The Seeing Stone: An Investigation into Peter Thiel, Palantir, and the Architecture of Modern Power

Introduction: The Gospel of a Contrarian

The language used to describe Peter Thiel and his data-mining empire, Palantir Technologies, often veers into the extreme. The title of a recent YouTube exposé labels Palantir "The Most EVIL Company In America" and asks, with eschatological gravity, "Is Peter Thiel the Antichrist?".[1] Such questions, steeped in conspiracy and apocalyptic fervor, are easy to dismiss as hyperbole. Yet, to ignore the sentiment is to miss the substance. This investigation will argue that the profound fear and animosity directed at Thiel and Palantir are not baseless hysteria, but a reaction to a tangible and formidable challenge to modern conceptions of democracy, privacy, and civil liberties. The inquiry begins not by dismissing the "Antichrist" rhetoric, but by understanding it as Thiel himself does.

At the Bitcoin 2022 summit in Miami, a venue populated by cryptocurrency evangelists and transhumanist acolytes, Thiel offered a startling definition that serves as the ideological key to his entire project. "The Antichrist," he declared, "is not someone who breaks all the rules. It's the person who enforces them under the banner of peace and safety".[2] This was not a literal theological claim but a profound political and philosophical metaphor. For Thiel, the "Antichrist" is the modern administrative state—the vast, soul-crushing bureaucracy of regulators, technocrats, and compliance officers who, in his view, have smothered human greatness in a blanket of risk-aversion and "soft totalitarianism".[2]

This framework recasts Thiel's life's work. It suggests that Palantir Technologies is not merely a software company, but the technological manifestation of a philosophical crusade. It is a weapon forged to fight a holy war against what he sees as the forces of stagnation. The company provides tools designed to bypass, disrupt, and ultimately re-engineer the "unthinking demos" and bureaucratic inertia he has come to disdain.[4] This report will explore whether this mission, in its real-world application, generates consequences that a reasonable person might describe as "evil." By examining the architect, the engine, and its application, this investigation will deconstruct the fusion of radical ideology, powerful technology, and state coercion that defines Peter Thiel and Palantir, and explain why they have become central figures in the debate over the future of power in the 21st century.

Part I: The Architect - The World According to Peter Thiel

To comprehend Palantir is to first comprehend its principal architect, Peter Thiel. He is not a conventional CEO or a typical Silicon Valley billionaire. He is a philosopher-king whose actions as an investor, entrepreneur, and political force are inextricably linked to a deeply held, often contradictory, and profoundly influential ideology. His journey from a co-founder of a disruptive payments company to a "Republican kingmaker" reveals a consistent intellectual thread: a belief that the prevailing systems of governance are failing and must be superseded, by force of will and technology if necessary.

1.1 From PayPal Don to Republican Kingmaker

Peter Thiel's ascent to power began with the co-founding of PayPal in 1998 alongside Max Levchin and Luke Nosek.[5] From its inception, PayPal was more than a business venture; it was an ideological project. Thiel envisioned it as a tool for liberation, a "new world currency, free from all government control and dilution," effectively aiming for "the end of monetary sovereignty".[4] As CEO, he guided the company through its public offering and its eventual $1.5 billion acquisition by eBay in 2002. The sale made Thiel a multimillionaire, netting him $55 million for his 3.7% stake, but its more significant consequence was the creation of the "PayPal Mafia".[6]

This cohort of former PayPal employees—including figures like Elon Musk, Reid Hoffman, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim—would go on to found or fund a staggering number of Silicon Valley's most iconic companies, including Tesla, SpaceX, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Yelp.[8] Thiel, as the "don" of this network, sat at the center of an unparalleled ecosystem of capital, talent, and influence.[8] He leveraged this position with extraordinary success. In 2004, he made the first outside investment in a fledgling social network called Facebook, acquiring a 10.2% stake for $500,000 and taking a seat on its board—an investment that would eventually be worth billions.[5] In 2005, he co-founded Founders Fund, a venture capital firm that embodied his contrarian philosophy by backing ambitious, high-risk ventures like SpaceX and Airbnb, companies aiming to reshape entire industries.[7]

