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Connecting the dots of technology and ethics

Albert S. Kochaphum

Week 5 | April 27th, 2021

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week 5

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

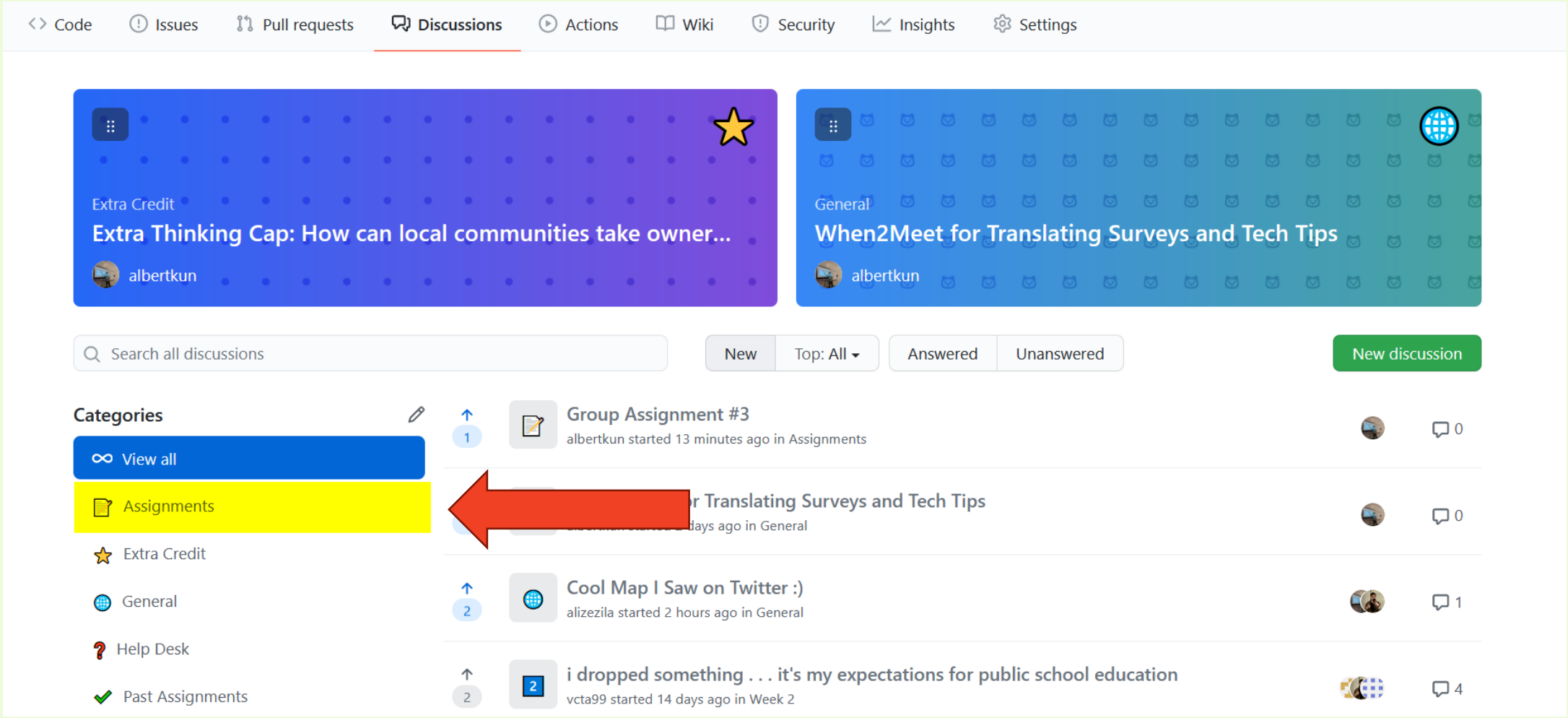
Today's Agenda

Logistics Visiting Voice Lecture

Logistics

- **Assignment submission is now a discussion board category**
  - **Thinking Caps as comment responses**
- **Extra Tech Sessions Tuesdays at 5:30pm**
- **Group Assignment #3 "Survey" due Thursday 4/29**

Logistics


Code
Issues
Pull requests
Discussions
Actions
Wiki
Security
Insights
Settings
Extra Credit
Extra Thinking Cap: How can local communities take owner...
albertkun
General
When2Meet for Translating Surveys and Tech Tips
albertkun
Search all discussions
New
Top: All
Answered
Unanswered
New discussion
Categories
View all
Assignments
Extra Credit
General
Help Desk
Past Assignments
Group Assignment #3
albertkun started 13 minutes ago in Assignments
Translating Surveys and Tech Tips
days ago in General
Cool Map I Saw on Twitter :)
alizezila started 2 hours ago in General
i dropped something . . . it's my expectations for public school education
vcta99 started 14 days ago in Week 2

Week 4 ALwards

1. https://avaitt.github.io/21S-ASIAAM-191A-Assignments/Week_03/index.html
2. https://kennl42.github.io/21S-ASIAAM-191A-Assignments/Week_03/index.html
3. https://vcta99.github.io/21S-ASIAAM-191A-Assignments/Week_03/index.html
4. https://ninalong.github.io/21S-ASIAAM-191A-Assignments/Week_03/index.html
5. https://latishasumardy.github.io/21S-ASIAAM-191A-Assignments/Week_03/index.html
6. https://okcire.github.io/21S-ASIAAM-191A-Assignments/Week_03/index.html

Next up:

Visiting Voices

Slido Q&A for Questions

We will choose top 5 upvoted questions!

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Visiting Voice: Adriane Hoff

Adriane Hoff is the out-going president of the Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council (WCKNC) and community activist. She is also on the steering committee on Streets For All, a transportation advocacy group in Los Angeles.

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Audience Q&A Session

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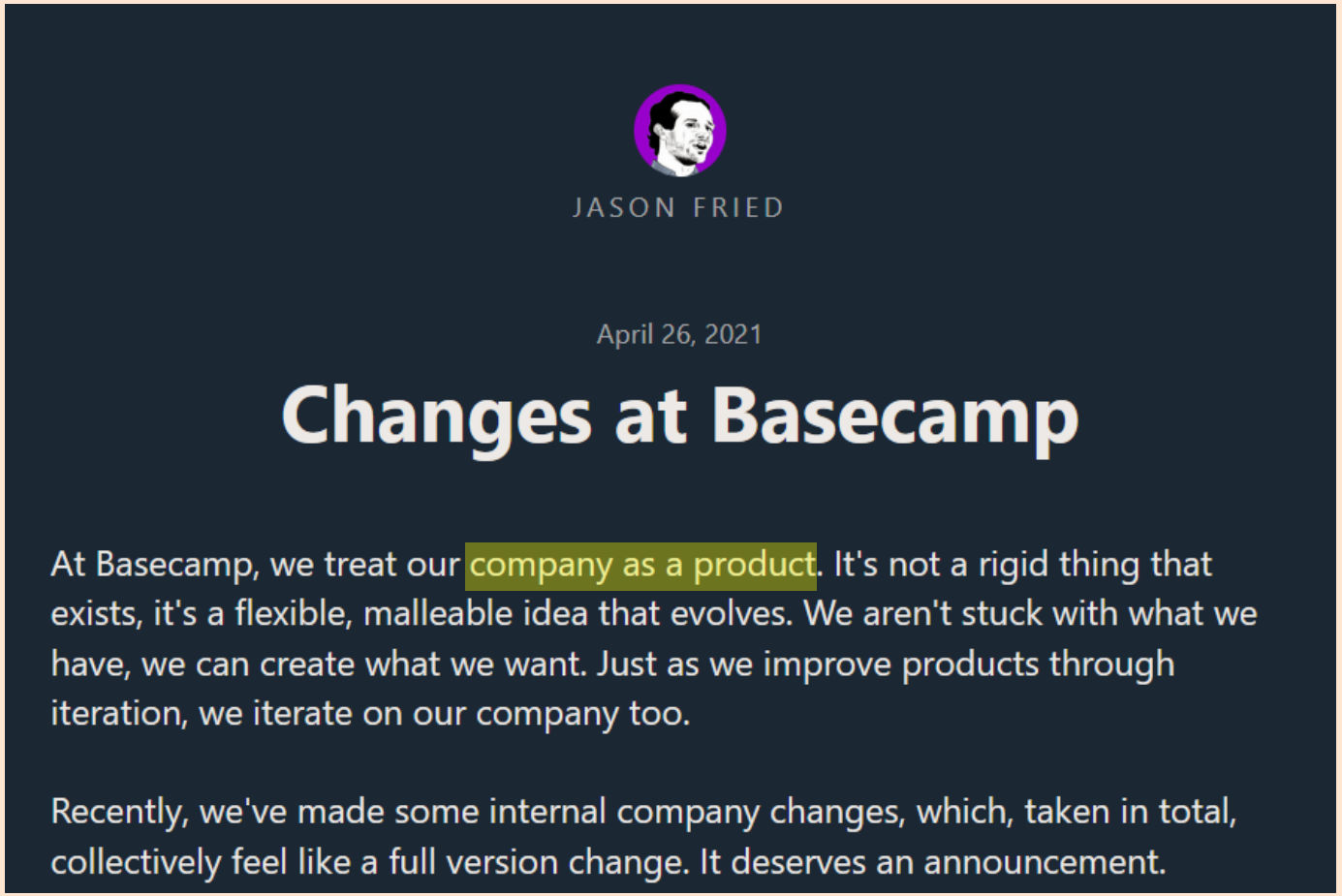
Theme of the week

