

I'd like to begin by bluntly accepting the fact that the author is right about US capitalism messing up the internet's level playing field. I know it, you know it, and the people who killed net neutrality know it (damn you Ajit Varadarej Pai). But instead of tearing into that too much as that point is a "given", let us explore the idea of a Canada owned and operated internet because as tantalizing as that idea sounds now, we have examples of how terribly wrong this could also go.

Daniel Joseph does a diplomatic job of showing the environment and necessity that gave birth to this idea of a Canada owned and operated internet, and to be fair I really do vibe on what he's bringing up. Canada was coming off its bout with social struggles in the 1960s and upon looking to our neighbours down south, it became apparent that our countries had fairly different views. US and Canadian capitalism are different beasts, even today. And as much as I'd prefer Canada to move in a more socialist direction with housing, food, and UBI, I'm even more put off by the ways America's culture seems to creep up here even when no one asked for it. So, the idea of having a network that is beholden to, at least in theory, the people of Canada has an appealing quality. With social media companies holding so much power today with psych profiles on all its users, I'd love to have a networking infrastructure that we could legally hold accountable for collecting and storing of people's data.

But, as the saying goes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

As noted in Joseph's article, there are examples of data being used by the government against its own people such as the NSA. We can even take things a step further and reflect on the "Great Firewall of China" with its many instances of *actively persecuting its own people!* Even with the intentions of a Canadian internet to be responsive to national interest instead of local and continental market forces, there is still the question of who gets to determine what a national interest is. What directions could that be taken in? What history could be erased? All it would take is the wrong party to get in power once and then suddenly, the information on our network could be weaponized to quell dissenting political opinions.

By the end of this article, I'm left with more uncertainty over which course of action is the appropriate one. I very much want an internet not dominated by one country, because one of the biggest strengths of the internet is the ability to meet and connect with new culture, ideas, and people from all around the world. And though I still don't know if a national internet is the best choice out of all scenarios, I do agree that given the state of our neighbours, it is time we take a close look at what can be done to stop American culture dominating our lives through the internet.