This financial and industrial power soon translated into political influence. A conservative libertarian, Thiel began to deploy his capital to reshape the American right.[7] He was an early supporter of Ron Paul's presidential campaigns and became one of Donald Trump's most prominent and vocal backers in Silicon Valley during the 2016 election.[3] His influence culminated in his role as a "Republican kingmaker," where he bankrolled the successful 2022 senatorial campaign of his protégé, JD Vance, and was described by the *New York Times* as the "most influential right-wing intellectual of the last 20 years".[3] Thiel's journey demonstrates a clear trajectory: the accumulation of capital through technological

disruption, the cultivation of a powerful network, and the deployment of both to achieve profound political ends.

1.2 The Education of a Libertarian: A Critique of Democracy

Thiel's political activism is not a hobby; it is the logical conclusion of a deeply pessimistic and radical ideology. The clearest articulation of this worldview can be found in his 2009 essay for the Cato Institute, "The Education of a Libertarian".[4] In it, he announces a startling conclusion that has defined his public life ever since: "I no longer believe that freedom and democracy are compatible".[4]

This is not a casual provocation. It is a diagnosis of what he sees as the terminal illness of the modern West. Thiel argues that since the 1920s, two trends have made it impossible for libertarians to achieve their goals through the political process. First, the "vast increase in welfare beneficiaries," and second, "the extension of the franchise to women".[4] He describes these two constituencies as "notoriously tough for libertarians" and concludes that their political empowerment has rendered the very idea of a "capitalist democracy" an "oxymoron".[4]

Having decided that persuading the electorate—the "unthinking demos"—is a "fool's errand," Thiel declares that the "great task for libertarians is to find an escape from politics in all its forms".[4] This escape is to be achieved through technology. He outlines three frontiers for creating new, ungoverned spaces: cyberspace, where platforms like PayPal and Facebook can create new modes of community and commerce outside state control; outer space, a long-term goal for colonization; and "seasteading," the creation of sovereign city-states on floating platforms in international waters.[3]

This framework reveals that his deep engagement in politics is not a contradiction of his desire to escape it. His political spending is not an attempt to participate in the democratic process but to disrupt and dismantle it from within. By funding candidates like Donald Trump and JD Vance, Thiel supports figures he believes will weaken the regulatory "deep state"—the very apparatus he identifies as the primary obstacle to the technological future he envisions.[13] His political activism is, therefore, a strategic attack on the system, using capital to install figures who will clear the path for his techno-libertarian project.

1.3 Prophecy, Stagnation, and the Pursuit of Power

Underpinning Thiel's political and technological projects are more esoteric, almost theological, beliefs. His worldview is shaped by his Christian faith, which informs his sense of living in a "declining or even apocalyptic world" that demands radical and unapologetic intervention.[3] He has given public lectures and interviews on topics ranging from ancient prophecies to the theological concept of the Antichrist, exploring how these apocalyptic ideas remain relevant in an age of artificial intelligence and nuclear weapons.[14]

This eschatological urgency fuels his "gospel of stagnation." In his 2011 essay "The End of the Future," Thiel argues that meaningful technological and social progress has largely stalled since the 1970s, trapping humanity in a state of managed decline characterized by risk-aversion and the "soft totalitarianism of political correctness".[3] He believes this stagnation has transformed humanity "into this more docile kind of a species," incapable of the grand ambitions that once defined Western civilization.[3] His best-selling book, *Zero to One: Notes on Startups, or How to Build the Future*, is a direct manifesto against this state of affairs, championing radical, world-changing innovation over incremental improvements.[10]

This belief system provides a powerful moral and intellectual justification for his actions. When one believes that civilization is stagnating and possibly heading toward apocalypse, disruptive interventions are not just a business opportunity; they are a moral imperative. His investments in "hard tech" through Founders Fund, his support for anti-establishment political figures, and his creation of Palantir are all components of a singular project: to break the stasis, escape the decaying political order, and forge a new future, regardless of the democratic consensus.

