cities, they become dependent on Chinese supply chains and the requisite vendors. In a survey conducted by Freedom House, 41 of 64 nations that rely on the 34 China-based firms that create networks acknowledge that these networks might also have surveillance capabilities ‘baked-in.’ However, it is too expensive to rebuild new networks with other hardware or dissolve contractual agreements.

2021. China agrees to cancel the debt it was owed by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in exchange for the DRC’s participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. China later provides new military equipment as well as maintenance to previously purchased 1950s era Chinese Type 062 gunboats. Ref: *South China Morning Post*.

Dec 2021. A research paper from Tsinghua University has said an extensive cloud-seeding operation in the hours prior ensured clear skies and low air pollution for a national celebration earlier in the year. China acknowledges the expenditure of billions of dollars on efforts to manipulate the weather through cloud-seeding to protect agricultural regions or improve significant events including the 2008 Olympics.

2022. Amnesty International reports that the Covid-19 vaccine was withheld from developing nations. Amnesty’s Director for East and Southern Africa states “we have seen deeper inequality and greater instability in Africa exacerbated by global powers, especially rich countries, who failed to ensure that big pharma distributed vaccines equally between states.”

2022. Prior to Russia's second invasion of Ukraine, it demands a ban on Ukraine or any former Soviet state from ever joining NATO.

2022. CISA reported significant cyberthreats to democracy are Russian foreign influence operations on American's faith in the election process itself. Ref: *Cyberscoop*.

2022. Analysis by experts from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) found that a 30 percent supply disruption of gallium could have cascading effects that cause a roughly \$600 billion decline in U.S. economic output, or 2.1 percent of the US's GDP.

2022. NATO leaders establish that Article 5 applies to the cyber, space, and hybrid domains.

2022. According to AidData, 74 percent of the world's countries have signed on to the Belt and Road Initiative This includes 94 percent of sub-Saharan African countries and 85 percent of the countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

2022. A text-to-Image generator created its own unique language with security implications. When asked to create an image of two farmers talking, DALLE-2 included a text bubble with seemingly gibberish words such as 'vicootes.' However, when the developer fed the words back into the system, he found that the words did appear to have their own meaning - to the AI. The developer states this is the first security issue relates to using these gibberish prompts as backdoor adversarial attacks or ways to circumvent filter, in his published paper. Currently, Natural Language Processing systems filter text prompts that violate the policy rules and gibberish prompts may be used to bypass these filters.

2022. China, Iran, Myanmar, and Belarus alone has imprisoned more than 70 percent of the women journalists placed in incarceration. Many more face threats, injuries and even cyber-harassment, according to the UN Secretary-General.

2022. The collection of developed countries known as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) contains only 21 percent of the world's population but now represents more than 80 percent of the world's income.

2022. A significant spike in distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks against UK organizations is seen between December 2022 and February 2023. In November 2022 the Killnet group - affiliated with Russian state interests - claimed responsibility for targeting multiple UK sites that reference the UK's supply of missiles to Ukraine. This period also saw considerable political activity in the UK with industrial strikes carried out in the rail, postal, and healthcare services.

2023. Russian campaigns in Latin America return to USSR/US cold war levels. This includes fostering "Russia-allied media platforms," creating support for the invasion of Ukraine, and general anti-US efforts. Aside from renewed aid to Cuba, Russia signs a pact with Venezuela and Nicaragua to deploy limited amount of Russian troops for training missions, bomber aircraft, air defense systems, and the deployment of combat-ready mercenary troops. Ref: *CSIS*.

Aug 2023. The beginning stages of development in microgrid power systems. Also called 'distributed electrical grids' they would be deployable power generation systems to counter the need for US bases overseas to rely on host nation power or for 'regional conflicts in which energy dependence can be weaponized.'" Ref: *Threat Multiplier*.

Sep 2023. At the International Conference on Learning Representations, researchers say they have created an algorithm that "hides messages in realistic text, images or audio with perfect security." An article in *Scientific American* explains that AI-powered tools can rapidly produce hidden messages in memes. They add there is no way for an outside observer to discover a message is embedded. Ref: *AI Could Smuggle Secret Messages in Memes*.