The societal impacts of technology

What is the relationship between society and technology?

First off.. Why is this relevant?



https://world.hey.com/jason/changes-at-basecamp-7f32afc5

1. No more societal and political discussions on our company Basecamp account. Today's social and political waters are especially choppy. Sensitivities are at 11, and every discussion remotely related to politics, advocacy, or society at large quickly spins away from pleasant. You shouldn't have to wonder if staying out of it means you're complicit, or wading into it means you're a target. These are difficult enough waters to navigate in life, but significantly more so at work. It's become too much. It's a major distraction. It saps our energy, and redirects our dialog towards dark places. It's not healthy, it hasn't served us well. And we're done with it on our company Basecamp account where the work happens. People can take the conversations with willing co-workers to Signal, Whatsapp, or even a personal Basecamp account, but it can't happen where the work happens anymore. *Update: David has shared some more details and more of the internal announcement on his HEY World blog.*

6. No forgetting what we do here. We make project management, team communication, and email software. We are not a social impact company. Our impact is contained to what we do and how we do it. We write business books, blog a ton, speak regularly, we open source software, we give back an inordinate amount to our industry given our size. And we're damn proud of it. Our work, plus that kind of giving, should occupy our full attention. We don't have to solve deep social problems, chime in publicly whenever the world requests our opinion on the major issues of the day, or get behind one movement or another with time or treasure. These are all important topics, but they're not our topics at work — they're not what we collectively do here. Employees are free to take up whatever cause they want, support whatever movements they'd like, and speak out on whatever horrible injustices are being perpetrated on this group or that (and, unfortunately, there are far too many to choose from). But that's their business, not ours. We're in the business of making software, and a few tangential things that touch that edge. We're responsible for ourselves. That's more than enough for us.

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Thoughts about "basecamp"? Is it right? Wrong?

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April 26, 2021

Changes at Basecamp

At Basecamp, we treat our company as a product. It's not a rigid thing that exists, it's a flexible, malleable idea that evolves. We aren't stuck with what we have, we can create what we want. Just as we improve products through iteration, we iterate on our company too. Recently, we've made some internal company changes, which, taken i...

Read more

April 24, 2021

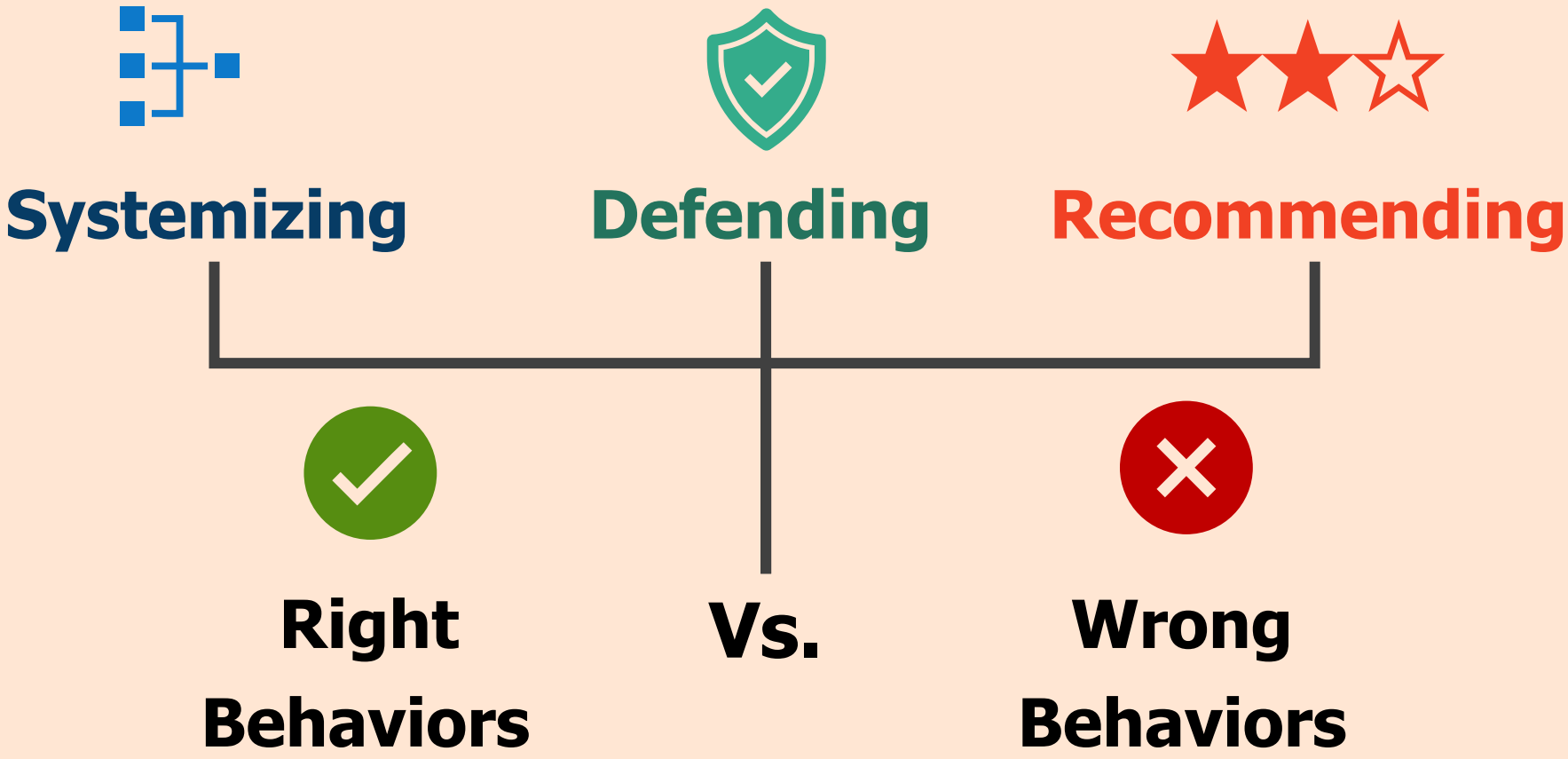
I bought a sauna

I bought a sauna. Which one doesn't matter. I barely know. I don't even care. Model number? I couldn't tell you. Maker? I'd pronounce it wrong. I just know it goes up to about 184 degrees Fahrenheit. I bought a sauna on a second-hand recommendation from someone I don't know, but do respect. I bought a sauna sight unseen, heat unfelt. I...

Analyzing this looks like a job for...

Ethic

Reminder, ethics is about:



Reminder, ethics is about:

Understanding why we should be doing a certain action.

There are no "right" answers…

BUT!!!!!!

We should be able to systemize, defend, and recommend what is right or wrong for ourselves.