Part II: The Engine - Inside Palantir's Black Box

Palantir Technologies is the most concrete and powerful manifestation of Peter Thiel's worldview. It is not a consumer-facing app or a simple enterprise software company. It is a quasi-intelligence agency for hire, a firm that builds the operating system for the modern security state. Its power, and the controversy surrounding it, stems from its unique origin story, its opaque but formidable technology, and a business model that places it at the nexus of institutional power.

2.1 Forged in Intelligence: The CIA's Venture Capital Bet

Palantir's story begins not in a Stanford dorm room but in the shadow of 9/11. Co-founded by Thiel in 2003, the company's explicit mission was to adapt the anti-fraud, pattern-recognition software developed at PayPal for the new realities of counterterrorism.[18] Thiel's vision was to create a tool that could allow human analysts to make sense of vast, disconnected datasets to "reduce terrorism while preserving civil liberties".[18]

From the outset, Palantir was different. It struggled to attract traditional Silicon Valley venture capital, which was wary of its government focus and long development timelines.[18] Consequently, its only early investors were Thiel himself and, crucially, In-Q-Tel—the non-profit venture capital arm of the Central Intelligence Agency.[19] This initial investment, though modest, was transformative. It provided not just capital but also credibility and, most importantly, access. For its first several years, the CIA was Palantir's sole customer, allowing the agency's analysts to work directly with Palantir's engineers to refine the software to meet

the exacting demands of real-world intelligence work.[19] This incubation within the U.S. intelligence community fundamentally shaped Palantir's technology, culture, and business trajectory, embedding it deeply within the national security apparatus from its very inception.

2.2 The Operating Systems of Control: Gotham and Foundry

Palantir's business revolves around a suite of powerful and highly complex software platforms. While often shrouded in corporate jargon, their core functions can be understood as operating systems designed to impose order on chaotic data environments for powerful clients.

Palantir Gotham is the company's flagship product and the direct descendant of its early work with the CIA.[18] It is an intelligence platform designed for the defense, intelligence, and law enforcement sectors. Gotham's core capability is its ability to integrate massive, disparate datasets—such as signals intelligence, human intelligence reports, financial records, informant tips, geospatial data, and social media activity—into a single, unified model.[18] Human analysts can then use its suite of tools to visualize this data, map networks of people, places, and events, and identify hidden patterns and threats. It is used by a vast array of government bodies, including the Department of Defense, CIA, FBI, NSA, and numerous police departments for everything from counterterrorism analysis to predictive policing.[18]

Palantir Foundry is the commercial counterpart to Gotham, applying the same data integration principles to the private sector and civilian government agencies.[24] Foundry allows large organizations to break down internal data silos, creating a central operating system for their data. It is used by corporations like Airbus, Morgan Stanley, and Fiat Chrysler to solve complex logistical problems such as optimizing supply chains, managing manufacturing processes, and detecting fraud.[18] It has also been deployed in civilian government contexts, most notably by the UK's National Health Service (NHS) to manage hospital data and coordinate its COVID-19 vaccine program.[18]

Supporting both platforms is **Palantir Apollo**, a continuous delivery system that functions as the company's technological backbone.[24] Apollo allows Palantir to manage, update, and deploy Gotham and Foundry securely and continuously across a wide range of environments, from public clouds to classified, air-gapped government networks and even disconnected battlefield settings.[18] This capability is a key strategic advantage, enabling Palantir to serve clients with the highest security requirements.