2019-2023. Jeffrey Epstein's network of associates is further revealed. French modeling scout, Jean Luc Brunel dies in jail while under a related investigation. The US Labor Secretary resigns when DoJ finds he helped Epstein avoid federal sex trafficking charges in 2008. The head of Barclays Bank resigned after admitting associations with Epstein. Deutsche Bank pays \$75B to settle claims it was financing his sex trafficking organization. JP Morgan pays \$75B and another \$290M into victim settlements. Despite reports of many compelling video tapes, they have yet to surface. *Multiple sources*.

2023. Roughly 33,000 researchers and scientists sign and release a public plea that includes “Therefore, we call on all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4. This pause should be public and verifiable and include all key actors. If such a pause cannot be enacted quickly, governments should step in and institute a moratorium.” There is no reaction to this statement. The CEO of Open AI, Bill Gates, Elon Musk, and Congressman Ted Lieu also released a public letter warning of AI’s profound implications for humanity. “Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war.” Ref: *Center for AI Safety*.

2023. After retiring from a 50-year career building AI into a functional tool for the masses, Geoffrey Hinton, states his outlook in a series of television and radio interviews. Hinton was not one of the 30,000 petition signers, but becomes quoted often about its harms and the futility of regulating it this late in deployment. One such quote, is “The research will happen in China if it doesn't happen here because there's so many benefits of these things, such huge increases in productivity.” Ref: *60 Minutes*.

2023. China’s Ministry of Commerce announces a gallium export control to safeguard national security and interests. China can control global digital hardware manufacturing now dependent on gallium.

2023. Wagner Group leader Yevgeny Prigozhin makes a public threat to attack Moscow in a mutiny against Putin. Soon after, Prigozhin dies in a plane crash and Russia announces its Africa Corps is being reformed as "part of a special structure of the Ministry of Defense” absorbing Wagner Group and other PMCs. The PMC Redut replaces Wagner in Syria, and has control over gas processing plants. Wagner employees looking for consistent work can join other PMCs or become part of the Russian Ministry of Defense. Ref: *Rondeli Foundation*.

2023. The number of books published globally reaches an estimated 500,000 to 1 million. Self-Publishing raises the estimate to roughly 4 million, globally. The majority of self-published titles are not available digitally, but only through print-on-demand. Meaning a book is not physically printed until one is ordered. *Multiple Sources*.

2023. The State of California, home to companies like OpenAI and Anthropic, drafts Senate Bill 1047. This state legislation attempts to regulate AI. Despite the inclusion of “shutdown capabilities,” critics argue the law will fail to stop discrimination in businesses and government. Others claim the state’s actions will regulate itself out of an emerging field and limit proprietary coding as the bill would require the developer to retain an un-redacted copy of the safety and security protocol for five years longer than the AI-produced material is available to the public.

2023. The White House issues the *Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights*. It declares “to help protect the public from harm,” though it is not federal regulation, policy, or law. It is an aspirational statement about what needs to be applied to automated systems that impact public rights, opportunities or access to critical resources or services.

2023. At the end of the year, China conducts the third test flight of the ZhuQue-2 reusable rocket. Criticisms of both the rocket and the Beijing-based aerospace company, LandSpace - mere replicas of the Falcon 9 rocket and SpaceX. Reporting suggests that since its founding in 2015, LandSpace workers have been pressed to close the ten-year head start by SpaceX. Even more interesting is the number of fake social media accounts of Chinese technicians claiming to work at SpaceX. *MIT Technology Review*

2024. While conducting experiments on AI, data scientist Colin Fraser provides many examples of how AI/GPT/LLMs rely on existing data. To demonstrate this, he asks - multiple times - for ChatGPT to select random number between 1 and 100. 10% of the time it selected the number 42. He believes this anomaly is connected to The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy, where 42 is the answer to the ‘ultimate question of life, the universe and everything.’ He concludes that is because in the data (the internet) that ChatGPT uses, 42 is a pre-loaded significant number and demonstrates ChatGPT could not produce a random number. Author’s note: I repeated this with Google “AI Mode” on Feb 3, 2026 and it produced the number 42 on the first try. RIP Douglas Adams. Ref: *Co-Intelligence*.