Three ethical terms to walk away with:

Technological Determinism

Techno-facism

Holism

Society, Ethics, and Technology

Why?

“We live in a society”

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What do you think is the relationship between technology and society?

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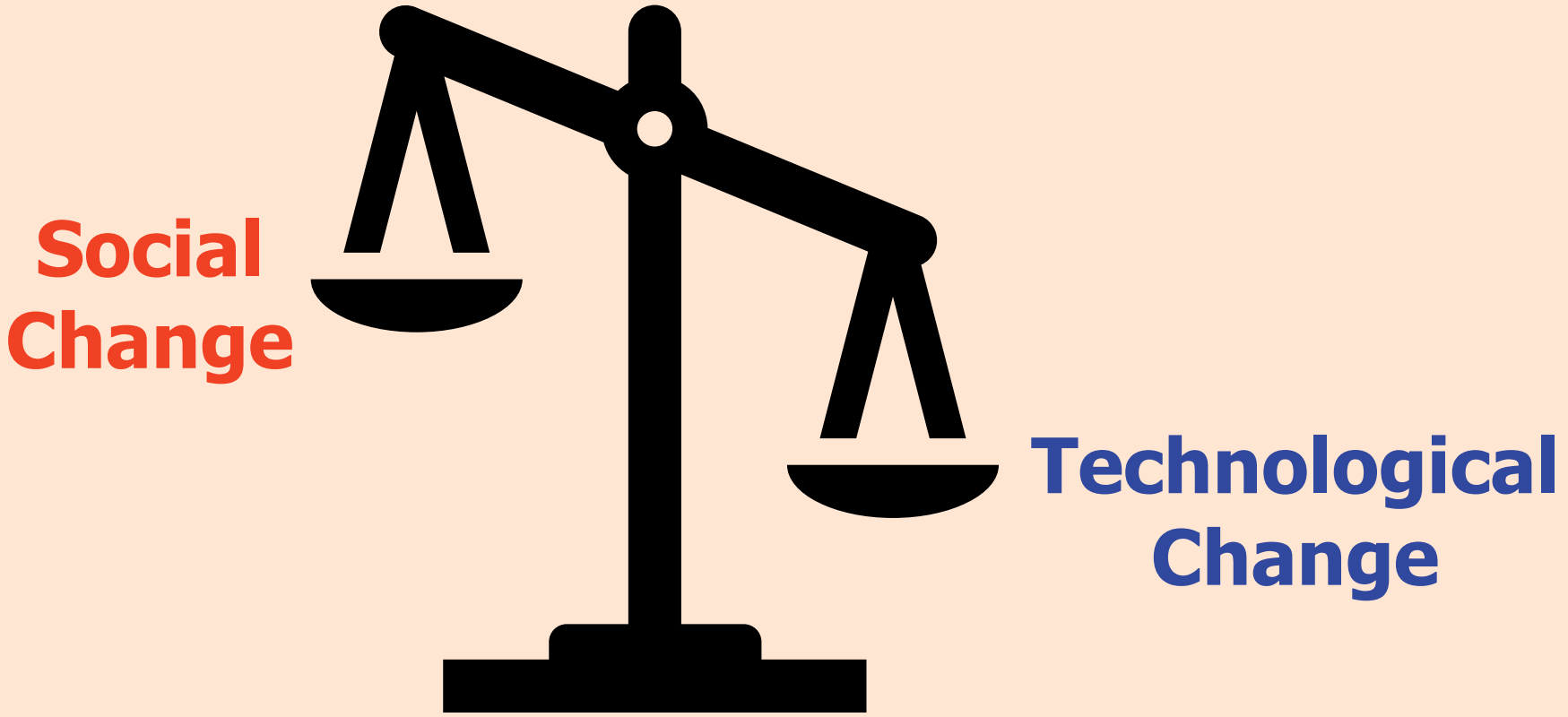
As a society where we are at:



Where we need to be:

Why?

We have tools to solve social issues like:

- **Hunger**
- **Climate change**
- **Police brutality**
- **Houselessness**

But….

We spend resources on trying to find “new” bigger and better technical solutions instead of addressing root causes.

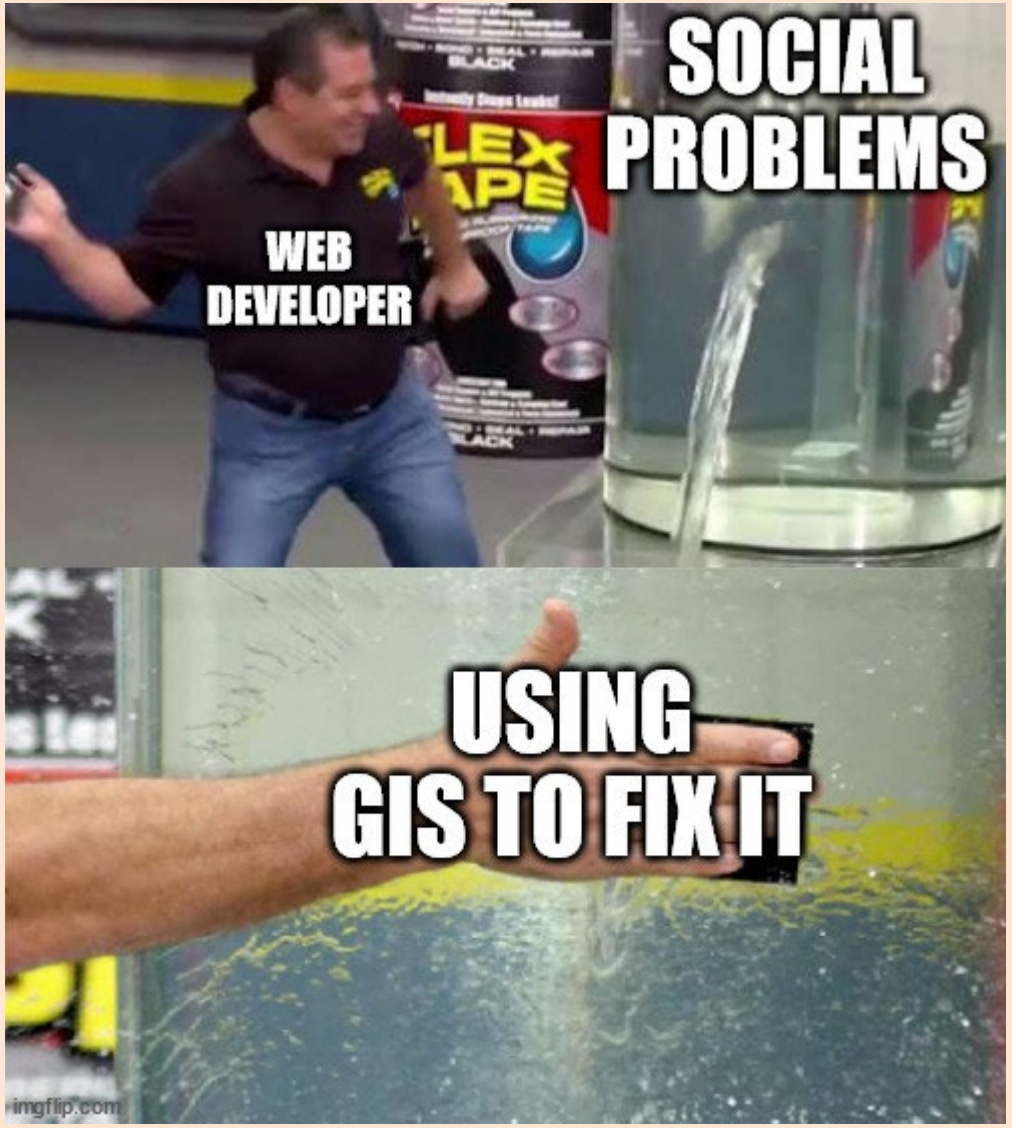
Why?

It’s easier to invest in new technology than to face the causes of social problems.

