

# 1729

## Lecture 15: CCP, NYT, BTC, Technology

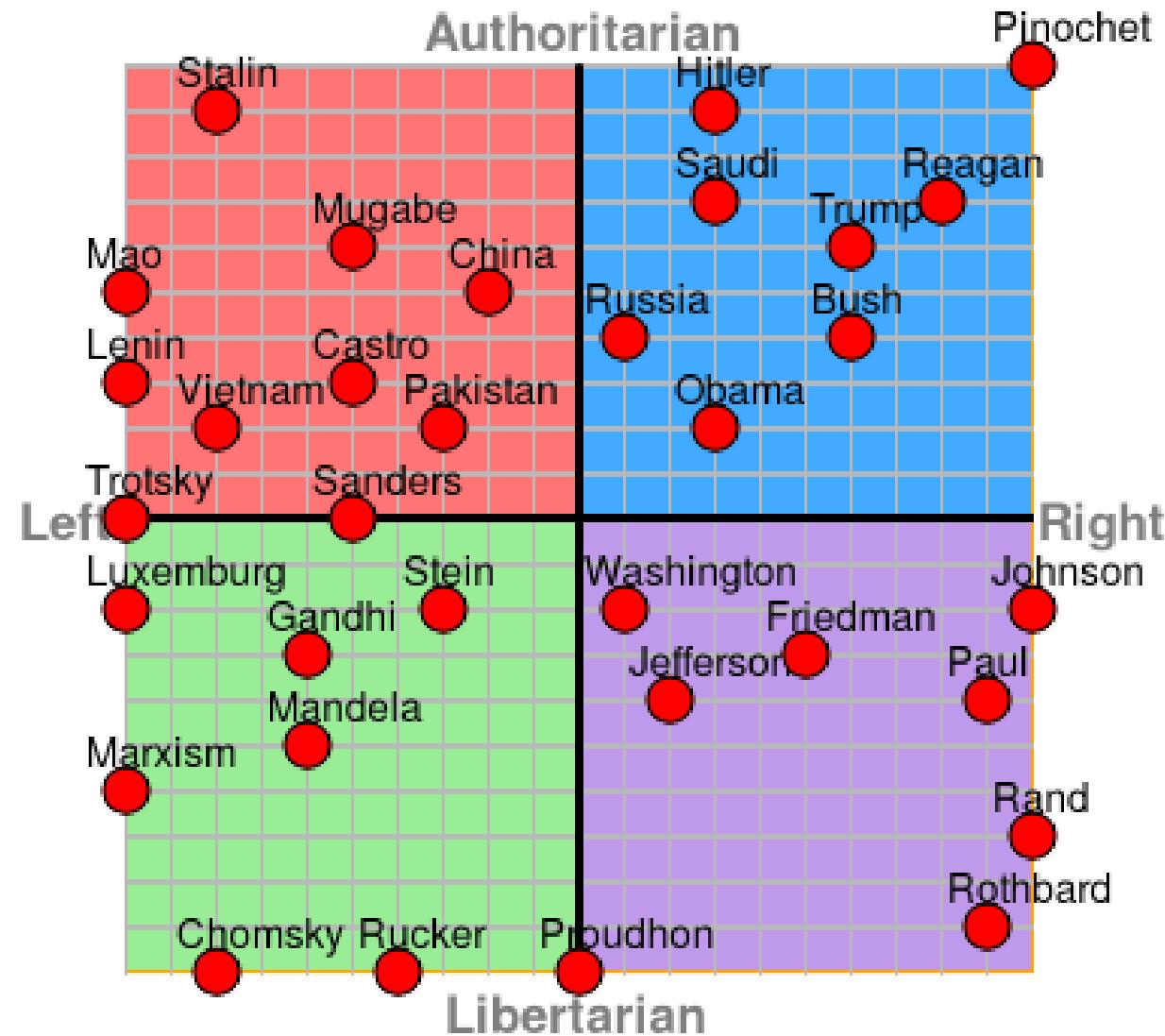
Hard power, soft power, hard money, and a decentralized center.

# Four Factions

- CCP: Communist Capital
- NYT: Woke Capital
- BTC: Crypto Capital
- The Decentralized Center (Web3, Technological Transcendence)

# The Political Compass

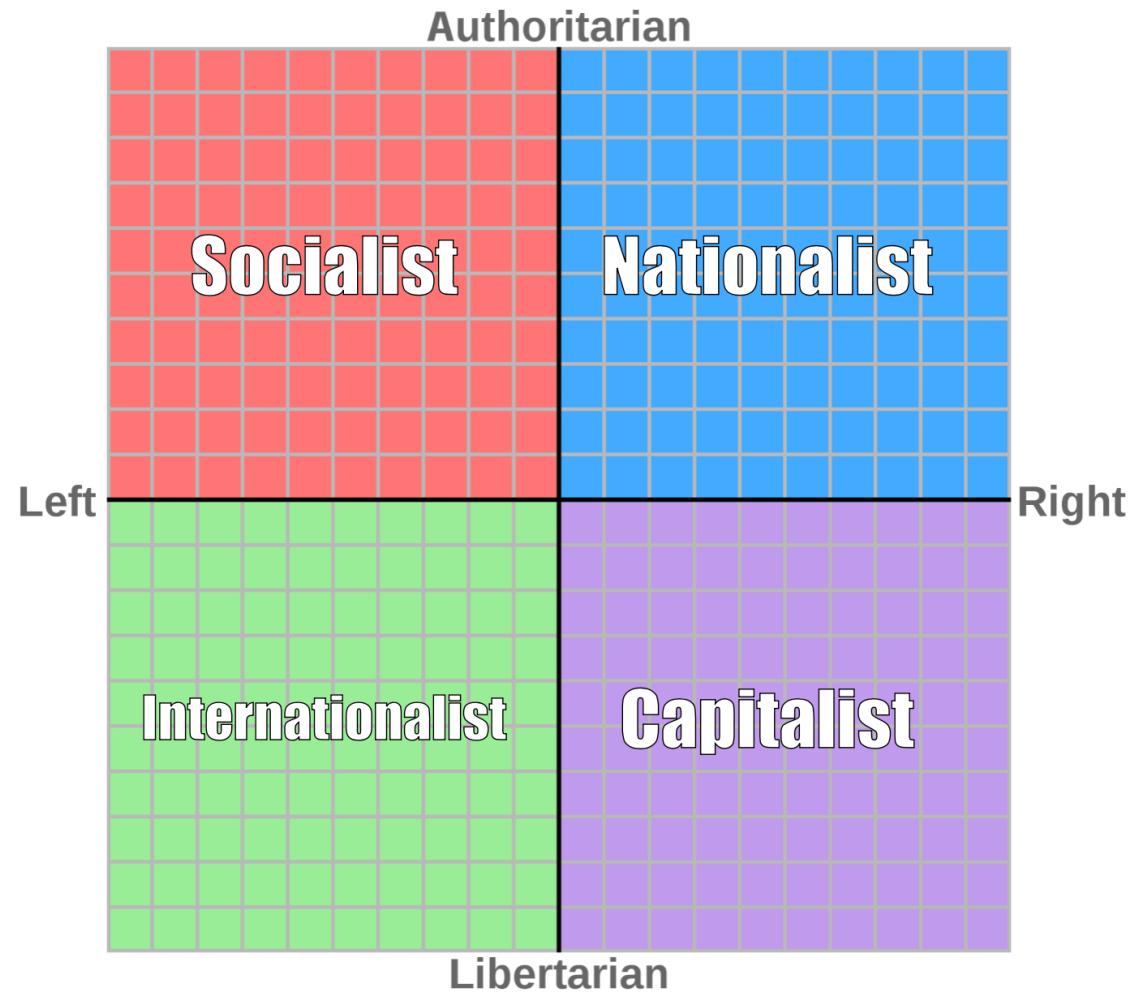
First, remember the political compass?