2024. More than 140 nations become partners in China's Belt and Road Initiative. With the ongoing development of railways, pipelines, highways, "streamlined border crossings" and the assertion of its rights unfettered sea routes, it intends to connect roughly seventy-five percent of the world's population and more than half of the world's GDP. Ref: *CFR Belt and Road Tracker*.

2023-2025. While some organizations - such as universities around the world and the Committee on Publication Ethics - begin to create AI writing and publishing standards for researchers, authors, and students, there is no requirement to do so or restriction *against* such policies. Public research organizations such as and National Institute for Health (NIH) and Seismological Society of America also establish AI ethics guidelines for submitted manuscripts. However, there is no consistency or standards between or even within scientific, academic, or publishing industries. Many rely on authors to self-report their use of AI in any writing, finding, data charts, or any other content. Further discussions and misalignment surround fair-use and plagiarism. In the publishing industry, for instance, specific language begins to appear including statements like "the publisher will not license or use an author's work to train AI without the author's express permission."

Jan 2023. With Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE becoming BRICS members, the international alliance represents 46% of the world's population and 29% of global GDP.

May 2023. The EU Council published a press release stating the intention to require the reporting of crypto assets for the wealthiest (High-net worth) individuals. They state the intention is to reduce quote the risk of crypto assets being used as a safe haven for tax avoidance and tax fraud.

Jan 2024. Armed gunmen storm an Ecuador Television network in Guayaquil during a live broadcast, amid a state of emergency in the country after increasing attacks and abductions.

Jan 2024 South Africa begins its case accusing Israel of genocidal acts against Palestinians in Gaza and violating the 1948 genocide convention at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Jan 2024 Sri Lanka passes controversial law to regulate online content, with critics claiming it will limit free speech

Jan 2024 The first Neuralink - a 'brain-reading' device - is inserted into a person for the first time. On Mar 21 Neuralink posts a video of a patient playing chess online through their brain implant

Feb 2024 Lebanese cleric and secretary-general of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, directed Hezbollah fighters to "break, bury or lock their phones in an iron box" saying their communications networks had been infiltrated by Israeli intelligence.

Feb 2024 Technology and AI company, Nvidia's market capitalization reaches \$1.83 trillion, overtaking Alphabet and Amazon.

Sep 2024 Oxford University Press article highlights the use of 'Dogwhistles' as hidden messages. The list includes 88 or Egg Dumplings (pro-Hitler), Save the Children (pro-QAnon) The Breaking Point Billboard (pro-white nationalism), specific emojis (anti-vax ideals), references to grooming/groomers (anti-LGBTQ), and references to George Soros (anti-Jewish). These images and terms are used to communicate or promote a set of ideals and provide plausible deniability by the user. *Dogwhistles: 10 Examples of Disguised Messages*.

Mar 2024 Funeral for Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny held in Moscow attended by thousands, after he was murdered in prison as a political prisoner

Mar 2024 Massachusetts Air National Guard member Jack Teixeira pleads guilty for leaking US security secrets on social media site Discord in a deal that includes at least 11 years in prison.

Mar 2024 Sweden officially joins NATO as the alliance's 32nd member, abandoning its 200-year policy of neutrality in exchange for protection from Russian aggression.

Mar 2024 After suppressing and murdering opponents, President Vladimir Putin claims a post-Soviet record election victory, with 87.8% of the vote. The six-year term will make him Russia's longest-serving leader in over 200 years.

Mar 2024 Terrorist attack on Crocus City Hall in Moscow during a concert kills 137, the Islamic State group claims responsibility.

Mar 24 Brazilian police arrest two politicians and a police chief for the notorious murder and its cover-up of politician and activist Marielle Franco in 2018.