Today's main point:

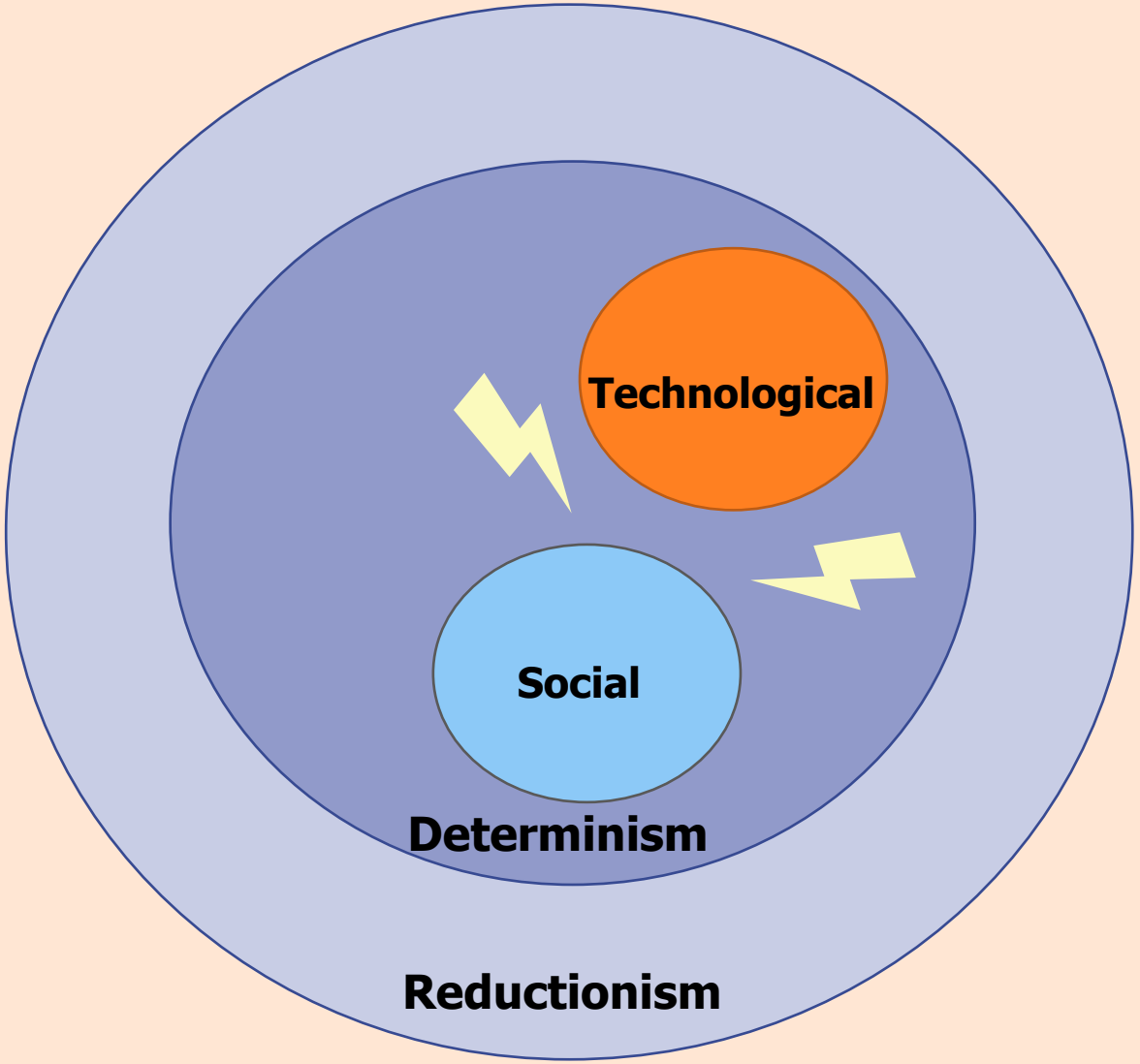
You cannot solve social problems with just technology.

Don't be this type of mapper:



What do you call the idea reducing something into simpler components?

Reductionism



Reductionism

In the social sciences:
Reduces qualitative data into quantitative.

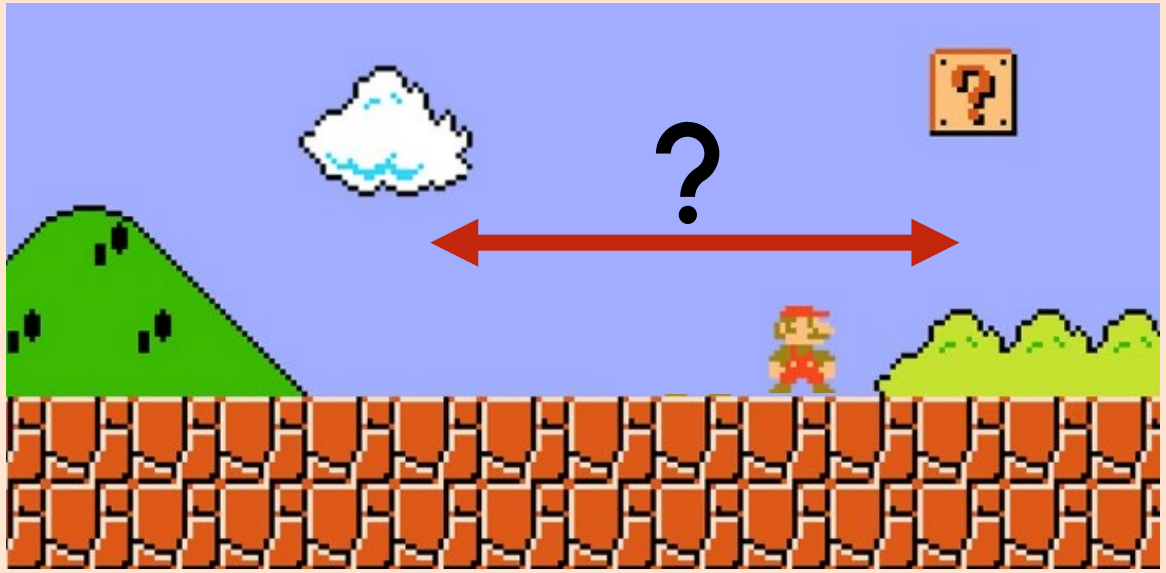
- For example… this map can be reduced to:
  - Places where I lived ->
    - 4 points in Asia
    - 2 points in North America

Reducing my experiences to numbers on a continent.

Introduces loss of information.

