

Experiments in artificial human augmentation

A very short summary

Human beings are being modified without their knowledge and consent, using a wide range of techniques and treatments. There are drugs which enhance cognitive ability, blood transfusions that can make you younger, treatments which directly edit your genome. The most troubling piece of technology is the neural interface which allows the reading of somebody's thoughts and direct control over their bodily function. Initially implanted in just a few, this technology is now being deployed to greater numbers of people. If we do nothing then in the coming decades we face a future where a large proportion of the human population will become enslaved with these devices.

A longer summary

- For centuries, nations around the world have been endeavouring to improve individuals, to make them stronger, fitter, more intelligent, more valuable members of society.
- For the majority of that time, this has been achieved through eugenics or selective breeding i.e. discouraging and preventing the weak from having children and vice versa for more 'desirable' members.
- In the 20th century humanity started to take a quicker, more direct approach to that problem. Employing science and technology in a variety of ways to allow a human being to perform far beyond their natural ability.
- Some of these ways you have heard of, for example steroids can allow you to become far stronger than your genetic potential. There are others you probably have not heard of:
 - Treatments to improve cognitive ability
 - Treatments to improve reflexes
 - Techniques that allow you to directly edit somebody's genome
 - Neural interfaces that can transmit information to and from somebody's neural system.
- Many of these treatments have been used on people without their knowledge or consent.
- Whilst some people may appreciate being chosen for these treatments and gaining enhanced abilities, there is one treatment on that list that nobody in their right mind would want. That is, of course, the neural interface which does not directly enhance a person in any way.
- The neural interface grants the controller the ability to:
 - See all your thoughts and know exactly what you are thinking whether it be images or sound.
 - Control your body and trigger limb movements.
 - Control bodily functions such as heart rate.
 - Feed signals into your brain, allowing the manipulation of thoughts and the ability to alter dreams.
- The device enables abuses such as thought policing, sleep deprivation, triggering panic attacks, and even murdering the subject remotely by way of causing a heart attack or stroke.
- As technology improves, and it becomes economically viable, the plan is to eventually implant the entire population with these devices, effectively enslaving us to the will of a few.
- I call upon us to come together to stop this catastrophe from occurring, for it will happen if we stand by and do nothing.

The three phases

To gain a broad understanding of events this human experiment can be divided into three phases. These phases are not distinct and there is much overlap. These are the phases of recent history and the near future. Experiments into artificial human augmentation began long before what I term to be Phase 1.

Phase 1 (1950's to 70's)

Some knowledge of the first phase is in the public domain. The illegal MKUltra experiments conducted by the US government on their own citizens yielded a great deal of information on how a human being could be modified both negatively and positively. The scope of the experiments extend far beyond what is commonly known and include early research on the use of neural interfaces on animal subjects, at this point being sophisticated enough to remotely control the motor functions of a dog. Officially halted in 1973, research in this area of course never stopped. This was the middle of the Cold War. Any world power would feel that they could not afford to stop developing such strategically important technologies. It is highly probable that Russia was researching ways to artificially enhance human beings, and in a world ruled by game theory that meant America and her allies would also have to continue.

Phase 2 (1970's to present)

A change of tact was needed; a way to make the experiments more morally acceptable to the people who knew about them. Outrage causes people to protest and speak out, and that anger needed to be quelled. So begins the “Age of the Ultra”. Ordinary people are selected to receive only positive modifications in an effort to make them super human. They are selected from a young age and helped throughout their lives to become successful. In this way test subjects are no longer perceived to be victims, instead they are thought of as lucky and blessed. Many of those selected do go on to achieve great success reinforcing that belief. Of course these experimental technologies are not without risk. Test subjects have suffered from side effects ranging from the severe: death, severe mental health issues, deformities, to the more mild such as developing Asperger Syndrome, ADHD, and Bipolar disorder. During this time much experimental data is gathered into real world long term use of these technologies. The technologies are further refined and developed into safer, more cost-effective forms in preparation for larger scale deployment.

Phase 3 (present till 2050? 2060? 2070?)

Phase 3 begins when the technology has reached sufficient maturity, the infrastructure is in place, and the costs have come down sufficiently for Phase 3 to become economically viable. In this phase neural interfaces are slowly deployed to the wider population. There are a variety of ways that could be theoretically achieved. The age of the “Ultra” is over. It would not be possible to expend the resources used in the previous phase on every single person, so we are left in a situation where people have all the disadvantages but none of the “help” given to the Ultras of the past to help them achieve success. It will take decades but the end of phase 3 would be when the majority of the population becomes implanted with a neural interface.

End Game. What happens after Phase 3?

Mass deployment would allow the implementation of sophisticated eugenics policies not possible before. A person could now be judged not only by their physical characteristics and intellect, but also by how they think i.e. what their religious or political views are. Those deemed less fit or those who hold views which do not align with the governing authority could then be subjected to the technologically enabled abuses and persecution outlined earlier: Thought policing, intellectual property theft, sleep deprivation, induced panic attacks, dream inception, thought manipulation. The entire population becomes subjugated to a minority who control the technology. It becomes impossible to fight back against an abusive power, with the mere thought of rebellion bringing one to the attention of the authorities.

How they deceive us into acting against our own interests

During Phase 2, we are tricked into accepting experimentation on our fellow humans by making us believe that test subjects are lucky instead of victims. It is only with our wilful compliance and acceptance that they are able to get away with this scheme. The coming Phase 3 will also require a level of deception into getting us to accept this fate.

I have been told that this path is inevitable. It is humanities fate to become merged with machine and AI, so I shouldn't bother fighting. They may be right in a sense. Technology is advancing rapidly and evolution has no hope of keeping up. Many may choose to massively boost their intellect with the super fast processing capabilities of computers, and the ability to look up information instantly. However, in such a scenario the technology must allow us to maintain our individuality. It must be peer to peer. An individual must have complete control over the data flowing to and from themselves, and the devices they are connected to. The current system is one of centralised control in which all who possess a neural interface are essentially enslaved to a third party. I cannot turn these devices off, my thoughts are taken from me against my will. I can be controlled by another entity against my will. This reality is not something we should *ever* accept. Even a peer to peer version would be highly dangerous, given the relative ease in which current consumer devices can be compromised.

How can we stop this from happening?

You have already taken the first step in fighting back against this catastrophe. In reading this document you have become aware of the danger, most people are not and that is a problem. You cannot fight back against something that you do not know exists. I hope you agree that neural interfaces pose a massive threat to the human race and that we must never allow ourselves to accept them as part of our new reality.

The second thing you can do is to share this knowledge with as many people as possible. The more people that know, the greater the chance we have to avoid this fate.

Our immediate priority is to stop what is happening right now but even if we are successful we must recognise that the technology has been developed and that cannot be undone. That means that from now until the end of our existence humanity will be in ever-increasing danger as that technology becomes more sophisticated. We must be ever vigilant to this threat, developing monitoring capabilities so that we can be alerted at the first sign that any of us have become compromised.