Client Entity	Sector	Key Platform(s) Used	Known Purpose	Reported Contract Value/Timeline
U.S. Dept. of Defense (DoD)	Government / Military	Gotham, AIP	Battlefield analysis, AI integration, mission planning, drone footage	$480M for Maven prototype (5 years, through 2029); up to $10B potential value on

			analysis (Project Maven)	new agreement [18]
U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE)	Government / Law Enforcement	Gotham (ICM, FALCON), ImmigrationOS	Immigrant tracking, case management, raid planning, deportation logistics	Over $900M in federal contracts since 2017; $30M for ImmigrationOS (through 2027); $97.7M for ICM (3 years, from 2022) [20]
U.S. Army	Government / Military	Gotham	Intelligence analysis, mission planning, AI-enabled targeting	$10B enterprise agreement [25]
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)	Government / Intelligence	Gotham	Counterterrorism analysis, data integration	Founding investor via In-Q-Tel; early and ongoing customer [18]
UK National Health Service (NHS)	Government / Healthcare	Foundry	Federated Data Platform, patient data management, COVID-19 response, vaccine program logistics	£330M (7 years, from 2023) [18]
Airbus	Commercial / Aerospace	Foundry	Supply chain optimization, manufacturing efficiency	Not specified [24]
Morgan Stanley	Commercial / Finance	Foundry	Data integration and analysis	Not specified [24]

Part III: The Application - Palantir and the Modern State

Palantir's technology is not an abstract concept; it is a set of powerful tools actively deployed to augment the most coercive functions of the state. The company's software serves as a force multiplier for intelligence gathering, military operations, domestic policing, and immigration enforcement. An examination of its most significant and controversial applications

reveals how Palantir's engine of data analysis directly shapes matters of life, death, and liberty. This reality has led to a fundamental conclusion about the company's place in the world: its business model is, in essence, the monetization of state power. Palantir's revenue and growth are directly tied to the state's demand for surveillance, targeting, and control. A more aggressive immigration policy, an expanded military surveillance program, or a wider domestic intelligence-gathering effort translates directly into larger and more lucrative contracts, aligning the company's financial interests with the expansion of state coercion.

3.1 The Digital Dragnet: Powering ICE's Deportation Machine

No partnership has generated more sustained criticism for Palantir than its work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Since 2013, Palantir has provided the agency with Gotham-based systems that form the technological backbone of its enforcement operations.[20] The two primary tools are the
Investigative Case Management (ICM) system and **FALCON**. ICM serves as a massive data repository, creating comprehensive profiles on individuals by integrating information from a sprawling network of government and private sources, including law enforcement records, employment history, social media, family relationships, biometric data, and commercial data broker information.[26] FALCON is the analytical tool that sits on top of this data, allowing agents to identify patterns, map networks, and plan large-scale enforcement actions like workplace raids.[26]

Human rights organizations have drawn a direct line from this technology to what they describe as severe human rights abuses. A landmark report from Amnesty International, *Failing to Do Right*, details how ICE relied on Palantir's technology for a 2017 operation that targeted and arrested over 400 parents and caregivers of unaccompanied migrant children.[35] The report also implicates Palantir's tools in the planning of mass workplace raids in 2019 that resulted in the separation of children from their parents.[35] These criticisms are echoed by the ACLU, which is a key partner in the #NoTechforICE campaign demanding that Palantir and other tech companies sever their ties with the agency.[37]

Despite years of protest from activists and even some of its own employees, Palantir has deepened its relationship with ICE.[21] The company is now developing a new, more advanced AI-powered platform called
ImmigrationOS under a $30 million contract.[20] This system is designed to further streamline the "immigration lifecycle management" process—from targeting and prioritization to tracking and removal—effectively making the deportation apparatus more efficient.[20]

