

THE INFLUENCE OF ANIMAL FARM AND THE MANDUKYA UPANISHADON BLOCKCHAIN REVOLUTION

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Abstract: This article aims to use George Orwell's opinion of the Russian Revolution in Animal Farm to guide block chain evolution. After defining the word revolution, We make an analogy between Old Major's dream, which is the source of the animal revolution and the Mandukya Upanishad against Satoshi Nakamoto's "Bit coin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System" which is the source of block chain revolution to demonstrate that block chain revolution is a natural evolution which will lead to a restructuration of both society and government. However, following the threats and attacks identified in live testing at the business level, block chain evolution can also open the door to a technological coup d'état and create social unrest for undefined period governance and economic activity are not clearly separated from each other. A Block chain User Bill of Rights is of the essence to develop literature on this new area but to render implementation of block chain optimally efficient, we invite future research in law, ethics, and philosophy.

Keywords: Block chain, Revolution, Animal Farm, Mandukya Upanishad, Bill of Rights

I. INTRODUCTION

As professed by its pioneers, block chain is the solution to the puzzle "how to get rid of the financial intermediary?" Especially following the financial crisis of 2008 when trust which is the source of their economic existence was breached. In 2020 the potential of Block chain to change the world beyond the provision of financial services and crypto currency has turned it into a mystery. Gregory Traveston explained the difference between mysteries and puzzles in an article published in the New Yorker, according to him, puzzles have definitive answers even though one cannot find them straightaway while mysteries pose a question that has no definitive answer, the answer depends on an interaction of known and unknown factors. Contrarily to a puzzle, a mystery cannot be answered and can only be framed. The methodology for framing a mystery is to identify the critical factors and apply some sense of how they have interacted in the past and might interact in the future.¹ It is therefore relevant to identify and disseminate those critical factors. Discussing Block chain revolution considering Orwell's perspective on the Russian Revolution, which of utmost importance in the history of revolutionary socialism, is one way of doing it

II. REVOLUTION

Revolution is "a change affected using violence, in government, and/or regime, and/or society .By society is meant the consciousness and the mechanics of communal solidarity, which may be tribal, peasant, kinship, national, and so on; by regime is meant the constitutional structure-democracy, oligarchy, and monarchy; and by government is meant specific political and administrative institutions."² This definition enables the distinction between the seizure of power that leads to a restructuration of society or government with the replacement of an elite by a new one,

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¹ Malcolm Gladwell, "Enron Open Secrets" The New Yorker, January 1, 2007,

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2007/01/08/open-secrets-3>

² Stone L, "Theories of revolution" 1966, World Polit 18(2):159-176

and the coup d'état which is no more than change of ruling personnel by violence.³

III. THE DREAM

Both the revolution of the animals in Animal Farm and the Block chain revolution are reactions to a condition a category of economic players must bear. In Animal Farm there is a reaction against the treatment imposed by Mr. Jones on the physical integrity of the animals, which led them to revolt to eliminate Mr. Jones from the equation and rule the farm themselves. While Block chain, the technology behind Bit coin, appeared in 2008 following the financial crisis, the author shouts for the elimination of the financial intermediary and professed that computer power and coding could replace the financial intermediary so that buyers and sellers are able to interact directly.⁴ The sources of the two revolutions however differ. In Animal Farm, the revolution is inspired by Old Major's 'strange dream' which he shared with his fellow animals. A distinction is made by him between Man who, "is the only creature that consumes without producing" and the animals whose, "whole labor is stolen away by human beings "therefore Man had to be pushed outside the animals' life. In Judaism, dreams are considered as means through which God communicate with Man. In Hinduism, the Mandukya Upanishad, provides that a dream is one of three states that the soul experiences during its lifetime, together with the waking state and the sleep state. According to Swami Krishnananda, the waking state is the consciousness only of what is outside, not conscious of what is inside. The dream state is an internal reversion of the mind from the world of sensory operations to the internally conscious, that is, in the dream state the mind can project a world without the operation of the waking senses, for example though one's eyes may be closed, one will 'see' in dream. The sensory functions are in operations in the dream state, though the waking senses are not active. The mind projects itself as the senses of dream and becomes capable of getting into contact with objects which are a partial manifestation of the same mind. One is the beholder of the dream, and one is simultaneously the world which one beholds. Finally, the complete cessation of the activity of the mind sleeps.⁵ After externalizing his dream, Old Major will sleep forever.

When sowing the seeds of the animal revolution, Old Major ignored Adam Smith's classical economic theory and the danger of merging government with economic activity. According to Adam Smith, every person acts rationally and aims to maximize his personal utility; this principle is prevalent in most decisions taken by the individual and governs unlawful business activity aimed at increasing personal wealth. The state of a country however is not in the hands of physical or legal persons. Economic players do not aim to promote public interest. Instead, they are guided by an invisible hand toward an objective that was not their original intention; consequently, government should protect people from injustice. Economic players can be left alone to follow their interests according to their ways; if laws of justice and equity are not violated.

Napoleon, on the other hand, understood the difference between government and economic activity. He took power using the dogs, which represent the military, and imposed a totalitarian regime to pursue his economic objectives. The lack of "human capital "and the inherent limits in the nature of the other animals in understanding the whole concept of Animalism are key to the success of his regime.