# The Political Compass

The moderate versions are:

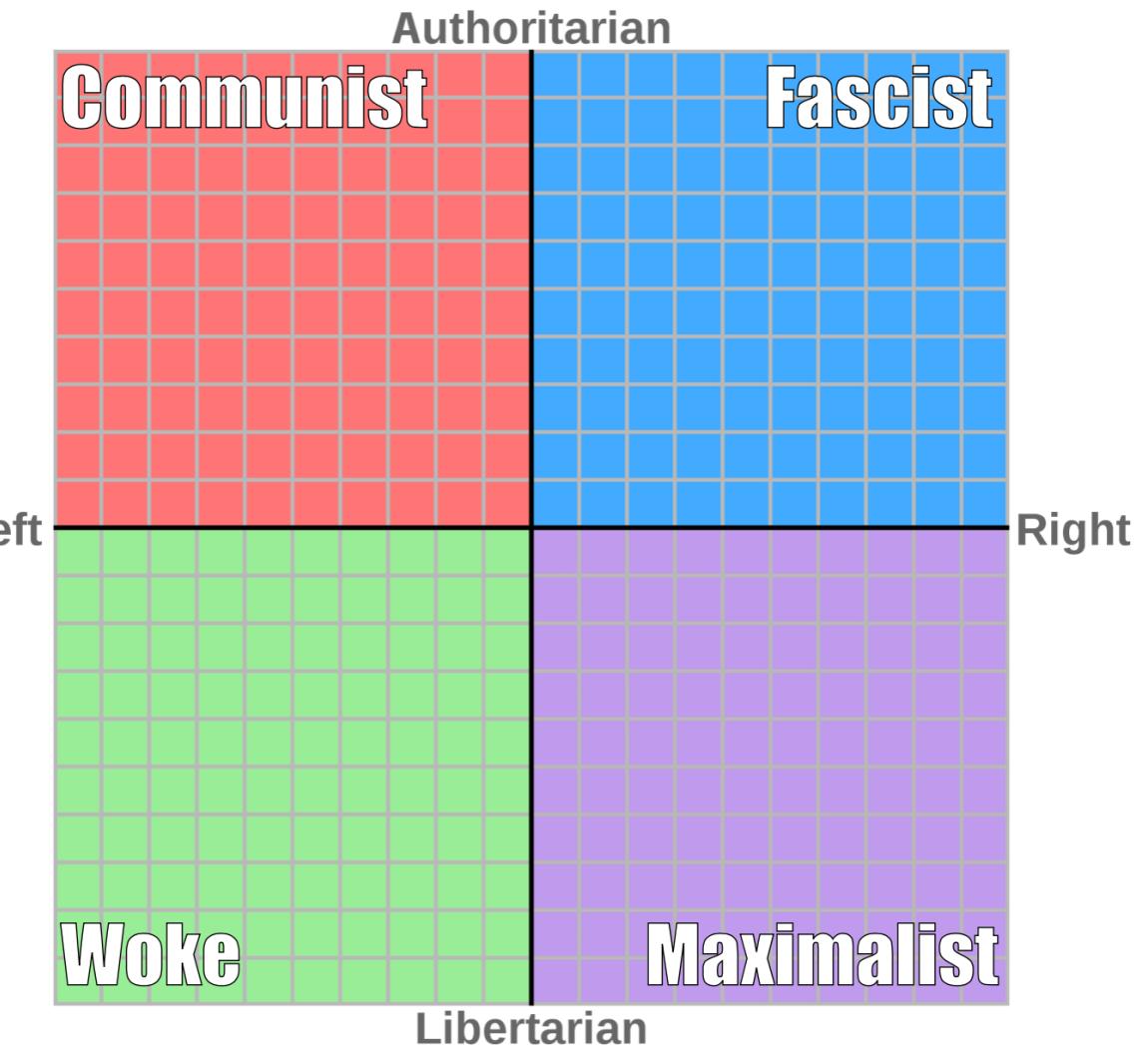
- Socialist
- Nationalist
- Internationalist
- Libertarian



# The Political Compass

The extreme versions are:

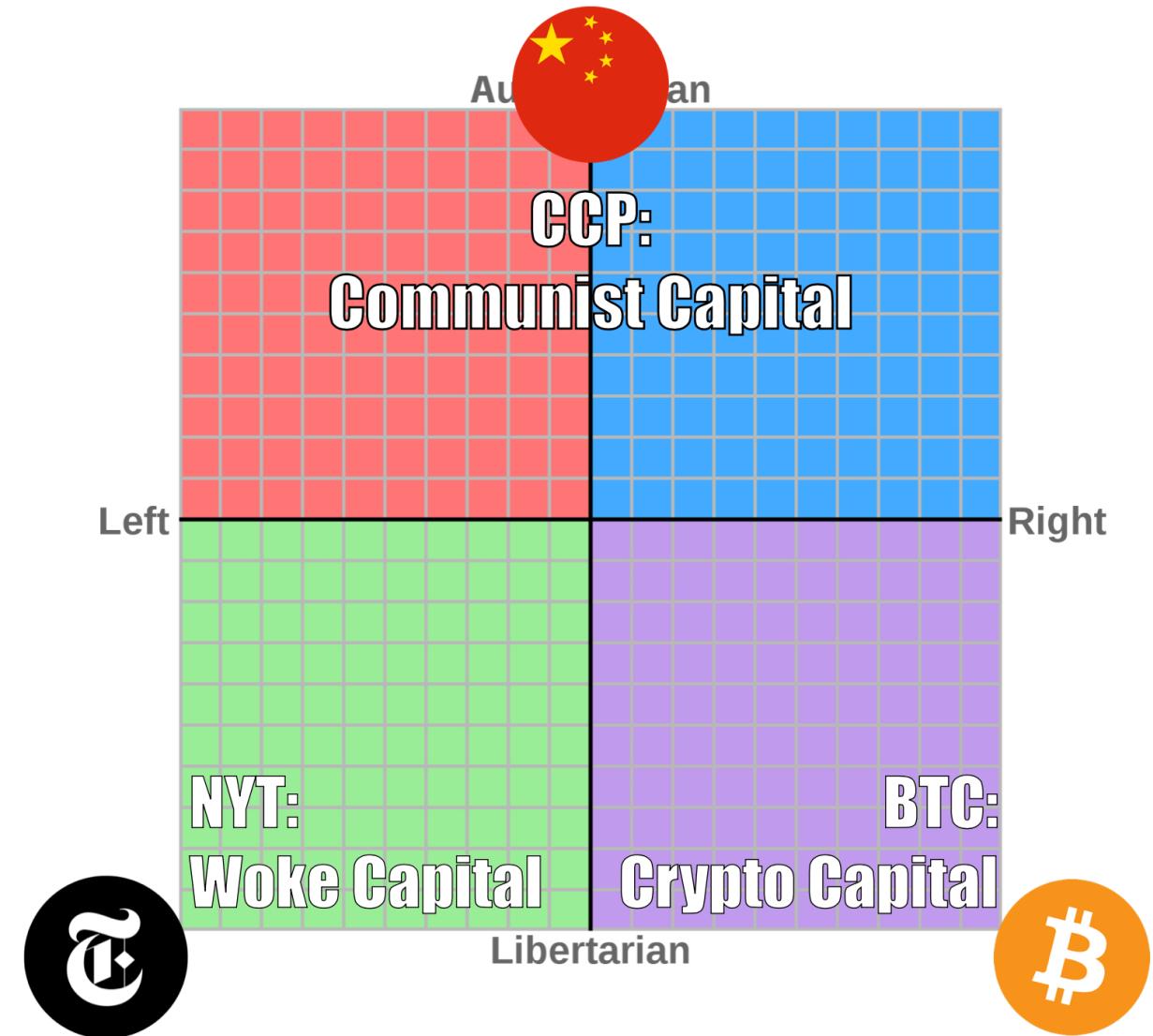
- Communist
- Fascist
- Woke
- Maximalist



