

Exploring the politics of P2P

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Peer production and the Californian ideology

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The Californian ideology

A very heterogeneous perspective mixing up:

- hippies' **libertarian** spirit
- yuppies' entrepreneurial **neo-liberalism**
- tones of **technological determinism**



1. Technological determinism

- Technological fix
- Autonomous technology
- Fatality

2. Inherent logic of technology

- Internet: democratization and decentralization
- P2P as the true spirit of the Internet
- Social differences disappear

3. Individualism: free as in free market

- free interactions between autonomous individuals
- Collective action spontaneously emerges from individualistic and selfish behaviours
- Cyberspace as the ideal market

4. Individuals as potential entrepreneurs

- Life as a business plan
- We are our own managers
- Personal identity as “reputation capital”

5. Formalized politics

- P2P politics = Linux organization + technology
- If it works for Wikipedia it should work everywhere else

6. Resorting to Nature

- The naturalistic fallacy
- Neuroscience, evolutionary biology, ethology