

With the *Social Dilemma*, I found myself frustrated by the end of it, but for reasons I would suspect don't completely align with the filmmaker's outlook. Of course I agree with the notion of capitalism being a corrupting force in the way social media companies collect and utilize our data. I'd probably go as far as to argue that the solution to the issue of unchecked power, but social media companies starts with regulating algorithms. The libertarian ideology of self-regulation isn't working here, and we can see MANY examples of large-scale social manipulation. Where I begin to differ from the experts on the film is in the lack of credit given to the intelligence of children and the idea of inter-generational social inoculation.

"Won't someone please think of the children?" Maude Flanders yells outside of a burlesque house. It's a battle cry as old as time, and though it's not without merit or use, it's just as often used as an excuse by parents to avoid engaging in the uncomfortable process of self-reflection. I've no doubt that social media contains elements that are incredibly harmful for children, and yes I agree that ultimately any solution to better social media requires some level of regulation. What I also recognize is that while Gen Z is the first generation to grow up only knowing a world with social media, they also have an evolved form of it compared to their predecessors. I will admit this is anecdotal and my own bias, but this is an opinion and reflection paper so yay to not having to look through papers to back this up. They stand on the shoulders of their millennial parents and have a more self-aware relationship with online spaces. Especially when compared to the Boomer generation, Gen Z's have a much deeper understanding of technology and it's function but in a way that's still developing.

What frustrated me about this film is the amount of pulling apart I needed to do with the mixture of opinions. Perhaps that's what makes it a better documentary, the fact I don't agree with everyone who was interviewed. In the pursuit of getting to the best solution to the current dilemma, I'm worried people will overlook core problems such as capital incentives or lack of media education for easier ones like doing bETtER CapITaLISM (I don't know how else to type sarcastically so we're just going to roll with this).