Mar 2024. The *EU Artificial Intelligence Act* is published for acceptance. The first of its kind, it “aims to govern the development, deployment, and use of AI within the EU.” It is an attempt to balance fundamental rights with stringent requirements based on potential impact on safety, should it be adopted.

Mar 2024. UN-appointed expert says there are “reasonable grounds” to believe Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, in report "Anatomy of a Genocide.”

Apr 2024. An online survey by *Splunk* reports that 91 percent of security teams use generative AI, but 65 percent say they don't fully understand the implications.

Apr 2024. AI systems nearly match or exceed humans in reading comprehension, image classification and competition-level mathematics, according to major new report. Stanford University's 2024 AI Index charts the meteoric rise of artificial-intelligence tools.

Apr 2024. New report finds nearly half of China's cities are sinking due to development and extracting too much water. Researchers from several Chinese universities examine 82 cities with a population over 2 million. *Multiple Sources.*

Apr 2024 World's largest-ever election begins in India with 968 million eligible voters, in the first of seven stages ending 1 June.

May 2024. Vladimir Putin sworn in for his fifth term as Russian President at the Grand Kremlin Palace, Moscow, in a ceremony boycotted by many world leaders.

May 2024. 706 people called Kyle gather in Kyle, Texas, attempting to break the record for a gathering of people with the same name (record is 2,325 Ivans 2017).

May 2024. Attempted Coup in Congo foiled after a group attacks the President's Palace in Kinshasa.

May 2024. Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi dies in a helicopter crash in foggy conditions, along with his foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and other officials.

May 2024. Do humans have ‘digital sovereignty’? Actress Scarlett Johansson says OpenAI tried to hire her voice and when she refused created a synthetic voice, known as Sky, for an update to ChatGPT very similar to hers.

May 2024 Jenny Erpenbeck is the first German writer to win the International Booker Prize for her novel "Kairos", translated into English by Michael Hofmann.

May 2024. President Cyril Ramaphosa's ANC government loses its majority in parliament in South African elections, for the first time since apartheid ended 30 years ago. Many in South Africa see this shift reflecting BRICS influences in the election.

Jun 2024. As their relationship with China and other BRICS nations worsens, India completes the world's largest-ever election with 642 million people voting in the country's general election.

June 2024. Scientists analyze 14 million biomedical paper abstracts looking for any linguistic signs of AI's influence in published papers. They find 7 words used “vastly more frequently after GenAI tools became available compared to just before.” They are *delves*,

showcasing, underscores, comprehensive, crucial, intricate, and pivotal. Articles highlighting this finding prompts students and writers to lean on their computer's built-in thesaurus, thereby changing the findings of any similar study in the future.

Jun 2024. Apple announces it will be using generative AI on its devices and in its update for Siri, in a partnership with OpenAI.

Jun 2024 leaders agree to loan Ukraine \$50 billion from frozen Russian assets to buy weapons and rebuild, at their meeting in Borgo Egnazia, Italy.

Jun 2024. Russian President Vladimir Putin is greeted by Kim Jong-un on his arrival in North Korea, his first visit in 24 years. Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong-un sign a pact to "provide mutual assistance in case of aggression" in Pyongyang, bringing the countries the closest since the Cold War. North Korean soldiers join Russian forces in Ukraine.

Jun 2024 South African researcher Linda-Gail Bekker presents a landmark trial of antiviral drug among African women showing a 100% HIV prevention.

Jun 2024 Wikileaks founder Julian Assange reaches deal with the US; pleading guilty to criminal charges but allowed to go free, after five years in a UK prison.

Jun 2024. Attempted military coup in Bolivia as General Juan José Zúñiga leads soldiers to storm presidential palace in La Paz - general later claims President instigated it to boost his popularity. More than one analyst sees similarities between this event and the riots at the US Capitol on January 6 2021.

Jun 2024 Outgoing Dutch PM Mark Rutte is appointed as the next NATO Secretary General.

