



# China Rolls Out Big Brother Technocracy On Citizens

Digital slavery and Scientific Dictatorship are straight ahead for all of China, which has been moving toward Technocracy for at least 25 years. Punishment for non-compliance will be instant, irrevocable and non-transparent. Much of the technology being used is supplied by Western companies that are legally blocked by their home countries, but not so forever. Thus far, Americans are not at all alarmed that these systems will soon be applied to them. □ TN Editor

*It was a drab, chill day in November, and the clocks were striking thirteen. As the woman passed through Hangzhou Railway Station, she moved quickly through the ticket gates—though not quickly enough to avoid detection by the transport authority, which noticed her failure to swipe the correct transit pass. It was too late. She had received a black mark on government records that would make it harder than ever for her to travel in the future.*

That's a reimagining of the introduction to George Orwell's dystopian novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. But it's also set to become a reality for citizens of China if the government's dream of an authoritarian big-data scheme comes to fruition.

The [Wall Street Journal reports](#) that the Chinese government is now testing systems that will be used to create digital records of citizens' social and financial behavior. In turn, these will be used to create a so-called social credit score, which will determine whether individuals have access to services, from travel and education to loans and insurance cover. Some citizens—such as lawyers and journalists—will be more closely monitored.

Planning documents apparently describe the system as being created to “allow the trustworthy to roam everywhere under heaven while making it hard for the discredited to take a single step.” The *Journal* claims that the system will at first log “infractions such as fare cheating, jaywalking and violating family-planning rules” but will be expanded in the future—potentially even to Internet activity.

Some aspects of the system are already in testing, but there are some challenges to implementing such a far-reaching apparatus. It's difficult to centralize all that data, check it for accuracy, and process it, for example—let alone feed it back into the system to control everyday life. And China has data from 1.4 billion people to handle.

As the [Financial Times reported earlier this year](#), it's not currently well-equipped to do so. Speaking about the nation's attempts to probe citizen data to measure creditworthiness, Wang Zhicheng of Peking University's Guanghua School of Management told the newspaper, “China has a long way to go before it actually assigns everyone a score. If it wants to do that, it needs to work on the accuracy of the data. At the moment it's ‘garbage in, garbage out.’”

Not that such issues are likely to stop officials from pursuing such a goal. The nation's citizens already have to deal with [strict Internet censorship](#), and Jack Ma, the founder of Chinese e-commerce site Alibaba, recently called on the government to use [sweeping data analysis to identify criminals](#).

If China can work out how to corral its data across government departments, cities, and districts, the scoring system will simply be another Big Brother tactic in the nation's increasingly totalitarian

approach to governance.

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## **World Mayors Gather To Plot Against Trump On Climate Change**

Mayors of the world are already lining up against Trump's anticipated climate policy changes, including several mayors from the United States. □ TN Editor

Mayors from scores of the world's biggest cities gathered in Mexico Wednesday to plot their strategy for fighting climate change in the face of skepticism from U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

As leaders of busy, polluted cities home to millions of people, they want countries to push on with adopting the so-called Paris Agreement to limit harmful emissions - an accord that Trump has cast doubt on.

“In the aftermath of this election there’s never been a more important time for those city leaders to stay on course - the whole world is counting on them,” said Clover Moore, mayor of Sydney, Australia.

Mayors from members of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group were gathering under the chairmanship of Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo.

Trump has in the past vowed to tear up international climate agreements, though the Republican real-estate magnate said in an interview last week that he has an “open mind” about supporting global accords.

The billionaire had called global warming a “hoax” invented by the Chinese and not scientifically proven.

Hidalgo has vowed to push “for the world’s biggest and most influential cities to mobilize to make sure the Paris Agreement is fulfilled.”

“Mexico, Paris and other cities will announce new measures to fight against air pollution,” she said.

Mayors of major U.S. cities including Chicago, Washington, New Orleans, Austin and Phoenix are due to attend to discuss potential resistance from Trump, who will take office on Jan. 20 after winning the Nov.8 election.

Hidalgo and other mayors were due to officially launch the three-day meeting on Wednesday evening.

The C40 groups 85 cities including London, New York, Vancouver, Hong Kong and Seoul.

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## Cashless India Update: Angry Mobs Revolt, Raid ATMs, Demand Cash

The first identifiable global battle over cashless society has begun in India. The central bank is withdrawing cash from the financial system and the people are revolting. Bankers are bracing for angry mobs as payday approaches. If the people lose this battle, then the cashless society will sweep the world like a wildfire. □ TN Editor

India's demonetization campaign is not going as expected.

Overnight, banks played down expectations of a dramatic improvement in currency availability, raising the prospect of queues lengthening as salaries get paid and people look to withdraw money from their accounts [the Economic Times reported](#).

While much of India has become habituated to the sight of people lining up at banks and cash dispensers since the November 8 demonetisation

announcement, bank officials said the message from the Reserve Bank of India is that supplies may not get any easier in the near future and that they should push digital transactions. “We had sought a hearing with RBI as we were not allocated enough cash, but we were told that rationing of cash may continue for some time,” said a banker who was present at one of several meetings with central bank officials.

**“Reserve Bank has asked us to push the use of digital channels to all our customers and ensure that we bring down use of cash in the economy,”** said a banker. This confirms a previous report according to which the demonstization campaign has been a not so [subtle attempt](#) to impose digital currency on the entire population.

Bankers have been making several trips to the central bank’s headquarters in Mumbai to get a sense of whether currency availability will improve. Some automated teller machines haven’t been filled even once since the old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes ceased to be legal tender, they said. Typically, households pay milkmen, domestic helps, drivers, etc, at the start of the month in cash. The idea is that all these payments should become electronic, using computers or mobiles.

This strategy however, appears to **not** have been conveyed to the public, and as [Bloomberg adds](#), **“bankers are bracing for long hours and angry mobs as pay day approaches in India.”**

“Already people who are frustrated are locking branches from outside in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Tamil Nadu and abusing staff as enough cash is not available,” said CH Venkatachalam, general secretary of the All India Bank Employees’ Association. **The group has sought police protection at bank branches for the next 10 days,** he added.

Joining many others who have slammed Modi’s decision, the banker said that “this is the fallout of one of the worst planned and executed government decisions in decades.” He estimates that about 20 million people – almost twice the population of Greece – will queue up at bank branches and ATMs over the coming week, when most employers in India pay their staff. **In an economy where 98 percent of consumer payments are in cash, banks are functioning with about half the**

**amount of currency they need.**

As Bloomberg notes, retaining public support is crucial for Modi before key state elections next year and a national contest in 2019, however it appears he is starting to lose it.

**“We are bracing ourselves for payday and fearing the worst,”** said Parthasarathi Mukherjee, chief executive officer at Chennai-based Laxmi Vilas Bank Ltd. “If we run out of cash we will have to approach the Reserve Bank of India for more. It is tough.”

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