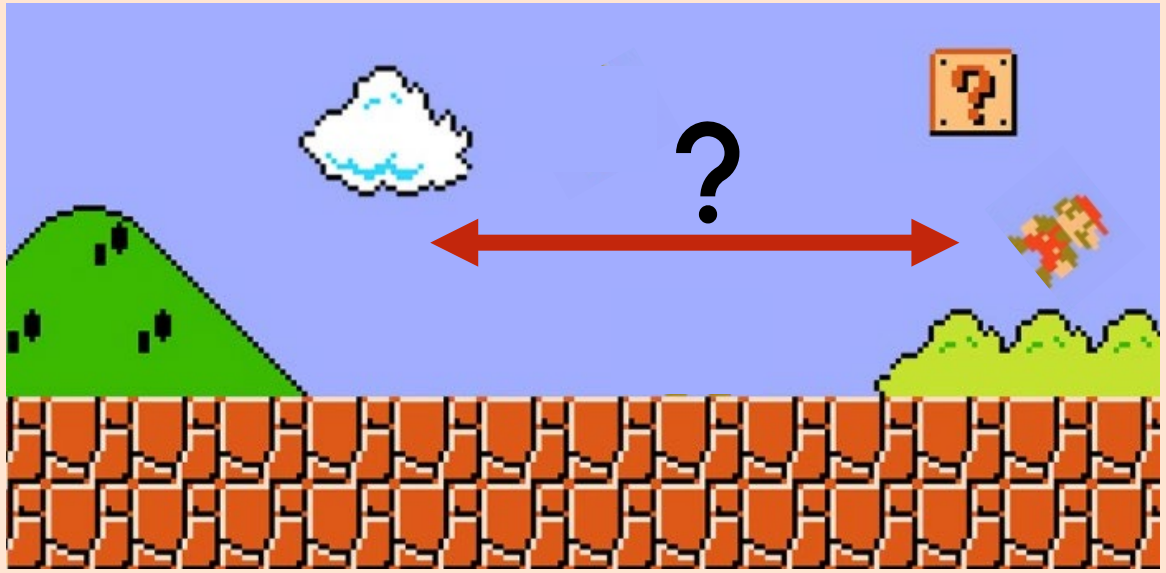
Determinism

All our actions are pre-determined because it is governed by systems



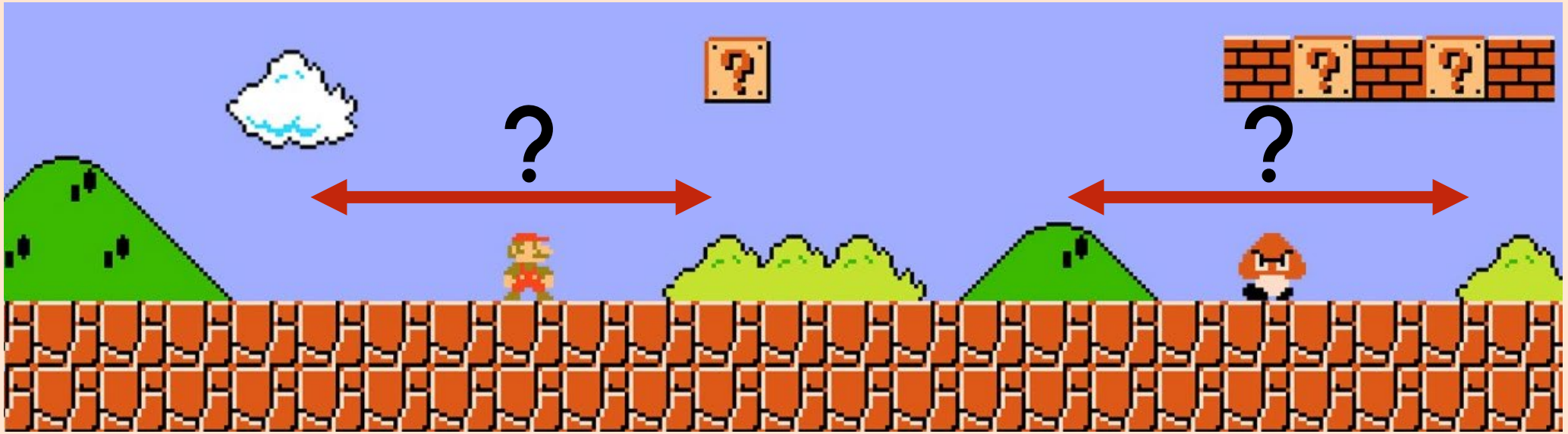
Free-Will

Systems are chaotic so there is no predetermined events can be attributed to them



Compatibilists:

Determinism and free-will can co-exist.



Technological Determinism

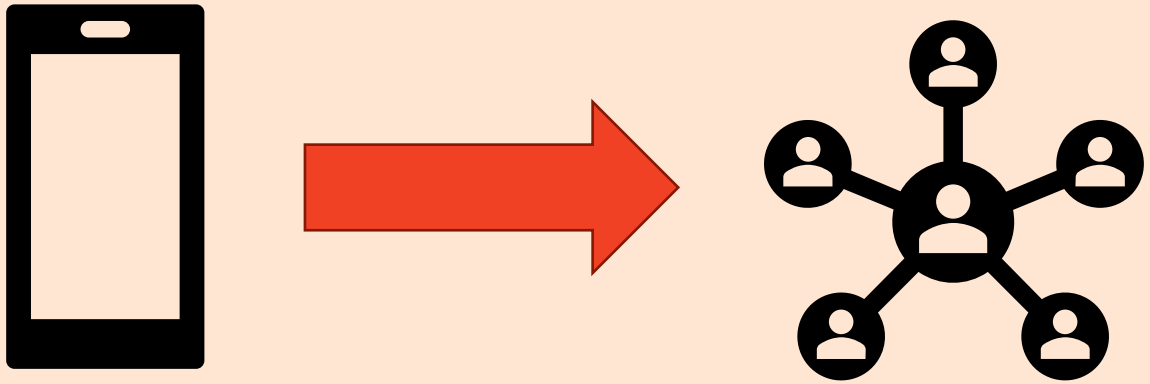
The idea that technology will solve all social problems.

Example: We can “invent” our way out of climate change.

