Pathos

1. [Matthew Segall](http://footnotes2plato.com/2012/08/15/experiments-in-political-theology-research-methodology-and-dialogical-blogging/) has pointed out in regard to blogging and online conversation:

Blogging is a public forum, one of the few remaining political sites for a democratic people to work out their self-authentification and self-governance. The Internet remains a virtual environment, but in our catastrophic epoch of the post-human and post-natural, reality itself is increasingly endangered, making virtuality a necessary haven of withdrawal. Those explicitly involved in these online arguments aren’t necessarily the only significant nodes of mutual influence. It seems to me that most often, it is those remaining silent who are influenced most significantly by the dialectic unfolding on screen. Even if their thoughts remain at the level of pre-discursive feeling and imaginal strain for the time being, the stress of silence acts as an alembic forming truly new thoughts that will no longer be trapped in the tug-of-war of old polemics…All of us who blog religiously have a mission, that is, a religious mission. We are seeking to instigate political transformation.

1. Source: Buisness insiders

The "social credit system," first announced in 2014 in china. It aims to reinforce the idea that "keeping trust is glorious and breaking trust is disgraceful," [according to a government document](https://chinacopyrightandmedia.wordpress.com/2014/06/14/planning-outline-for-the-construction-of-a-social-credit-system-2014-2020/).

Like private credit scores, a person's social score can move up and down depending on their behavior. The exact methodology is a secret — but examples of infractions include bad driving, smoking in non-smoking zones, buying too many video games and posting fake news online.

1. Source BBC: "WeChat has a billion users," says James Gautrey, a technology specialist at investment manager Schroders. "So by capturing its data, the government can see what all those people are thinking and doing. It's a dream for them."

“To link online rumor-mongering with one’s social credit score can just be another way to punish government critics for speaking up,” said New York-based blogger Wen Yunchao, who left China in 2012 after being repeatedly harassed by police over his online writing.  Regarding the possible ramifications of the credit score proposal, he noted, “If you post ‘rumor’–or negative information about the Chinese government–online, your credit score becomes lower as a result. It may affect you in real life, such as you have to pay a higher interest rate when applying for a house loan, or you can be barred from taking the civil service exam or bar exam or from working for the state media. Of course, the current system has not expanded to this degree yet, but from the design and implementation of the system, I see a high possibility of such linkage.”

1. The guardian

As people consider the implications of the mass surveillance of their emails, here's an interesting historic parallel.

In 1933, Hitler demanded that Germany's president, Hindenburg, sign what became known as the Reichstag fire decree (Reichstagsbrandverordnung).

The decree is considered by historians to be one of the key steps in the establishment of a one-party Nazi state in [Germany](https://www.theguardian.com/world/germany).  
It nullified many of the key civil liberties of German citizens, and it was used as the legal basis to imprison anyone considered to be opponents of the Nazis.

It was also aimed at suppressing publications that were considered unfriendly to the Nazi cause.

According to Ferdinand Schlingensiepen's biography of one of Hitler's leading critics, Dietrich Bonhoeffer\*, the decree meant that "the right to privacy of communication by mail or telephone no longer existed."  
\*Ferdinand Schlingensiepen, Dietrich Bonhoeffer 1906–1945: martyr, thinker, man of resistance (London, T&T Clarke, 2010) p.119

.

Word to use:

Authoritarian

Draconian measures

Repeating history