3.2 The All-Seeing Eye: Project Maven and Predictive Policing

Palantir's surveillance capabilities extend from the border to the battlefield and back to American streets. The company is a key contractor for the Pentagon's **Project Maven**, an

initiative to integrate artificial intelligence into military operations. Under a $480 million contract, Palantir is developing the "Maven Smart System," an AI-enabled tool that analyzes vast streams of data, including drone surveillance footage, to help identify and prioritize targets on the battlefield.[26] This application places Palantir's code at the heart of the military's "kill chain," assisting commanders in making faster and more lethal decisions.[39]

Domestically, Palantir's Gotham platform has been deployed by numerous police departments as a tool for **predictive policing**.[18] The software analyzes historical crime data to forecast where and when future crimes are likely to occur, allowing police to preemptively deploy resources to these "hotspots." The practice is highly controversial. Critics and civil liberties groups argue that because the historical data is often tainted by biased policing practices, the algorithms create a discriminatory feedback loop.[40] Areas with higher minority populations, which have historically been over-policed, are flagged as high-risk, leading to increased police presence, more arrests for minor offenses, and the generation of more biased data to feed back into the system.

This has led to legal challenges and accusations that the technology enables racial profiling under a veneer of objective data analysis.[41] In a significant ruling, Germany's Federal Constitutional Court found that the use of Palantir's software for predictive policing in the states of Hesse and Hamburg was unconstitutional, as it violated citizens' fundamental right to "informational self-determination".[41]

3.3 The Hunt for Bin Laden: Myth and Corporate Lore

A central element of Palantir's corporate mythology is its rumored role in the 2011 operation that located and killed Osama bin Laden. The story has become a powerful marketing tool, burnishing the company's reputation as an indispensable and uniquely effective partner in the most critical national security missions. The company itself has been careful to neither confirm nor deny the claim, allowing the legend to grow.[39]

The official and publicly documented history of the operation is that U.S. intelligence agencies located bin Laden by painstakingly tracking one of his trusted couriers, a man known by the pseudonym Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti, to a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.[44] This was the result of years of traditional intelligence work, including interrogations of detainees at Guantánamo Bay and on-the-ground surveillance.[44]

Proponents of Palantir, including author Mark Bowden in his book *The Finish*, have credited the company's software with being the analytical engine that allowed analysts to connect the disparate threads of intelligence that ultimately led to the courier.[43] According to this narrative, Palantir's platform was essential for sifting through immense volumes of data to uncover the faint signals that pointed to al-Kuwaiti's significance.[43] While it is plausible and even likely that data analysis software was used in the hunt, the specific, decisive role of Palantir has been elevated from a potential contributing tool to a central plot point in the company's lore. This narrative serves a crucial business purpose, solidifying Palantir's image

as a company that delivers results in the highest-stakes environments imaginable.

Part IV: The Reckoning - A Universe of Controversy

The application of Palantir's powerful technology to the most sensitive areas of state power has inevitably placed the company at the center of a universe of controversy. Beyond the ethical debates surrounding its core business model, Palantir has faced a series of legal challenges and public allegations related to its internal practices, its respect for human rights, and its role in some of the most significant political scandals of the digital age. These episodes contribute to the perception of a company that operates with a deficit of transparency and accountability, fueling the "crooked" and "cover-up" narratives that animate its fiercest critics.

4.1 "Failing to Do Right": The Human Rights Indictment

The most comprehensive critique of Palantir's ethical posture comes from international human rights organizations. In 2020, Amnesty International released a damning report titled, *Failing to Do Right: The Urgent Need for Palantir to Respect Human Rights*.[35] The report focuses on the company's contracts with ICE and concludes that Palantir is failing to conduct the necessary human rights due diligence required under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.[36]

Amnesty argues that by providing the technological infrastructure for ICE's enforcement operations, Palantir is at high risk of contributing to serious human rights violations, including illegal family separations and the punitive detention of asylum-seekers.[35] The organization states that Palantir has sought to "deflect and minimize its responsibility" by claiming its work is limited to ICE's criminal investigative division, a distinction Amnesty finds unconvincing given the documented use of its technology in joint operations that led to civil immigration arrests.[35] The report calls on Palantir to suspend all services to ICE until it can demonstrate that its technology is not being used to facilitate human rights abuses.[35]

