

Intellectual Workers of the World, Unite!

Reject the Western Intellectual Property Rights Regime

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May 1, 2025

Dear Colleague:

Happy May Day. Intellectual Workers of the World, Unite!

I address you broadly as a colleague, grounded in how our professions intersect with patents and copyright — often labeled as Intellectual Property (IP). I, Mohsen Banan, am a software and internet engineer.

Whether your work is in software, medicine, law, journalism, engineering, education, or the arts — your role entails the creation, application, or propagation of knowledge. For example, as a medical doctor, when you prescribe patented medications, you are propagating patents. As a software engineer working at Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, etc., you are creating copyrighted, opaque, proprietary software and internet services. This places all of us squarely within the domain of what the West calls “Intellectual Property.” IP law shapes what we do and how we do it.

You and I are both Intellectual Workers.

That means patents and copyrights directly affect our professions. This message to you is framed in the context of our professions’ responsibility towards the health of society and the responsibilities of each of us towards our profession.

This framing of responsibility stands apart from the conventional, economic Americanist model. Even when IP’s harms are acknowledged, Americanism — the model of corporatized economic creatures existing in an exploitative industrial context — remains shallow and reductive.

On April 12, 2025, Jack Dorsey tweeted: “Delete all IP law.” Shortly after that, Elon Musk chimed in with a simple “I agree.” They are correct — but such declarations require serious reasoning.

Long before these corporate billionaires voiced such thoughts, Imam Khomeini had ruled: “Western copyright and patents create no rights and require no conformance.” Ayatollah Motahari taught: “The effects of intellect cannot belong to individuals.”

These are not slogans. They mark the beginning of a deeper truth: We must fundamentally rethink the ownership of knowledge — drawing from philosophy, ethics, sociology, and engineering.

And if we truly delete all IP law — then what? What should replace it?

I’ve explored these questions in depth in my book. This is not about ideology or convenience. It’s about alignment with reality, harmony with nature, and the future of humanity.

We were all born into the belief system of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), which makes it profoundly difficult for us to even imagine that this foundational ownership framework might be fundamentally flawed. With so many institutions and individuals deeply vested in the IPR model, questioning its validity can feel almost heretical.

Yet the truth is stark: the notion of Intellectual Property is a profound and catastrophic mistake. The Western IPR regime — both directly and indirectly — undermines personal autonomy, erodes privacy, and damages societal well-being. It unleashes forces that systematically diminish our freedom and self-determination, empowering corporate hegemony — *Corporocracy* — at the expense of humanity.

And while these harms are real, they remain poorly understood.

The debate over IP’s legitimacy is now over. I have constructed a framework and vocabulary that allow us to **prove** that copyright and patent laws are not valid as forms of personal property. This proof is rooted in nature and logic — not in consensus or belief. As such, the flaws of the Western IP regime are not cultural or contextual.

Western IP is not just problematic. It is beyond reform. It is irredeemable. Western IP is universally invalid.

For the very first time, I introduce the concept and vocabulary of *polyexistentials* — constructs that naturally exist in multiple in many places at once — and explain why their restriction through ownership is fundamentally invalid. This framing recasts digital constructs and informational artifacts as inherently non-ownable. The restriction of polyexistentials and the Western IPR regime are one and the same. Understanding polyexistence invalidates the Western IPR model. We are living inside of an ownership fallacy. The Western IPR regime is a sin of our times.

I then introduce *Libre-Halaal* as a label for ethical governance of polyexistentials and provide formal definitions for *Libre-Halaal* manner-of-existence of software and *Libre-Halaal* manner-of-existence of internet services. These are the contours of what is needed after the full deletion of all IP law.

In a wordly sense, *Libre-Halaal* bears a twofold banner: “Libre” calls out for liberation from the constraints of IPR, while “Halaal” affirms our commitment to ethical conduct. An entire chapter of the book is devoted to the meaning and deliberate choice of Halaal for this compound label.

Guiding principles for declarations of *Libre-Halaal* by professions are the preservation of the public goods aspect of polyexistentials and the promotion of conviviality of tools.

My book is titled:

Nature of Polyexistentials:

**Basis for Abolishment of the Western Intellectual Property Rights Regime
And Introduction of the Libre-Halaal ByStar Digital Ecosystem**

ماهیت چند وجودی ها:

دال بر لغو آن چه که غریبها نامیده اند مالکیت فکری و معنوی

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Print:: First International Edition — Iran — ISBN: 978-622-238-588-0 : **Jangal Publishers**

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Polyexistentials are natural public goods. The single sentence in the U.S. Constitution that underpins the American IPR regime manufactures artificial scarcity and imposes a rivalrous goods model. This is the complete betrayal of the public good.

The harm caused by destroying natural public goods through the mistaken ownership model of the Western IPR regime may prove even more catastrophic than America’s previous ownership mistake: the enslavement of Africans by white Americans. Then, with slavery, the damage was largely confined to one continent. This time, the IPR ownership error is global. This time, all of humanity is at risk.

The impact of IPR on digital ecosystems is to fuel the forces that drive surveillance capitalism and corporate domination through the American proprietary digital ecosystem. In this book, we present a blueprint for a digital ecosystem that fully rejects intellectual property. We call it ByStar (By*). ByStar confronts the existing proprietary American digital ecosystem while operating independently alongside it. ByStar’s primary offerings are tangible autonomy and genuine privacy on a very large scale. By* is about redecentralization of internet application services.

This book is backed by software and the early foundations of functional internet application services.

As an engineer directly harmed by the Western IPR regime, I have fulfilled my professional duty by exposing and challenging it. I hope you will do the same — for your profession and for society.

Building a just digital society requires abandoning the Western individualist, economically oriented mindset and rooting our practices in responsibility, ethics, and collective stewardship. If you choose to read my book, I welcome your engagement and feedback.

Mistakes in ownership rules are matters we cannot afford to overlook.

At your service,

Mohsen Banan

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Libre-Halaal Foundation

ByStar (By*)

ByStar at Github

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