When 'Bit coin' was published in 2008, the world had already known three industrial revolutions, democracy which provides for a system of checks and balances had already replaced monarchy or any other totalitarian form of Government and machines are already imbedded in human life. Through machines, humanity moves the lines of physics; people live comfortably, travel to any destination in the world within days and have immediate access to information. Society nowadays is literate, and people are encouraged in universities to think critically. The source of Block chain revolutionist therefore a natural development happening in the Waking State extending the comfort zone and the ability people to interact; it is not the dream of a better world by an individual, however virtuous he may be, naively externalized in the Waking State while all other economic variables remain unchanged.

³ Mario Coccia, "Theories of Revolution" 2019,

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333578294_Theories_of_Revolution/link/5cf51f894585153c3daf56d5/download

⁴ Nakamoto Satoshi, "Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System" 2008,

<https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf>

⁵ Swami Krishnananda, "The Mandukya Upanishad" 1968, https://www.swami-krishnananda.org/mand/mand_pre.html

IV. PROPAGANDA

Propaganda is the driving force of the revolution in Animal Farm, 'Beasts of England' and the 'Seven Commandments' are the messages successively diffused by Old Major, Snowball, Napoleon and Squealer. While 'Beasts of England' was meant to be a rally song, the 'Seven Commandments would be inscribed on the wall; they would form an unalterable law by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live for everafter'. However, after the implementation of his reign of terror, Napoleon will change the initial messages to develop a cult of personality to his effigy. Katherine Fitzmaurice traced the evolution in the definition of the word 'propaganda' in the Oxford English Dictionary; her research demonstrates that the word propaganda first appeared in 1621-1623 with the "congregation for propagating the faith". a mission commissioned by Pope Gregory XV, to spread the doctrine of the Catholic Church. Propaganda was then defined as "an organization, scheme, or movement for the propagation of a particular doctrine, practice, etc". The Oxford English Dictionary's definition kept track of the word's evolution when power shifted from the Church to the State in the twentieth century at the time of the First World War: "the systematic dissemination of information, esp. in a biased or misleading way, in order to promote a political cause or point of view." Propaganda there became political and partisan to persuade the audience to adhere to a point of view.⁶

Block chain allowed the creation of a new form of association and governance, namely the Decentralized Autonomous Organization, a computer code, through which smart contracts are connected. The connection serves as a governance mechanism; the code is the law and data entered is immutable. However, the Decentralized Autonomous Organization created by Slock.it in 2016 was hacked and as described by Osman Gazi Güçlütürk; the attacker managed to retrieve 3.6 million Ethers by abusing a loophole in the coding of the connection and the smart contracts. The community decided to do a hard fork "to overwrite the history and restore the stolen Ethers." The victims were thus able to get their funds back because the immutability of Block chain was not absolute⁷. Kaushiki Srivastav draws the attention that "immutability means it is hard to make changes without collusion, not that data is unchangeable." She further identified two ways through which immutability can be subject to cyber-attacks firstly through a "51 percent attack." In this scenario an attacker can by acquiring "controlling interest of generating power" render void the immutability of the block chain by creating a majority. She argues that the accessibility to rent mining capacity removes the difficulty for people to group to carry out such attack. The attackers could for example reverse a high-value transaction, spend the money and secure the profit. The second way to defeat the alleged immutability is through quantum computing which can reverse-engineer a public key, find the private keys and thus break the system.⁸ Carl Sagan observed that society is dependent on science and technology and hardly anyone knows anything on those subjects which is a prescription for disaster. It is therefore of essence to test the veracity of information disseminated on Block chain to the mass audience at inception and onwards. The world could otherwise fall in the hands of new Napoleons and the restructuring of society as originally intended by the pioneers of Block chain reduced to mere propaganda to enable a technological coup d'état. People controlling science and technology could become the new elite and pursue their own self-interest.

V. CONCLUSION

Hegel suggests that a revolution is an irresistible change though the manifestation of the world spirit in its quest for self-fulfillment. According to Arendt a revolution is the restoration, of liberties and privileges which were lost because of temporary despotism while for de Tocqueville a revolution is the overthrow of legally constituted elite and initiate a period of intense social, political, and economic change.⁹ However, for the first time in history the

⁶ Katherine Fitzmaurice, "Propaganda" 2018, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324711176_Propaganda

⁷ Osman Gazi Güçlütürk, "The DAO Hack Explained: Unfortunate Take-off of Smart Contracts" 2018, <https://medium.com/@ogucluturk/the-dao-hack-explained-unfortunate-take-off-of-smart-contracts-2bd8c8db3562>

⁸ Kaushiki Srivastav, "A Guide to Blockchain Immutability and Challenges" 2019, <https://dzone.com/articles/a-guide-to-blockchain-immutability-and-chief-chall>

⁹ Mario Coccia, "Theories of Revolution" 2019, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333578294_Theories_of_Revolution/link/5cf51f894585153c3daf56d5/download

majority of the world's population is no longer poor or vulnerable.¹⁰ Global policy makers such as the World Bank are conscient that society is moving towards a new social contract and are pushing for more equitable distribution of income.¹¹ The danger will therefore come from unsuccessful attempts to become the fourth industrial revolution's Napoleons and the social friction this can cause. A Block chain User Bill of Rights is therefore of essence to trigger development in the block chain legal literature ethics and philosophy.

VI. REFERENCE

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¹¹ Maurizio Bussolo, María E. Dávalos, Vito Peragine, and Ramya Sundaram, "Toward a New Social Contract" 2018, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/569321538150509492/pdf/Toward-a-New-Social-Contract-Taking-on-Distributional-Tensions-in-Europe-and-Central-Asia.pdf>