Technological Determinism

Technological Determinism

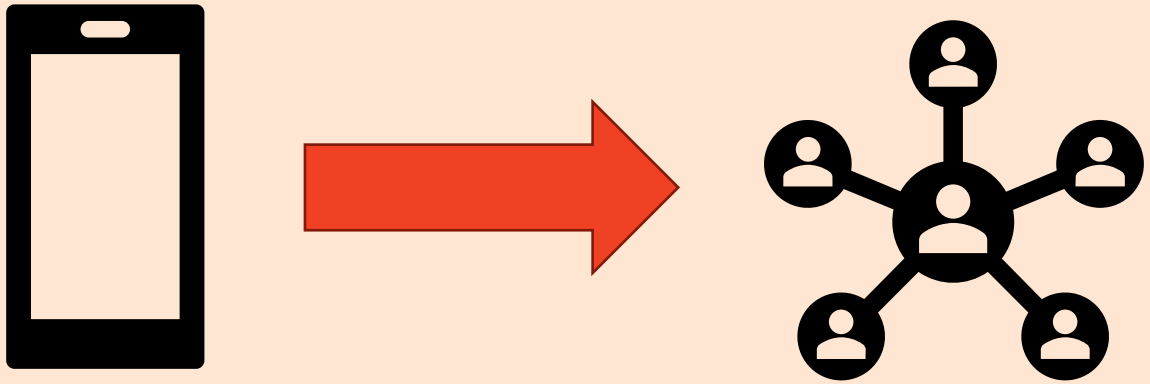
Technology **Society**



Technology is the force that changes society

Technological Determinism

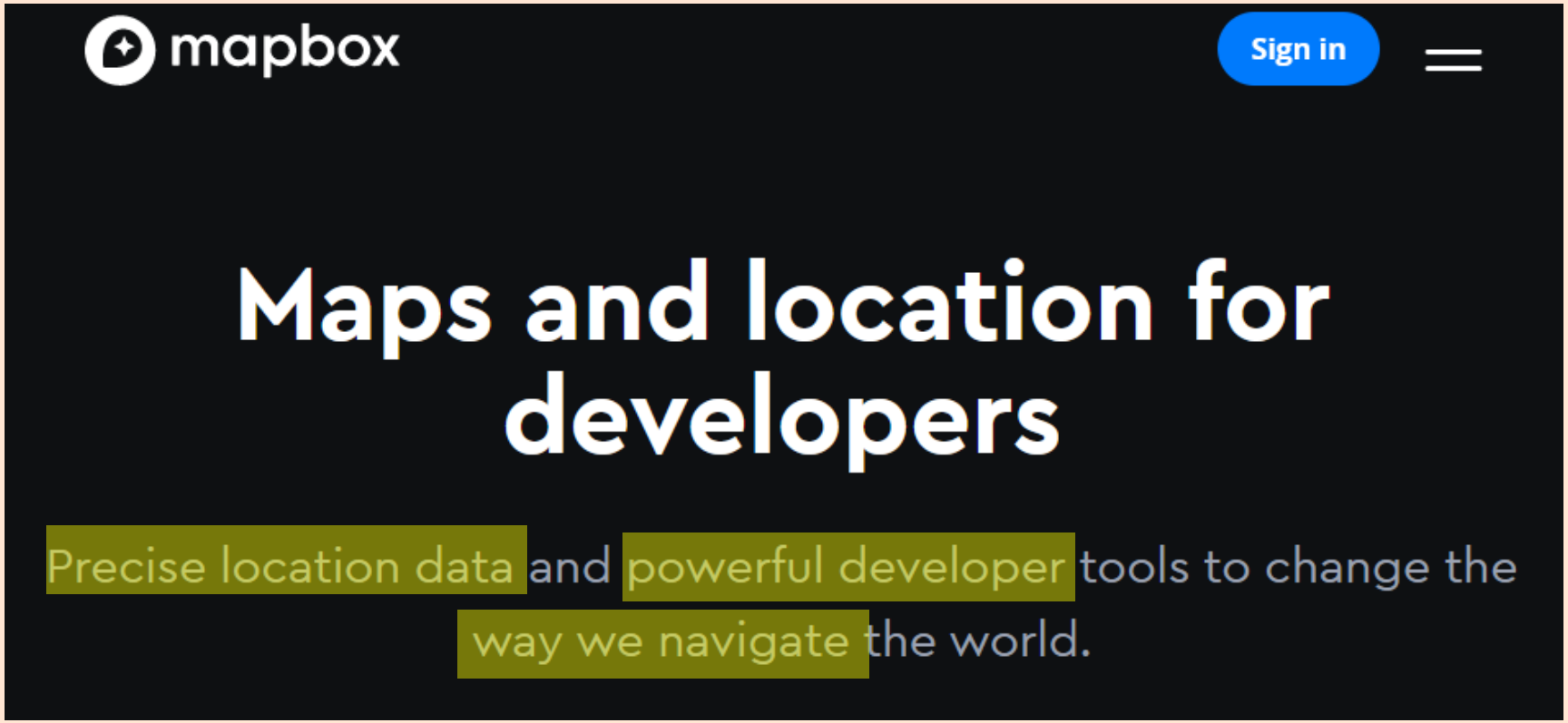
Technology **Society**



"Phones will improve people's life."

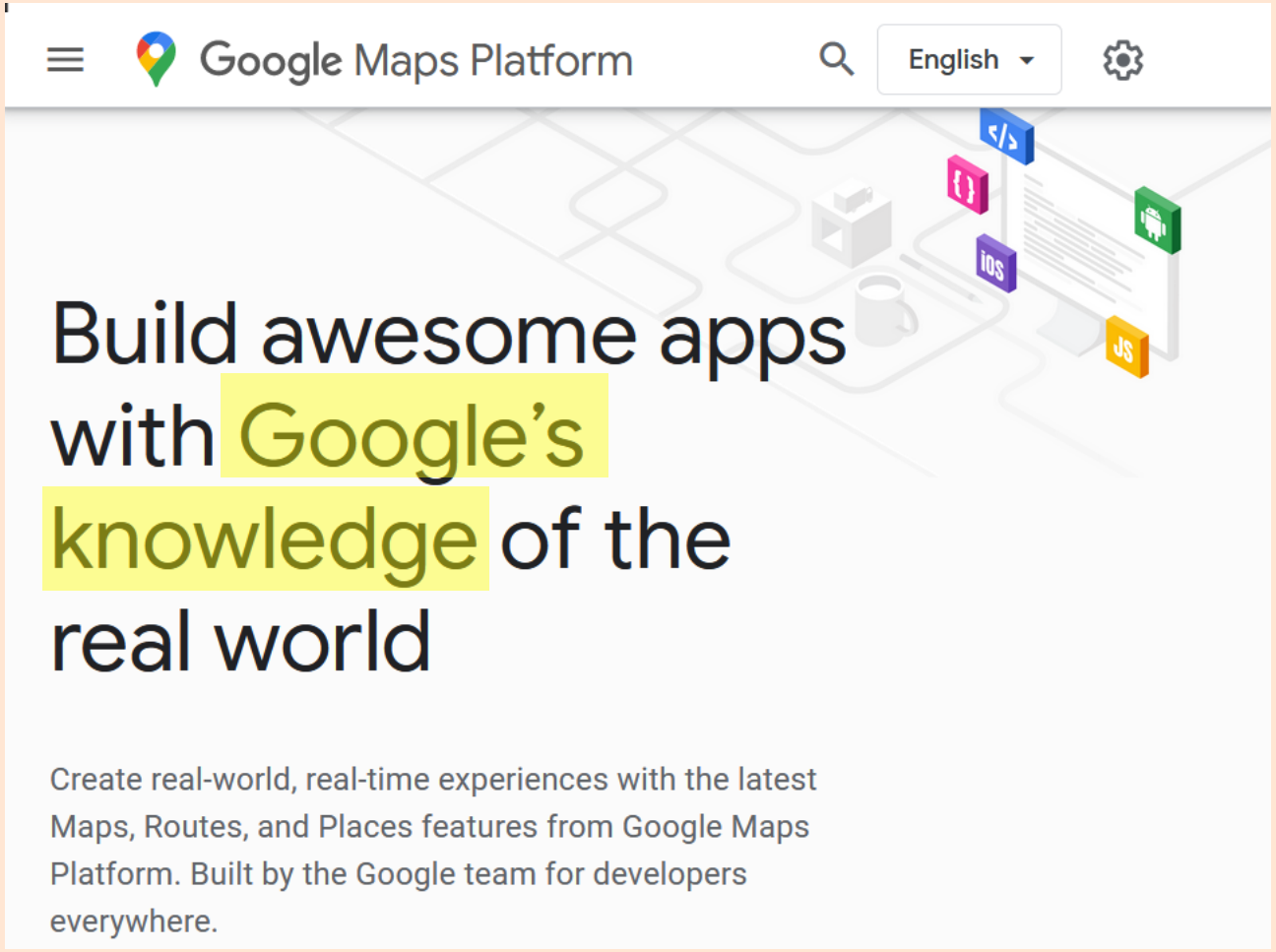
Let's apply this to mapping:

Mapping Technologies



Mapping Technologies

Mapping Technologies



Mapping Technologies

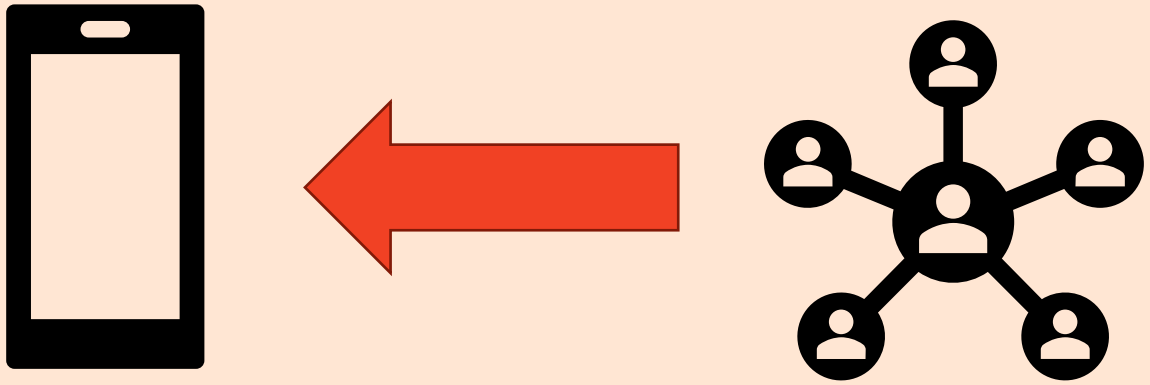
Why are these examples problematic?

Separates society's role in creating the technologies.

