

The tech 'solutions' for coronavirus take the surveillance state to the next level | The Guardian

By Evgeny Morozov

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In a matter of weeks, coronavirus has [shuttered the global economy](#) and placed capitalism in intensive care. Many thinkers have expressed hope that it will usher in a more humane economic system; others warn that the pandemic heralds a darker future of techno-totalitarian [state surveillance](#).

The dated clichés from the pages of 1984 are no longer a reliable guide to [what is to come](#). And today's capitalism is stronger – and weirder – than its critics imagine. Not only do its numerous problems present new avenues for profit-making, they also boost its legitimacy – since the only salvation will be dispensed by the likes of Bill Gates and Elon Musk. The worse its crises, the stronger its defences: this is definitely not how capitalism ends.

[...]

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