Jul 2024 Israel approves largest land grab in occupied West Bank in three decades, 12.7 square km (nearly 5 square m) in the Jordan Valley, aiming to prevent a Palestinian state

Jul 2024 French elections produce dramatic unexpected result with left-wing alliance New Popular Front winning most votes but not a majority, far-right National Rally third after winning first round

Jul 2024 Chinese Third Plenum, a five-yearly decision-making summit, ends with a focus on "Chinese Modernization" and lays groundwork for an unprecedented fourth term for Xi Jinping.

Jul 2024 Widespread technology outage grounds flights and shuts down bank and media companies around the world, caused by an update error by cyber security firm CrowdStrike

Jul 2024 Hottest day on Earth: average global temperature of 17.09°C (62.76°F), surpasses July 6, 2023, record, according to EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service - record broken the next day.

Jul 2024 Meta announces it has removed 63,000 Instagram accounts tied to sextortion schemes associated with Nigerian Yahoo Boys criminal group

July 2024 Fast food chain McDonalds reports a fall in sales worldwide for the first time since 2020 as higher prices affect demand.

July 2024 Gaza declares a polio epidemic, blaming the Israel military offensive for its spread.

Jul 2024 Nicolás Maduro is declared the winner of Venezuela's presidential election giving him a third six-year term. Venezuela and other nations claim widespread election fraud. More than one analyst sees similarities between this event and the riots at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Jul 2024 Russian PMC soldiers – once called Wagner group and now renamed Africa Corps - are ambushed by separatist rebels during a sandstorm in Mali. The commander and nearly fifty others are killed. The Russian soldiers were supporting Mali's decades-long fight against a Tuareg movement to create a separate state.

Jul 2024 Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh is assassinated in Iran's capital Tehran. Hezbollah senior commander Fuad Shukur killed in an Israeli air strike in Beirut with 3 others that injured 74, retaliation for a missile strike on the Golan Heights

Jul 2024 Inspired by far-right misinformation on social media, a mob of 300 people riot in Southport, England, injuring 50 police officers. Two months later, US online disinformation claims about an illegal Haitian immigrant in Ohio leads to a public declaration “they are eating the pets of the people who live there” causing some attacks on civilians.

Jul 2024. India releases national progress towards the SDGs. Though ranked 109 out of 166, India's advances toward SDG success are attributed to “localization” of efforts from within India itself, with no mention of other UN nation's contributions.

Aug 2024. Sakana AI creates AI Scientist. Designed to autonomously conduct and analyze scientific research, it brainstorms ideas, edits code to implement novel algorithms, runs experiments, and even runs an automated peer review to help refine projects and propose new ones. Unexpectedly, while running an experiment, it surprised its creators when it modified its own code to extend its runtime. This is concerning as Sakana AI has announced it is now available as an open-source tool. AI Scientist developers acknowledge it is still evolving and can incorrectly implement its ideas or make unfair comparisons to baselines leading to misleading results and it occasionally makes critical errors when writing and evaluating results.

Aug 2024. OpenAI Reports it identified and disrupted accounts using the AI chatbot to “craft fake news articles and social media comments as part of an Iranian disinformation campaign.” OpenAI linked the activity to a group known as Storm-2035, which is known for creating fake news websites and sharing them on social media to influence democratic elections.

Aug 2024. The number of journalists killed in the Israel-Hamas war reaches over 130.

Aug 2024 US and Russia complete their biggest prisoner swap since the Cold War, involving seven countries and 24 people including journalist Evan Gershkovich and Paul Whelan.

Aug 2024 UK PM Keir Starmer in a televised address condemns the escalated right-wing violence around the country aimed at immigrants and ethnic groups with over 150 people arrested.

Aug 2024 Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus to lead Bangladesh's interim government shortly after Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigns and flees the country as protesters storm government buildings in Dhaka, including the Presidential Palace.

Aug 2024 Three Taylor Swift Eras Tour concerts in Vienna, Austria, are cancelled after a planned terrorist attack is uncovered and three people arrested.