# The Triangle

We can superimpose a triangle on this compass

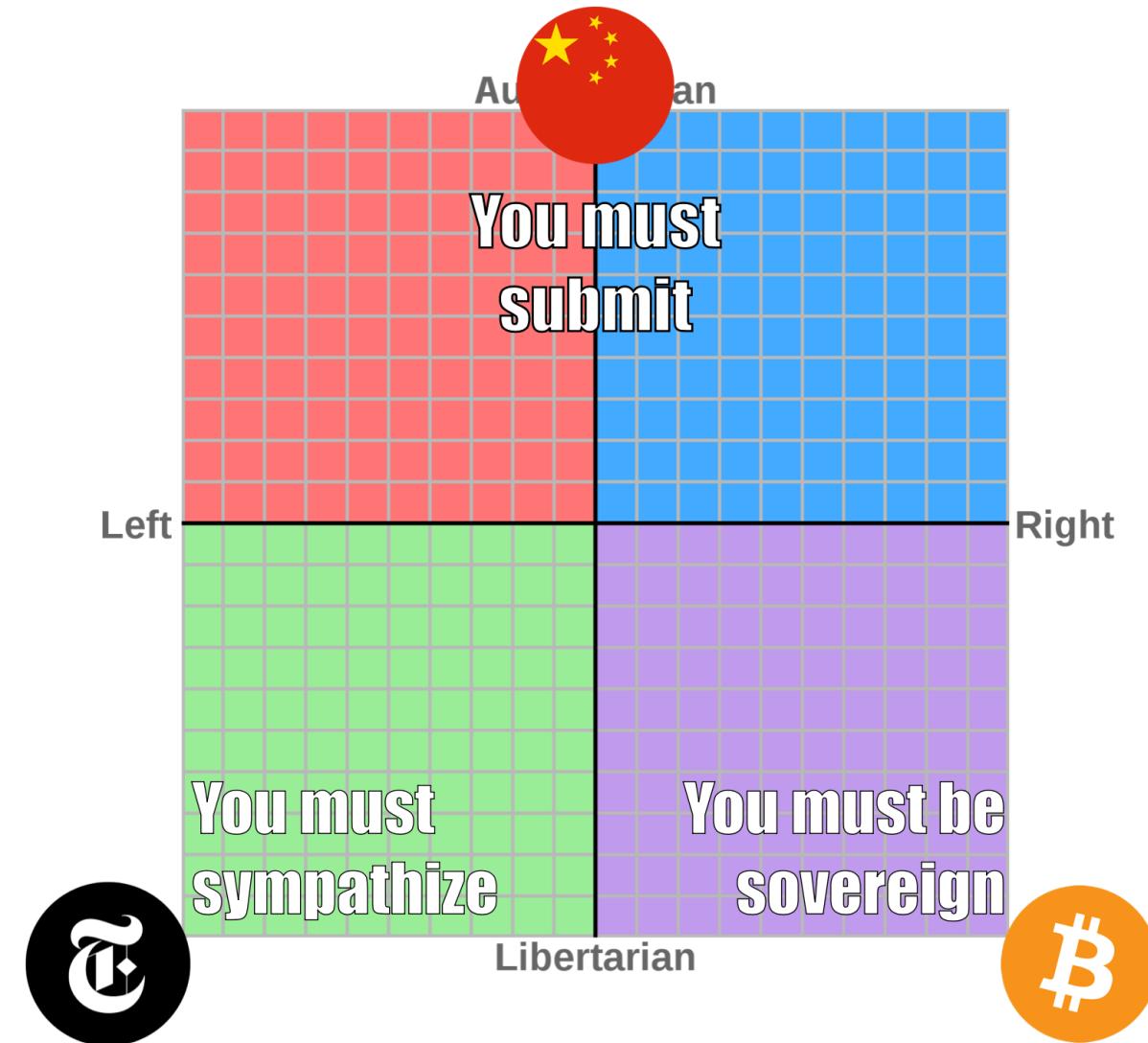
- CCP: Communist Capital
- NYT: Woke Capital
- BTC: Crypto Capital



# Political Formula

What's their political formula?

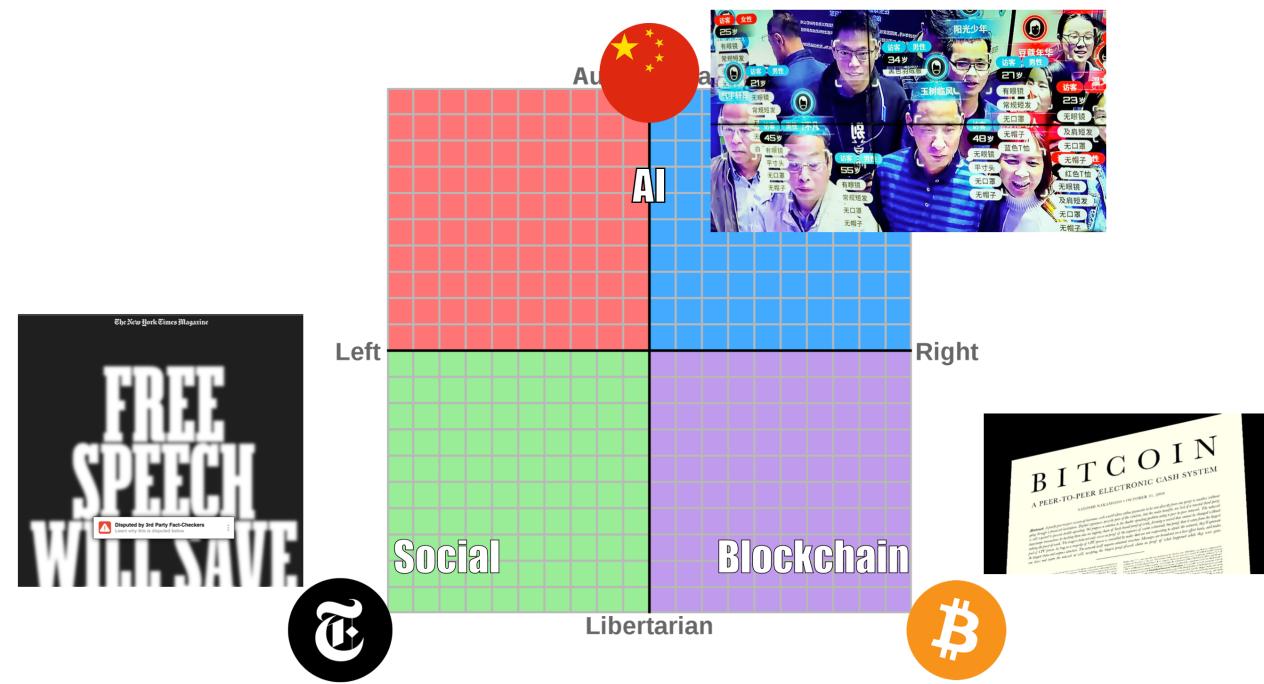
- CCP: You must submit
- NYT: You must sympathize
- BTC: You must be sovereign



# Core Technology

What's their core technology?