More recently, Palantir's work has drawn scrutiny for its international applications. The company has been named in an advance edited United Nations report by the Special Rapporteur on companies profiting from the conflict in Gaza, which states that Palantir's software has supported the Israel Defense Forces in targeting Gazans.[11] This has led to protests that explicitly link the company's technology to the suffering of both immigrants and Palestinians, framing Palantir as a global merchant of surveillance and control.[11]

4.2 The Question of Cover-Ups: Lawsuits and Allegations

Beyond its client work, Palantir has faced a series of controversies that raise questions about its corporate conduct and transparency. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Labor filed a lawsuit against the company, alleging that it engaged in systemic racial discrimination against Asian job applicants.[18] The lawsuit claimed that Palantir "routinely eliminated" Asian applicants during the resume screening and telephone interview phases, even when they were as qualified as white applicants.[48] The government's statistical analysis found that the probability of Palantir's hiring patterns for certain engineering roles occurring by chance was one in 3.4 million.[47] Palantir settled the lawsuit in 2017 for $1.7 million, which included back wages and job offers to eight affected individuals, without admitting any wrongdoing.[48]

The company was also embroiled in the fallout from the Cambridge Analytica scandal. Christopher Wylie, the Cambridge Analytica whistleblower, testified before the British Parliament in 2018 that Palantir employees had worked alongside his firm to help harvest and analyze the Facebook data that was used to build psychological profiles of voters.[18]

Earlier in its history, Palantir was involved in a 2010 proposal drafted by a consortium of private intelligence and technology firms for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Bank of America. Leaked documents revealed that the plan included strategies to "disrupt" the operations of WikiLeaks and discredit its supporters, including journalist Glenn Greenwald, through tactics like spreading disinformation and cyberattacks.[18] Palantir's software was slated to be the "foundation for all the data collection, integration, analysis, and production efforts".[18] After the documents were leaked, Palantir's CEO Alex Karp issued an apology and placed an employee on leave, though the employee was later reinstated.[18] Additionally, the company was sued by a rival firm, i2 Inc, for fraud, conspiracy, and copyright infringement over its core algorithm, a case Palantir settled out of court for $10 million in 2011.[18]

Controversy/Allegation	Primary Critics/Source	Palantir's Stated Position/Outcome	Core Ethical Issue
ICE Contracts & Human Rights Violations	Amnesty International, ACLU, Immigrant Rights Groups	Deflects responsibility by claiming work is limited to criminal investigations, not civil enforcement. Continues and expands contracts.	Complicity in human rights abuses (family separation, punitive detention). Lack of corporate due diligence.
Predictive Policing & Racial Bias	Civil Liberties Groups, Legal Experts, German Constitutional Court	Argues it only provides tools, not policies. Promotes software as a means to prevent crime.	Reinforcement of systemic racial bias in policing. Lack of algorithmic transparency and accountability. Violation of privacy rights.
Asian Applicant Discrimination	U.S. Department of Labor	Disagreed with allegations but settled	Systemic racial discrimination in hiring

		for $1.7 million without admitting liability to "focus on our work."	practices.
WikiLeaks Disruption Proposal	Leaked documents from HBGary Federal	CEO apologized for any involvement, ended ties with HBGary, and placed an employee on leave (later reinstated).	Corporate involvement in plots to undermine journalism and activism through disinformation and cyberattacks.
Cambridge Analytica Data Harvesting	Christopher Wylie (Whistleblower)	Denied involvement, stating it does not and has never worked with Cambridge Analytica.	Misuse of personal data for political manipulation. Lack of transparency in corporate partnerships.
Algorithm Copyright Infringement	i2 Inc (Lawsuit)	Settled out of court for $10 million.	Alleged theft of intellectual property as a foundation for its technology.