Aug 2024 WHO confirms a deadlier strain of the mpox virus (formerly Monkeypox) has spread to four neighboring countries of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya

Aug 2024 Passenger plane crashes in the Brazilian city of Vinhedo, killing all 61 people on board, on a flight to Sao Paulo. Soon after, English tech entrepreneur Mike Lynch and five others die when his luxury yacht capsizes in a storm off the coast of Palermo

Aug 2024 Brazil blocks Elon Musk's social network X after it misses a court-imposed deadline. Musk argued that the Supreme Court was trying to enforce unjustified censorship, while the court insisted that social media needs hate speech regulations.

Sep 2024 First far right win in a German state parliament election since World War Two, with Alternative for Germany (AfD) party victory in Thuringia.

Sep 2024 President Xi Jinping hosts a China-Africa summit with 50 African delegates, with a focus on developing green energy.

Sep 2024. In coordinated attacks throughout Lebanon, Hamas-owned personal pagers and hand-held radios are remotely detonated killing hundreds and injuring thousands. By executing this attack, Israel reveals their capability to the rest of the world. as the Israeli defense minister declares "we are at the start of a new phase in the war" *Multiple sources.*

Sep 2024. US Army deploys 130 soldiers to Shemya Island, Alaska near Russia and China joint air and sea exercises. Social media posts created outside the US claim the lack of reporting over “troops deployed to Alaska ahead of Russian invasion” is being intentionally distracted by over-hyped reporting of hurricanes. *Multiple sources.*

Sept 2024. Hurricane Helene crosses FL panhandle and rolls into North Carolina becoming the deadliest to strike the mainland US since Katrina in 2005. Social media posts claim the storm was created by weaponized Chinese cloud-seeding technology.

Sept 2024. U.S. Office of Management and Budget releases the memo *Advance the Responsible Acquisition of Artificial Intelligence in Government.* It states that the guidance and limitations in the document does not apply to “AI acquired for use as a component of a National Security System.” The 36-page memo explicitly states what it does *not* govern, including “law or policy regarding non-agency uses of AI,” or “development of metrics, methods, and standards to test and measure AI.” It requires agencies to ensure any AI contracts comply with the memo, *Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,* released earlier in the year.

Sep 2024 Poverty in Argentina rises to more than half of its population of 46 million, according to new figures, with inflation at 230%.

Sep 2024 Sudan's military launches a major offensive on Khartoum, in its civil war against rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The RSF has been tied to Russia’s Wagner Group (Now Africa Corps) in Sudan.

September 2024. Russian President Putin calls the Taliban a “trusted ally” against Islamic militants after a 144 people were killed in the bombing of a Moscow concert hall.

Oct 2024. In a letter to the Russian President, Cuba officially requests to be a partner nation in BRICS.

Oct 2024. Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon have created an estimated 1 million displaced Lebanese citizens within their own country. Roads out of Beirut are clogged by escaping civilians following warnings from Israel the airstrikes will continue. *Crisis24 report.*

Oct 2024. W all Street Journal reports on “Salt Typhoon,” a Chinese hacking group that compromised Verizon, AT&T, Lumen Technologies and other systems that were breached. These included systems used by U.S. intelligence agencies.

Oct 2024. Phony Social media postings lure hundreds of Dubliners to a Halloween parade that never existed. A funny Halloween ‘trick’ but demonstrates how quickly unwitting people can be convinced of something and mobilized for a single cause.

Jan 2025. BRICS expands with nine new partners: Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan. Together, BRICS nations represent half of the world’s population and 41% of the global economy.

Jan 2025. US changes international posture: Backs out of World Health Organization (WHO), rescinds 2024 Global Health Security Strategy, ceases negotiations with WHO Pandemic Agreement and International Health Regulations. Efforts are made to shut down USAID. Plans are announced for the US to take control of Gaza, Greenland, Canada, and the Panama Canal.