- CCP: AI (surveillance, military drones)
- NYT: social media (narrative, morality)
- BTC: cryptocurrency (currency, economics)





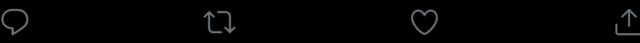
Balaji Srinivasan   
@balajis

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The US government has already named its replacements. By sending manufacturing overseas, the future of hard power is CCP. And by printing trillions of dollars, the future of hard money is BTC.

11:41 PM · Oct 8, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

374 Retweets 54 Quote Tweets 2,872 Likes



Balaji Srinivasan   
@balajis · Oct 8, 2021

...

Replies to @balajis

The BTC point is well debated. On the CCP point, Brose is the former Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee. By his account he could see every line item of America's \$700B defense budget, including confidential parts.

This is from his book.  
[amazon.com/dp/B07W5DH8M6/](https://amazon.com/dp/B07W5DH8M6/)

OVER THE PAST DECADE, IN  
US WAR GAMES AGAINST  
CHINA, THE UNITED STATES  
HAS A NEARLY PERFECT  
RECORD: WE HAVE LOST  
ALMOST EVERY SINGLE TIME.

# Core Strength

What's their core strength?

- CCP: Hard power
- NYT: Soft power
- BTC: Hard money

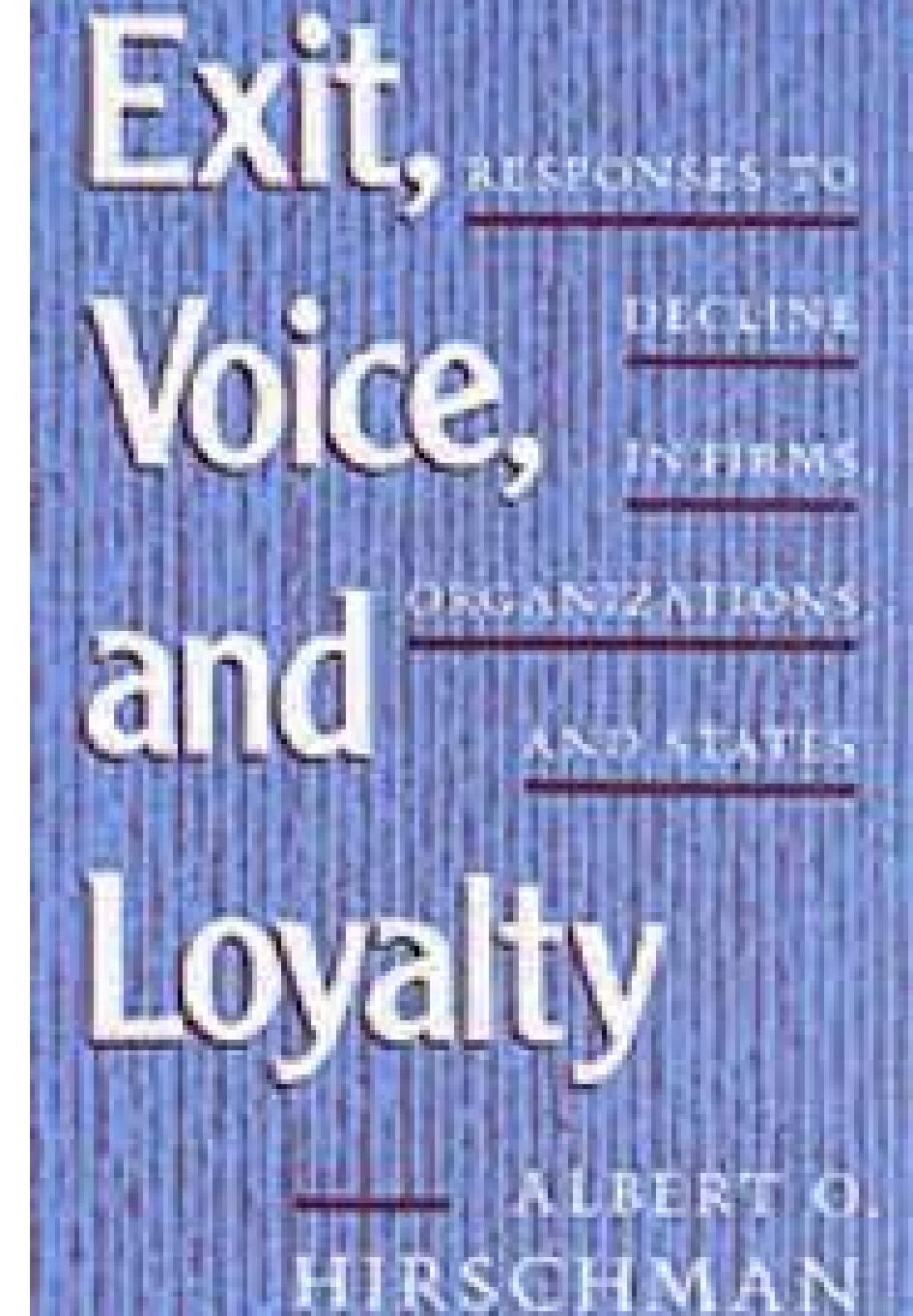
Christian Brose

*The Kill Chain: Defending America in the Future of High-Tech Warfare*

# Worldview

What's their core worldview?

- CCP: Loyalty
- NYT: Voice
- BTC: Exit



# Leadership

What's their leadership model?

- CCP: One leader
- NYT: A few leaders
- BTC: No leaders



# Weakness

Each extreme point repels their best and most innovative.

- CCP: repels Jack Ma and Chinese founders
- NYT: repels Greenwald, Andreessen, Weiss
- BTC: repels Vitalik, Zooko, etc

