



THE FRAMEWORKERS

SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR A
POST-JOB-POST-STATE
FUTURE



ZYKLOPEN

FÜTTERN VERBOTEN

THE FRAMEWORKERS ARE/
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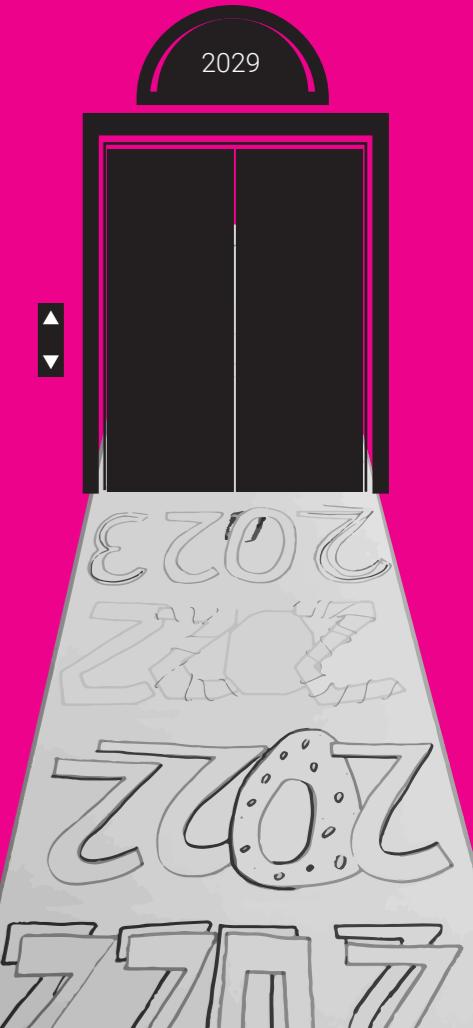
A message from 2029

YOU/ likely find yourself still stuck in parallel times when reading this...

YOUR TIME/ seems an eternity gone now. A distant recall – indeed, in 2021, you still could opt what future we would come to inhabit. That hesitant resonance of it will be what we make it meanwhile had your options slip like sand through your fingers; hence we find ourselves today firmly situated in what is called scenario #2. For the better or the worse.

SO LET US/ tell you a bit about that scenario we have come to inhabit.

Provoked by/ Adam Greenfield, "Radical Technologies: The Design of Everyday Life", scenario #2 – The Widening Gyre.



The decline and the rise

OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS/ we ventured on a pathway in which a thermodynamically acceptable alternative for proof-of-work came to dominate. Combined with the collapse of the state-based world organization, it took no time for cryptocurrencies to become our means of exchange and unit of account.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MAINSTREAM MONEY/ has triggered the gradual implosion of larger societal-scale coordinating institutions – those have withered away over the past years, before anything to replace them had the time or chance to emerge. What we are left with are the remainders of their infrastructures, now present as counter-forms that give shape to our communities.



At times quite literal, as the carcasses of the office slabs in whose lee we seek shelter. In many ways, living this fragmented reality resembles setting up camp rather than settling down.

We, the un-necessariate, the surplus-population, we the people, had to learn not to stand in our own way – “taking risk while diminishing fear”, as someone aptly coined it. An unsettling comfort.

SCAVANGED FOOD



REPURPOSED AIRBAG CHAIRS

When the margins become the new norm(al)

FIRST, CAPITAL/ In contrast to the fiat money you know, it makes little sense to use our crypto tokens as a store of value, as they quickly fade when their ledger progresses. Hence, we are no longer operating in a Time-Money based economy (where money is a substitute for time). Instead, we have learned to apprehend other types of "marginal wealth" and to store value in rather mundane resources:

scrap, leftovers, firewood, food, self-produced signs, even archival artefacts – anything we can lay our hands on and reclaim.





SOCIAL ORGANIZATION./ We, the un-necessariate have found ourselves relegated and have started to gather and federate on the ruins of the neo capitalist society. We, the writer of this text, are based in a "camp" situated in the centre of an ex-middle size and wealthy central european city.

Agile ecosystems: Cooperativism & Interdependency

OVER TIME/ our "camp" has grown into a federation of collectives: fire-makers, sign-makers, reclaimers, the sustainers (who feed us), the situation-makers and trouble-shooters (who take care of the camp), the memory keepers (that meticulously maintain inventory of all, digital and non-digital artefacts) as well as the indigenous people (the on-site housing community).





UNDERGROUND/ the site stretches into a subterranean shell, inhabited by the frame-workers - or “underdogs”, in popular slang. These last keep track of place and time, as well as the protocols of our federation.

COOPERATIVES/ in the federation are mutually dependent on each other - aka interdependent - for meaning and purpose. When necessary, exchange is made with other federations in our locality, although coordination with them is complicated.

Self-organization and post-anarchism

THE FRAME-WORKERS/ coop has democratised decision making in the federation. Previously, power rested in the hands of an unknown authority which installed a fence at one of the core sites of the overall loose federation's locality (we, the authors, refer to this site as our "camp").





FROM INSIDE/ the fences, the world outside was referred to as a "live-out lab". The frame-workers ended this conduct, and brought a form of governance that is based on universal consensus with the federation on any decision.

DELIBERATION/ today is made by foot and expressed by taking side around an imaginary line, till all members find themselves on one side - the so-called "moving debates" technique. While it is much harder to make decisions now, exhausting at times, it is worth it, as no one in the federation holds dominion over the other.

VOTING TIME

From the future: Motley squat aesthetics and post-humanistic symbiosis

LIFE HERE/ comes with its own protocols, rituals and practices. Recently, some of the inhabitants have reportedly begun displaying cult-like behaviour in the underground shell, taking part in exercises that destroy traces of the old ways of individuality





Although the results are visually disturbing, most have reported deeper social bonds.

AT THE SAME TIME/, we have come to share our world with a phylum of autonomous, machinic agents of all types and descriptions. Most dominant are the cyclopes, who breed and linger in the underground shell at level -5 with the frame-workers. The cyclopes have recorded accounts of frame-workers' voices merging into one; their prose a continuation of each other's words.



Too bad Humanism and Ecology did not make it to Survival mode

LIFE HERE/ is hard for most people, most of the time – physically hard, gruelling even. The cooperatives are subject to all the usual drawbacks of localism – fear of the outsider, and of the idea that originates elsewhere – and from the inside can easily feel conservative, even claustrophobic, to anyone who wanders out of step. There are more than occasional skirmishes on the boundaries; a condition of uncertainty and insecurity most cooperants eschew, aware that the survival of all is balanced on a razor's edge.



"Daily life has the tenor of a holding action. But it is not without its compensations. For those who are lucky enough to find a companionable fit, it is a life of fellowship, mutual aid and above all purpose, unmarked by any trace of boredom or ennui." A life to be lived at MAXIMUM VOLUME.





SHOULD
WE MOVE
ON?

WHO FORM-
S THE WE

WHO
GETS
A SEAT?