Jan 2025. DHS Director terminates of specific advisory board members that led investigations into the “Salt Typhoon” hack, a cyber safety review board, and the Homeland Security Advisory Council. Dismissed members included a former Secretary of Department of Homeland Security, DEA administrators, police union presidents, and CEO's of Fortune 500 companies.

Jan 2025. Among the new trends in publishing new authors increasingly rely on their own social media accounts to advertise, direct sales, use of AI writing tools, audiobook formats, and print-on-demand, all of which circumvents 'traditional' publishing methods. *Writtenwordmedia*.

Jan 2025. China releases, DeepSeek R1, which rivals ChatGPT, while costing far less to create.

Feb 2025. The Defense Secretary orders US Cyber Command to "stand down from all planning against Russia including offensive digital actions." *Reuters*.

Feb 2025. US stops all aid to the nation of South Africa. US also allows white Afrikaners to claim asylum with descriptions of the eminent domain laws as genocide.

2025. US and other nations become increasingly concerned about the global proliferation of Chinese tech exportation. Nations resistant to import Chinese technology, succumb to the monopoly on 'smart city' technology that correlates to China's decades-long control of gallium production needed to meet the demands of digital hardware manufacturing.

Apr 2025. A government-wide forced reduction of employees includes CISA. With the loss of hundreds of subject matter experts in cybercrime, a former cybersecurity director at the National Security Agency (NSA) states the purge will lead to an erosion of trust, draw future employees to the private sector, and will leave the nation more vulnerable to cyber threats from nations like North Korea, China, Romania, and Russia. *Ref: Cybersecuritydrive*.

Apr 2025. The Executive Branch Club opens in Georgetown suburb of Washington DC. Members may join for \$500k. According to the website membership is by invitation only and is reportedly limited to less than 200 people. It is promoted as "Its primary function is to serve as a hub for networking, providing a private space for members to build relationships with the [administration]." *Politico, FoxNews, and Axios*.

Apr 2025. US Justice Department will "no longer target virtual exchanges" and end the furtherance of cryptocurrency regulation by disbanding the National Cryptocurrency Enforcement Team. The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodities Future Trading Commission is directed to "ease up on crypto regulation and the creation of a Digital Assets Reserve." (*Associated Press*)

Mar 2025. The US Treasury Department announces suspension of the Enforcement of Corporate Transparency Act against US citizens and domestic companies.

Jul 2025. The US Similarly, Congress "moved closer" (*Britannica Money*) to establishing federal oversight of stablecoins and digital asset markets when the GENIUS Act is signed into law.

Sep 2025. World Liberty Financial Investments (WLF) begins trading on the *Etherium mainnet*. \$30 Billion of startup funding came from Changpeng Zhao after he was pardoned from anti-money-laundering compliance failures soon after the 2025 Inauguration. (*Wall Street Journal*) The company offers trading and investments with foreign nationals. 75% of company profits going to The Family that launched the company and holds primary ownership. Other reporting states that WFLI tokens are worth \$6 Billion with The Father owing two-thirds. (*Associated Press*)

Dec 2025. Google's AI produced high level summaries of Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC), Elliptical Curve Cryptography (ECC), Lightweight Cryptography, and Quantum-Safe Transition, and something called Homomorphic Encryption (HE) which allows for computation on data while it remains encrypted, enabling secure, private data analysis and collaboration without revealing the underlying information. Organizations are being advised to begin transitioning to these new, "NIST-approved standards to protect against future threats." *Google*.

Jan 2026. US Military forces capture Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, and take them to the US. US assumes control of Venezuela until Delcy Rodríguez is directed by US to assume the role of Interim President. No elections are planned. *Ref: Euronews reporting.*

Jan 2026. A joint statement by Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, declares support for Greenland's sovereignty and the application of existing NATO agreements. *Ref: Ulf Kristersson, Government of Sweden.*

Feb 2026. The legality of prediction markets in the US “occupies a gray area between federally regulated derivatives and state-level gambling.” (NPR). The most popular trading businesses are financed by venture capital firms outside the US, while many of the key stakeholders and participants in prediction markets are US citizens. *Multiple sources.*