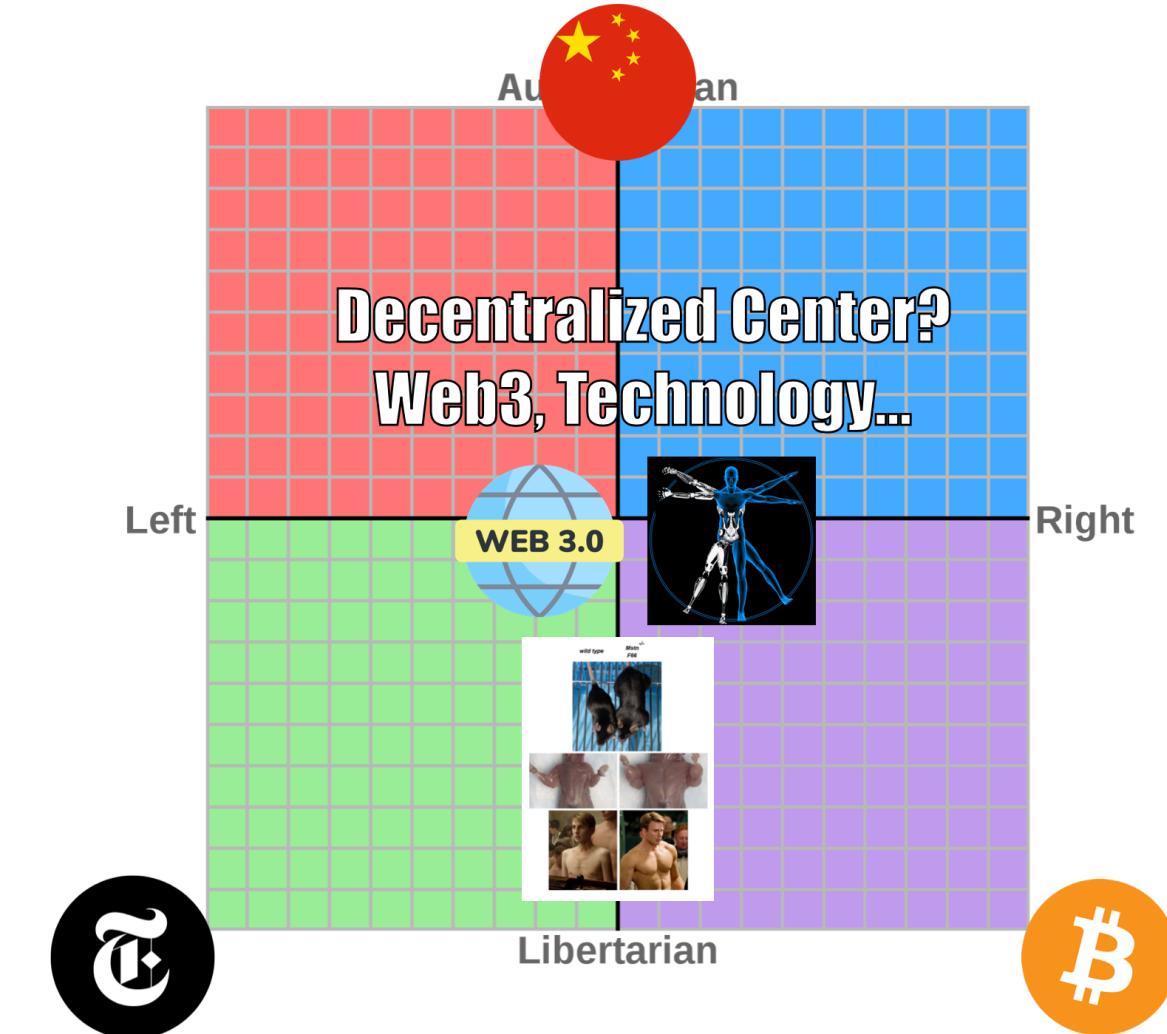
That's the weakness of the orthodox factions.



# The Decentralized Center

Differences vs the three points.

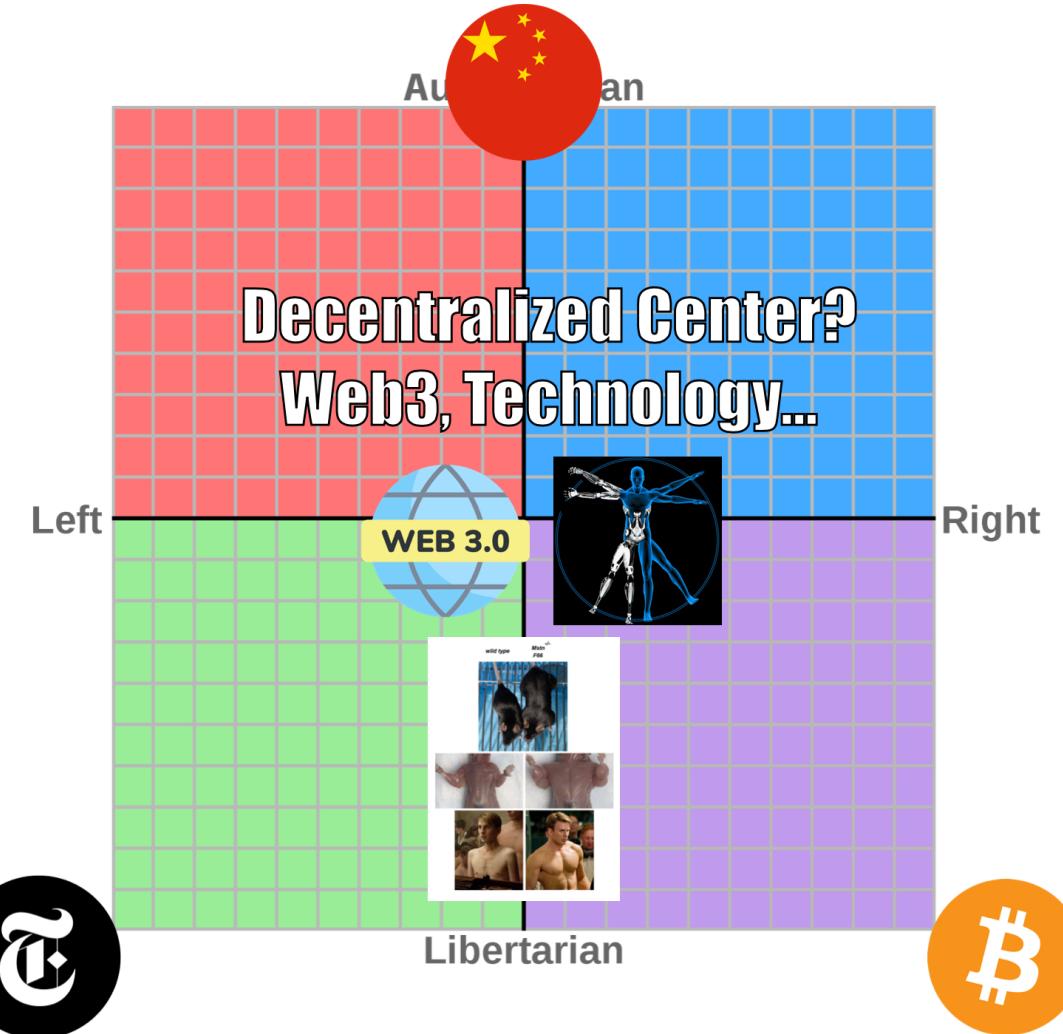
- vs CCP: consent, not coercion
- vs BTC: many leaders, not no leader
- vs NYT: exit, not just voice



# The Decentralized Center

Similarities vs the three points.