Social Determinism

Social Determinism

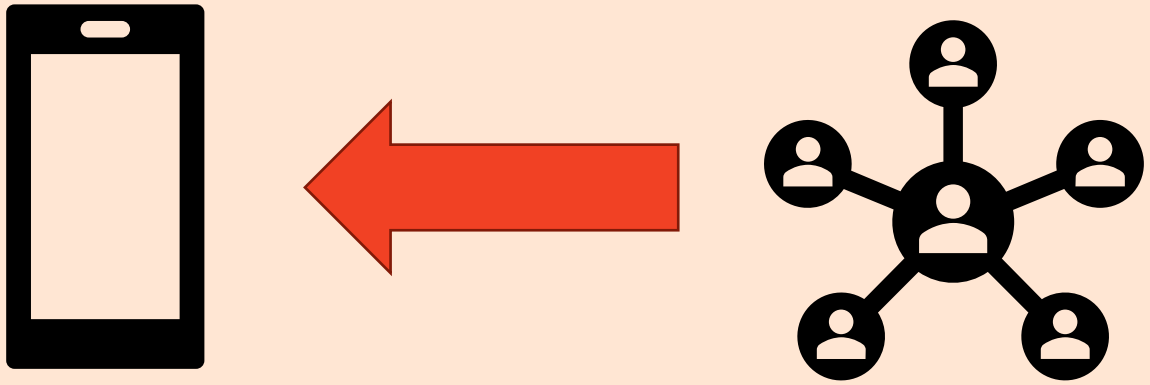
Technology **Society**



Technology is a result of the **society**

Social Determinism

Technology **Society**

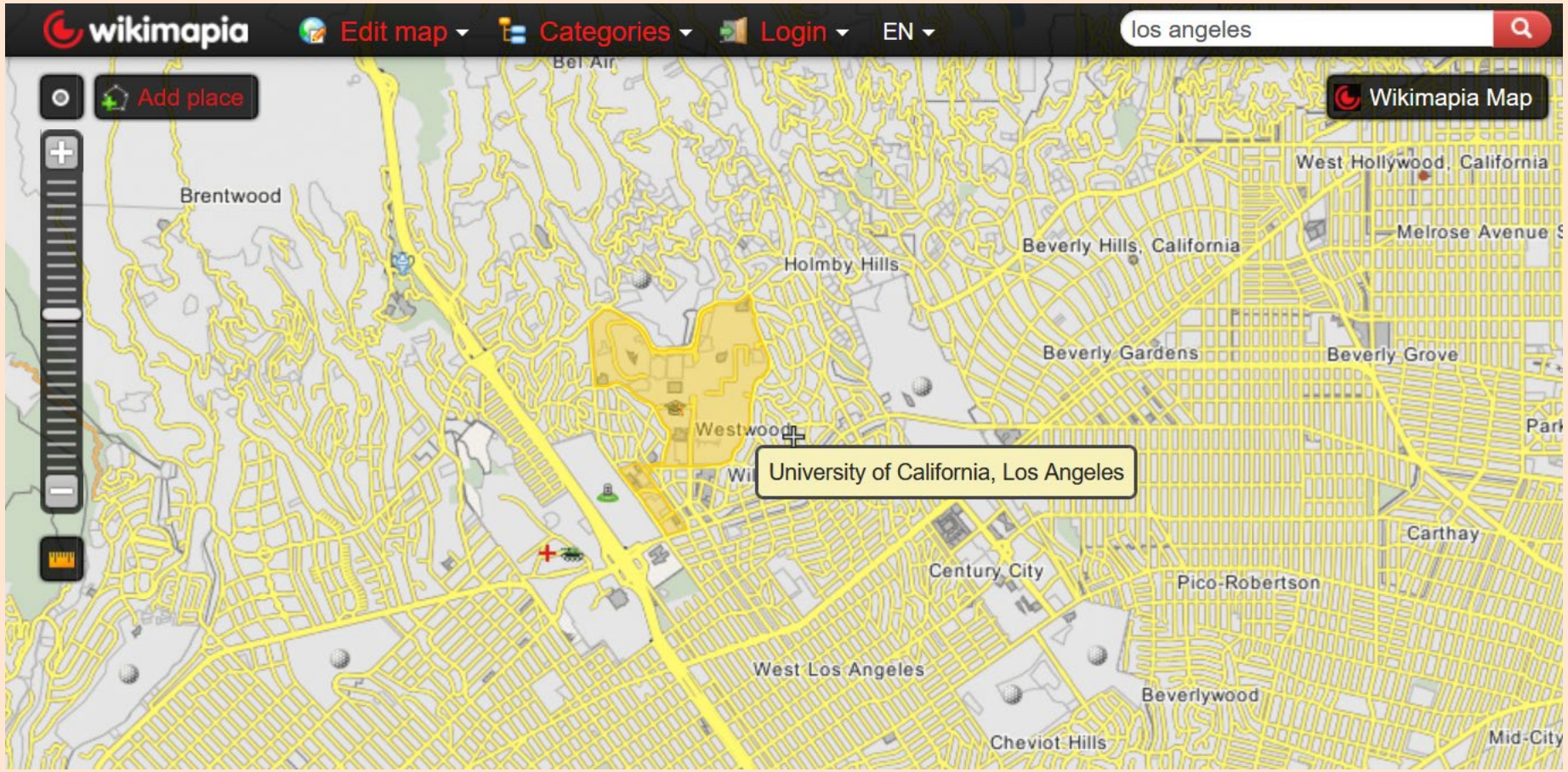


“People created phones to talk easier.”

Examples

Leaflet
an open-source JavaScript library
for mobile-friendly interactive maps

Examples


wikimapia
Edit map
Categories
Login
EN
los angeles
Add place
Wikimapia Map
Brentwood
Bel Air
Holmby Hills
Beverly Hills, California
West Hollywood, California
Melrose Avenue
Beverly Gardens
Beverly Grove
Westwood
University of California, Los Angeles
Carthay
Century City
Pico-Robertson
West Los Angeles
Beverlywood
Cheviot Hills
Mid-City

Recapping

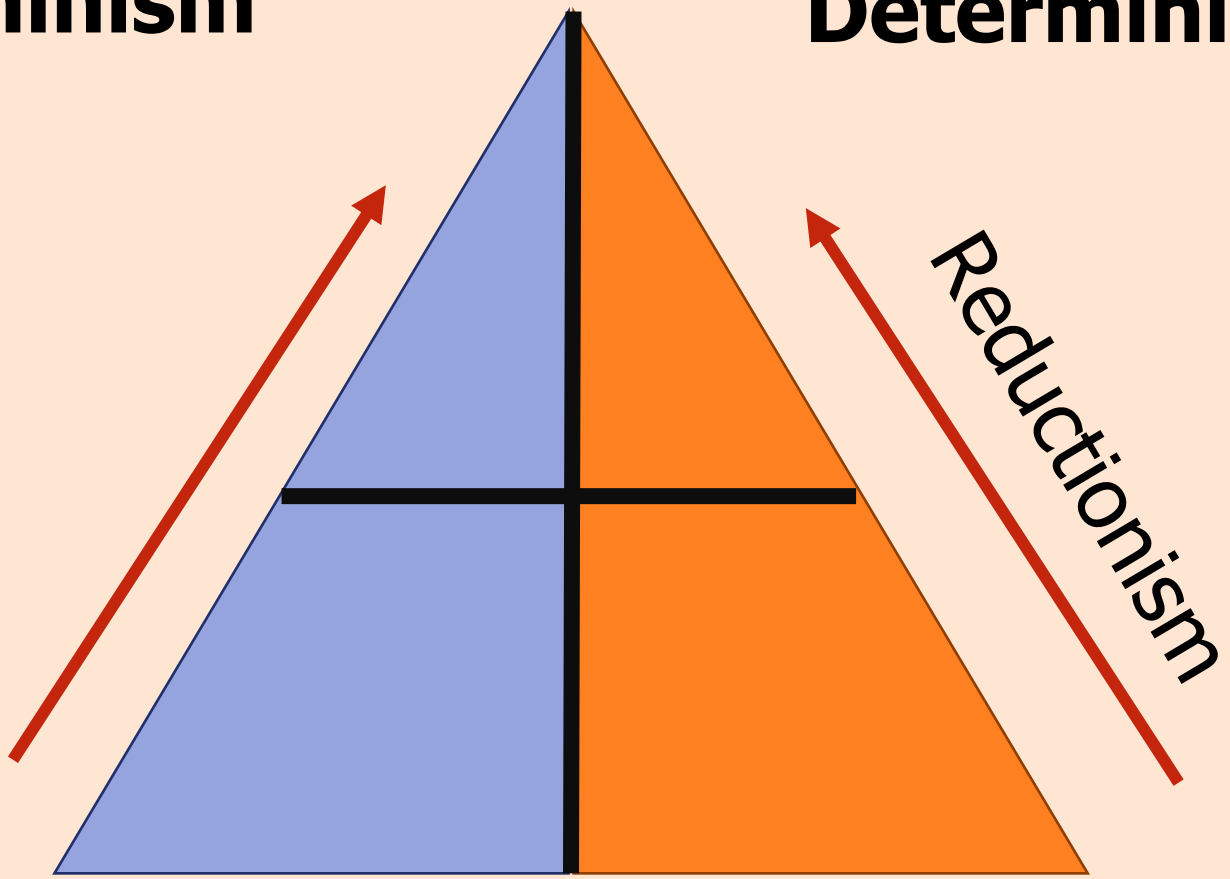
Technological Determinism

Vs.

