

No Exit Opportunities: Business Models and Political Thought in Silicon Valley | American Affairs Journal

By Henry Farrell

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It's a rare buccaneer who runs a book club. But in October 2012, the chief administrator of the Silk Road drug market, under the pseudonym "Dread Pirate Roberts," was on the dark web assigning readings from the anarchist libertarian philosophy of Murray Rothbard. Rothbard had argued that markets and individual connections were really all we needed. As the Dread Pirate, whose real name was Ross Ulbricht, summarized it, a happier world awaited those who took the exit road from ordinary politics. They could escape the "thieving murderous mits [sic]" of the state to embrace the freedom that emerged from a "multitude of voluntary interactions between individuals."

[...]

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