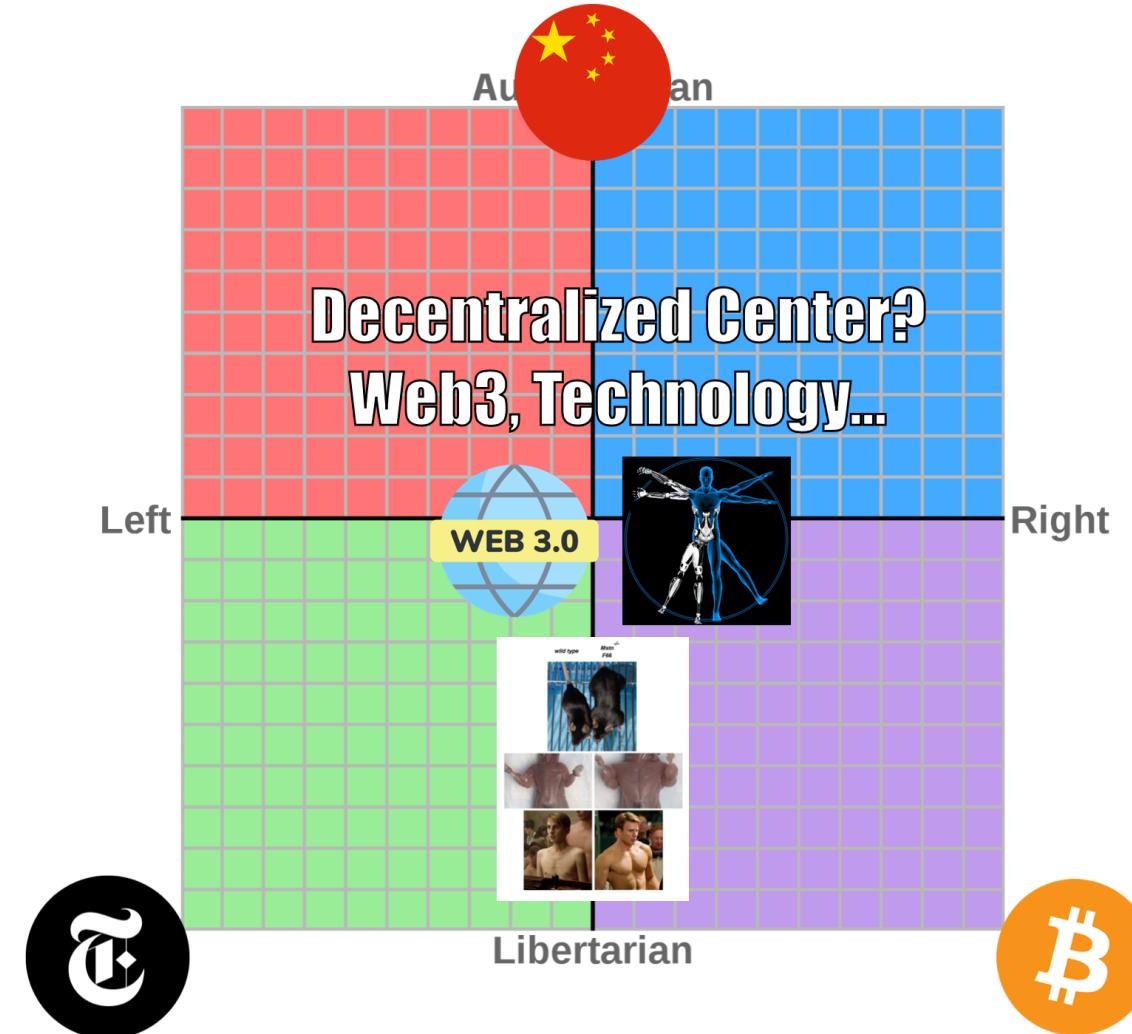
- vs CCP: building in the physical world, rapid execution
- vs BTC: pro-freedom, hold and use Bitcoin
- vs NYT: for online writing & content, without state censorship



# The Decentralized Center

Productive tension vs the three points.

- vs CCP: Decentralized leadership is good, centralized coercion is bad
- vs BTC: Bitcoin is good, maximalism is bad
- vs NYT: Decentralized media is good, centralized media is bad

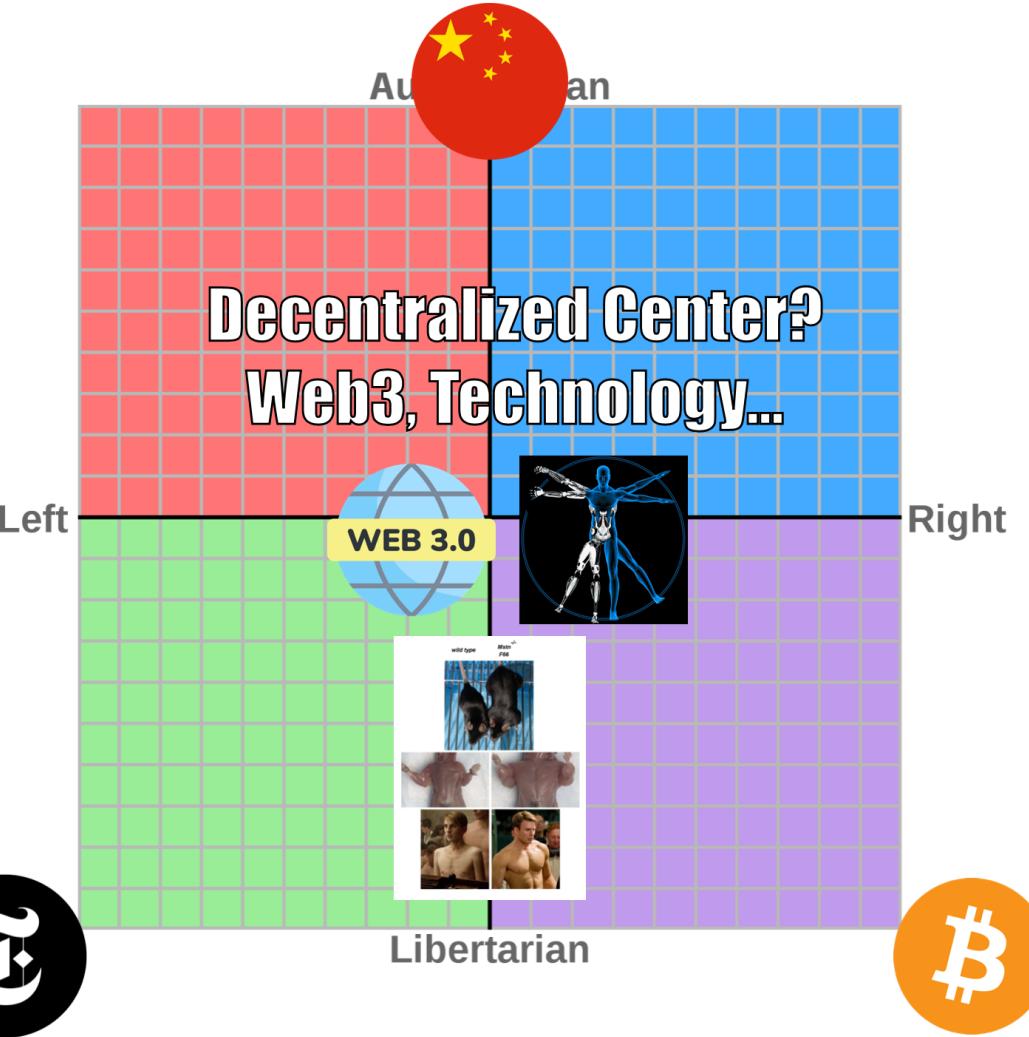


# The Decentralized Center

What do we call this coalition?

- Silicon Valley (no, geographical)
- Web3 (a big part of it, but only one plane)
- Technological Transcendence (this feels closest)

Biomedicine is the next-next, after web3. VitaDAO is a glimmering here.