(Note: the first visible row begins with "Lawsuit" in the leftmost column.)

Conclusion: The End Times or a New Beginning?

The investigation into Peter Thiel and Palantir Technologies began with a provocative question: Is he the Antichrist? Is his company evil? The answer, stripped of its mythological framing, is not a simple affirmation or denial but a complex and unsettling synthesis. The "Antichrist" that Thiel describes—a global, bureaucratic enforcer of "peace and safety"—is his term for the modern democratic state he seeks to overcome. In this context, Palantir is his counter-creation: a technological instrument designed to arm a select group of powerful actors with the informational superiority needed to impose their will on a world he believes is lost in stagnation.

The perception of Palantir as "evil" arises directly from the real-world consequences of this project. The company's business model is predicated on partnering with and enhancing the most coercive powers of the state. Its software is not a neutral tool for data organization; it is an active agent in immigration raids that separate families, in military operations that target individuals from afar, and in domestic policing programs that risk entrenching racial bias under a veneer of algorithmic objectivity. The litany of controversies—from human rights condemnations and discrimination lawsuits to its proximity to political data scandals—paints a picture of a company that operates with an ideological zeal that often appears indifferent to the human cost of its applications.

Palantir is not a "crooked company" in the mundane sense of financial malfeasance. The threat it represents is more profound. It is the fusion of a radical, anti-democratic ideology, championed by its billionaire founder, with a surveillance technology of unprecedented power, all deeply embedded within the critical infrastructure of the state. This creates a new, hybrid form of power—part corporate, part state, yet fully accountable to neither. In J.R.R. Tolkien's lore, from which the company takes its name, a *palantír* is a "seeing stone" that allows one to see across vast distances, but which can also be used to "distort truth and present selective visions of reality".[12] This is the ultimate fear that Palantir inspires: that it has provided the modern state with a seeing stone, a tool of immense power that offers its users a god's-eye view of the world, but one that is shaped by the values and objectives of its creators. It is this concentration of unaccountable power—the ability to watch, to sort, and to target—that generates the profound sense of dread captured in the original query.

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The two primary Gotham-based systems Palantir provides to ICE are the Investigative Case Management (ICM) system and FALCON.
The stated mission of Palantir Technologies, as co-founded by Peter Thiel, was to adapt the anti-fraud, pattern-recognition software developed at PayPal for the new realities of counterterrorism, with the explicit goal to "reduce terrorism while preserving civil liberties."
The initial mission of Palantir Technologies, as co-founded by Peter Thiel, was to adapt the anti-fraud, pattern-recognition software developed at PayPal for the new realities of counterterrorism, with the explicit goal to "reduce terrorism while preserving civil liberties."
In-Q-Tel is the name of the non-profit venture capital arm of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that was an early investor in Palantir.

Palantir Gotham is designed for the defense, intelligence, and law enforcement sectors, serving as an intelligence platform for integrating disparate datasets and identifying patterns and threats. Palantir Foundry, on the other hand, is the commercial counterpart that applies the same data integration principles to the private sector and civilian government agencies, allowing

organizations to break down internal data silos and solve complex logistical problems.Amnesty International's 2020 report, "Failing to Do Right: The Urgent Need for Palantir to Respect Human Rights," concluded that Palantir is failing to conduct the necessary human rights due diligence required under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The report argued that by providing technological infrastructure for ICE's enforcement operations, Palantir is at high risk of contributing to serious human rights violations, including illegal family separations and the punitive detention of asylum-seekers. It also stated that Palantir has sought to "deflect and minimize its responsibility" by claiming its work is limited to ICE's criminal investigative division, a distinction
 Amnesty found unconvincing. The report called on Palantir to suspend all services to ICE until it can demonstrate its technology is not being used to facilitate human rights abuses.
In his 2009 essay for the Cato Institute, "The Education of a Libertarian," Peter Thiel stated, "I no longer believe that freedom and democracy are compatible."