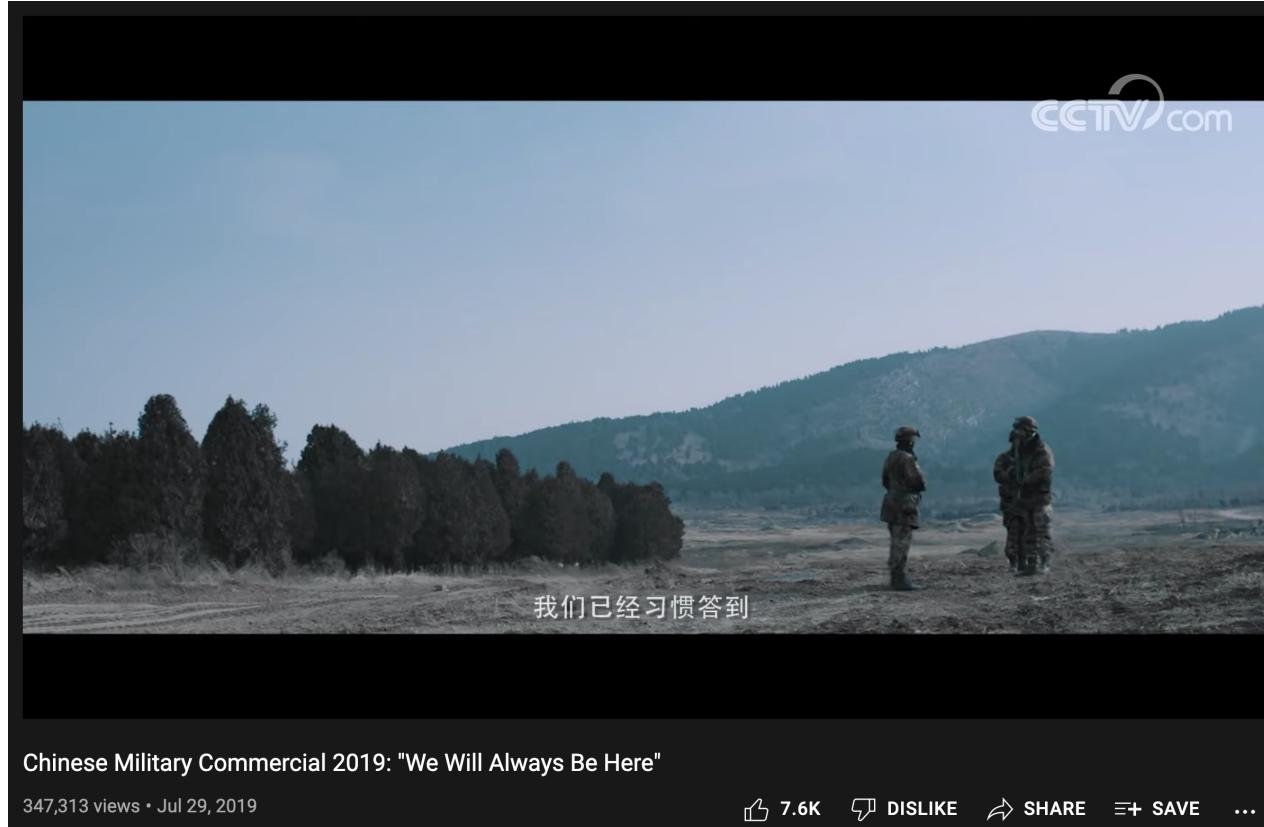
# How does this play out?

- Chinese Control
- American Anarchy
- International Intermediate

# Chinese Control

Always possible for a black swan, and there is internal dissent, but right now they have powerful centralized control.

The Counter-Decentralization has won in China.

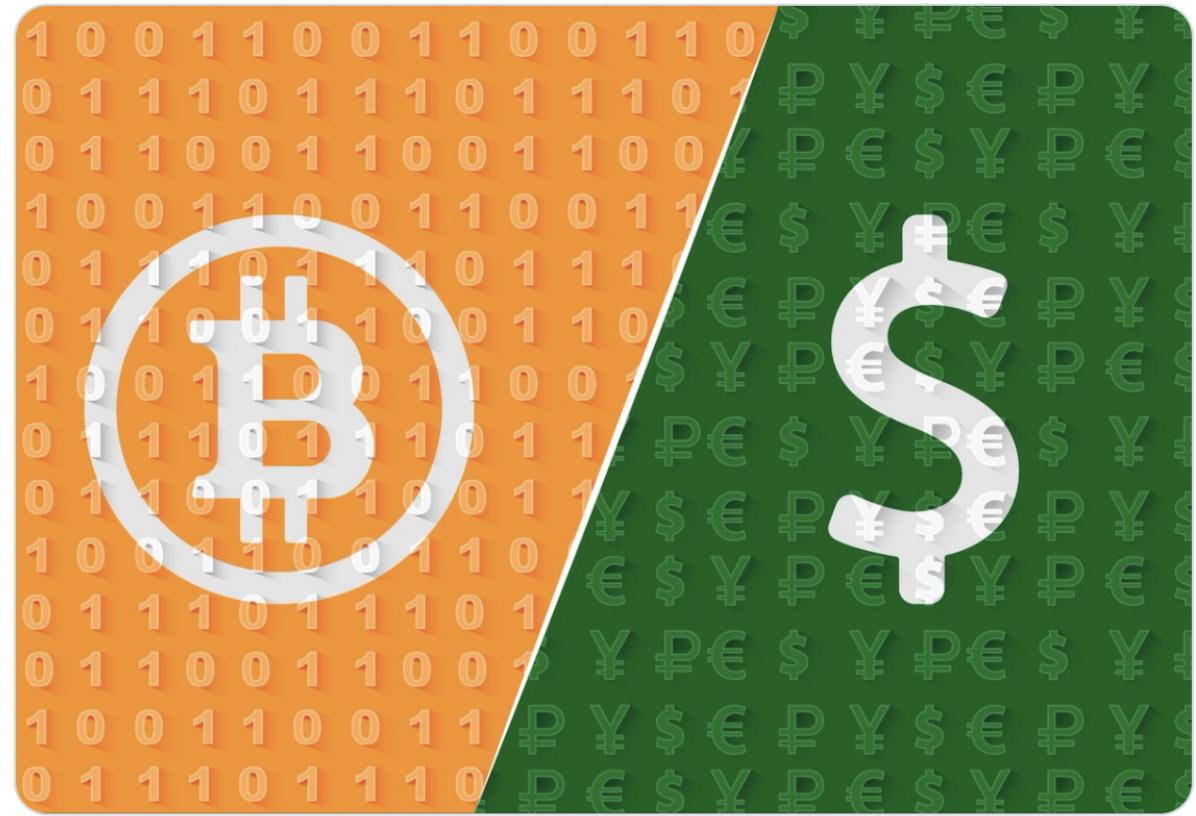




Balaji Srinivasan   
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The next one isn't red vs blue, it's orange vs green.  
BTC vs USD, for all the marbles.



2:28 PM · Oct 24, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

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For some time, I've been increasingly concerned that instead of marching into a future of freedom we were heading toward a time of tyranny. I still think something like this may take place in China's sphere of influence. Arguably, it already is. But as the events of this year have unfolded, it appears that we are not on track for a dictatorship of either the right- or left-wing variety, but for something more like [American anarchy](#).

Squint past today's half-ignored, [TSA-like](#) Covid regulations and you see a [half-ignored](#), [TSA-like](#) Covid regulator—namely, a failing state that people *can* half-ignore, and arguably *must* half-ignore, because the USA itself is now the TSA, and the TSA, we know, is safety theater.

In the territory governed by this inept bureaucracy, you see [power outages](#), [supply chain shortages](#), [rampant flooding](#), and [uncontrolled fires](#). You see [riots](#), [arsons](#), [shootings](#), [stabblings](#), [robberies](#), and [murders](#). You see digital mobs that become [physical mobs](#). You see a complete [loss of trust](#) in institutions from the [state](#) to the [media](#). You see anti-capitalism and anti-vaxxism. You see [states breaking away from](#) the U.S. federal government, at [home and abroad](#). And you see the [End of Power](#), the [Revolt of the Public](#), the [defeat](#) of the military, the [inflation](#) of the dollar, and—looming ahead—an American anarchy.

What's coming isn't fascism or communism, like the left-wing and right-wing pundits will have you believe, even though they don't believe it themselves. What's coming is the exact opposite of that, a world where the civilized concepts of freedom and equity are extrapolated to their decivilizational limit, where you ain't the boss of me and we are all equal, where all hierarchy is illegitimate and with it all authority, where no one is in charge and everything is in chaos.

You can argue this may be preferable to the status quo, in the same way the chaotic Russia of the 1990s was on balance better than the authoritarian Soviet Union of the '80s. You can argue it may be inevitable; as the Chinese [proverb](#) goes, "the empire, long divided, must unite; long united, must divide." And you can argue that this transitional period of anarchy may be lamentable, but that it's better than the other team being in charge, and that we can [build a better order](#) on the other side.

Maybe so. But prior to any rebundling, I think we're on track for quite the [unbundling](#).

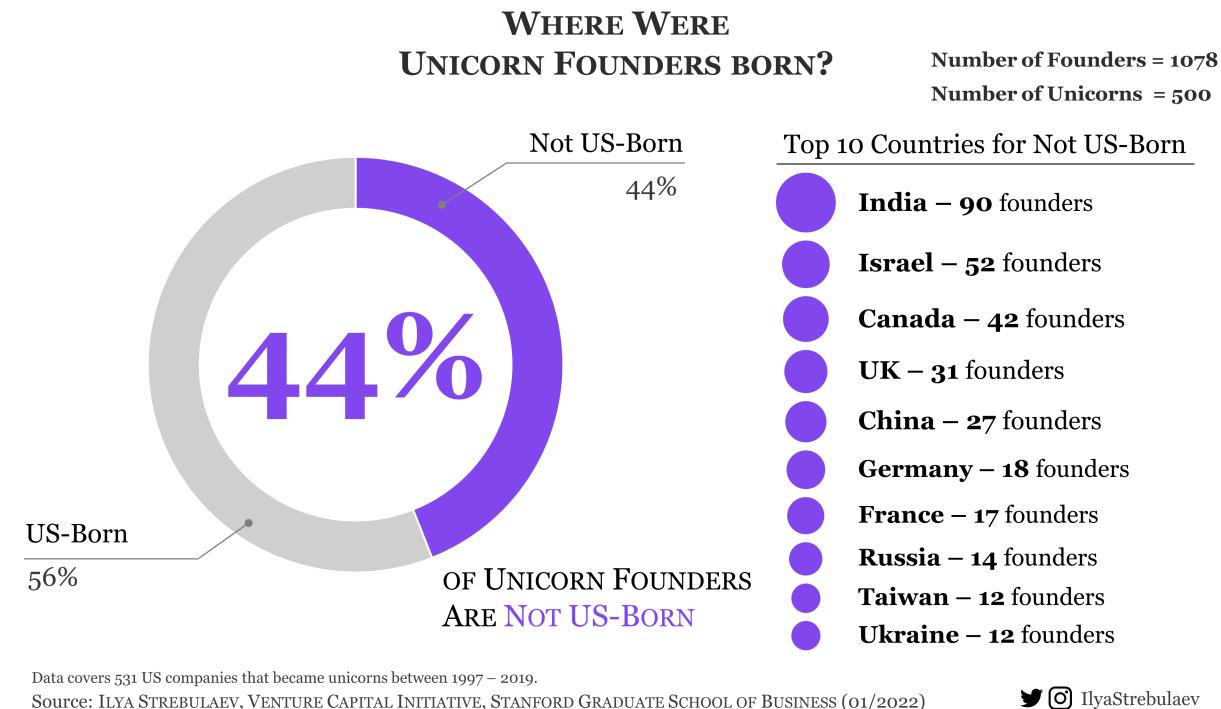
# American Anarchy

Wrote a [mini-essay](#) on this for Bari's blog.

# International Intermediate

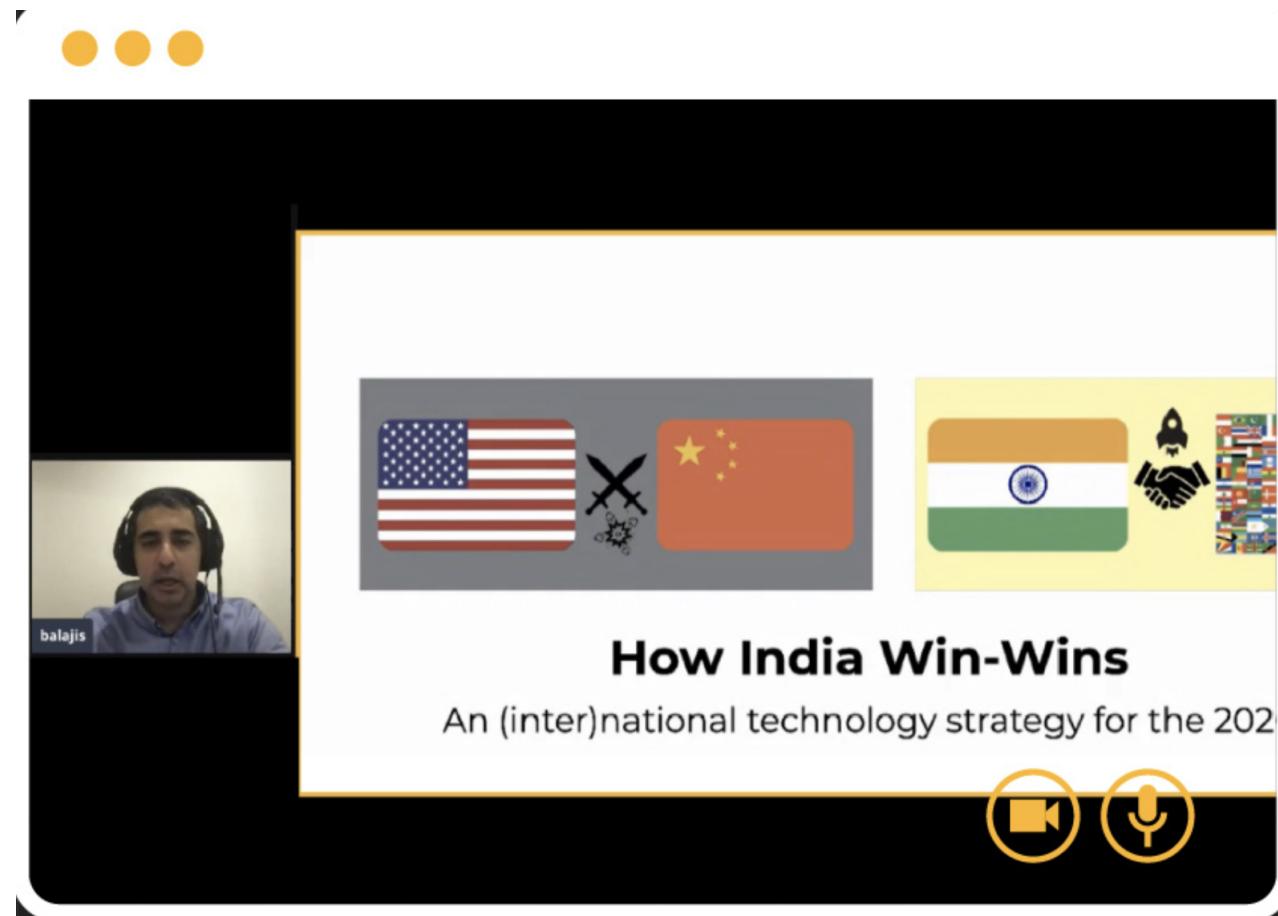
So, who goes to web3/technology then, rather than purely CCP/NYT/BTC?

- Crypto Chinese
- Crypto Americans
- Indians
- Israelis
- Internationals in general



# India and Israel

- Prominent as tech founders
- Increasingly aligned
- Underrated
- Potential basis for pro-freedom global coalition
- See: [How India Win/Wins, summary](#) and [SuperteamDAO](#)



# Summary

- CCP, NYT, BTC, Technology
- Counter-Decentralization wins in China, loses in America
- Maximalist vs Woke = American Anarchy?

Between Chinese Control and American Anarchy...an International Intermediate?

# Next Steps

Please fill out the feedback form!

<https://airtable.com/shrLsJ93V9rJiYKPN>