Social Determinism

Hard

Soft



Main takeaway:

Reductionism is problematic because it only re-aligns the balance in one direction.

Technological Change

Social Change

Wait.. This is a technology skills class..
Shouldn't we focus on technology solutions?

No, because.. It leads to...

Techno-Fascism

Technocracy/Techno-Fascism

Fascism – Oppression of opposing thoughts

Technocracy – Rule by only those with expertise

Techno-Fascism = Fascism + Technocracy

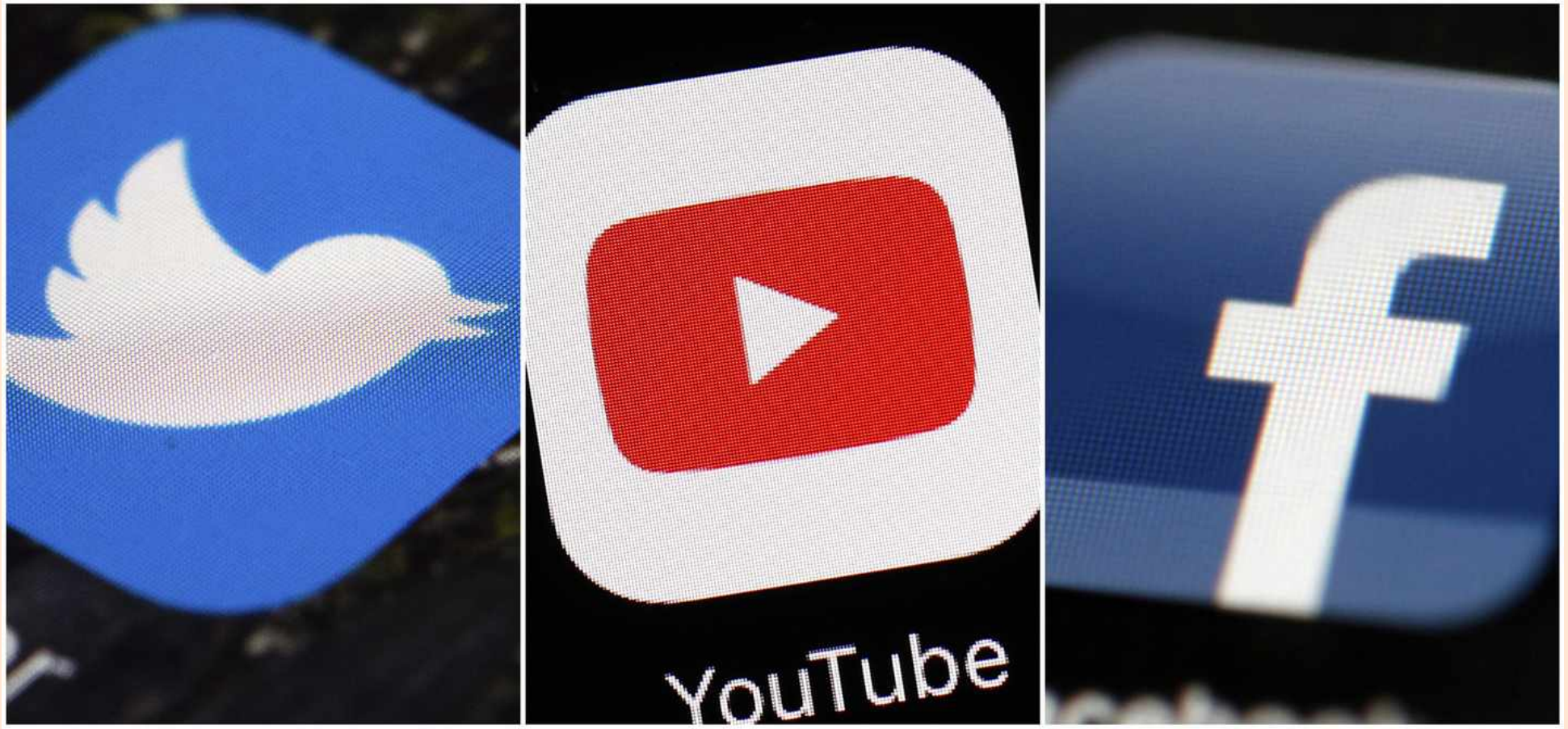
Technocracy/Techno-Fascism

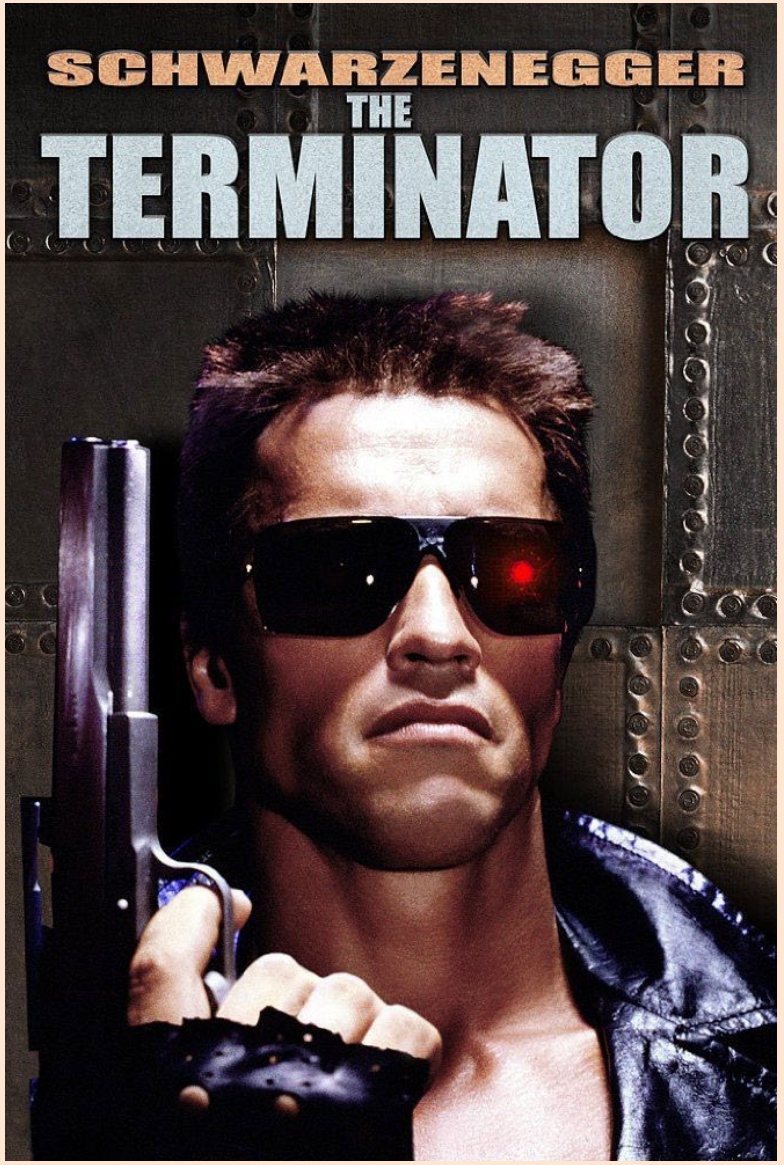
Techno-Fascism – Rule by those with expertise that oppresses opposing thoughts

Techno-Fascism:

“Big tech, machine learning, AI is too big, people cannot stand up against it.”

Techno-Fascism:





Hasta la vista freedom

What it really means is:

“I have more ‘technical’ skills and know more than you, so I am better than you, do not resist.”

-Every Big Tech CEO

Resistance is futile.

How to avoid all this?

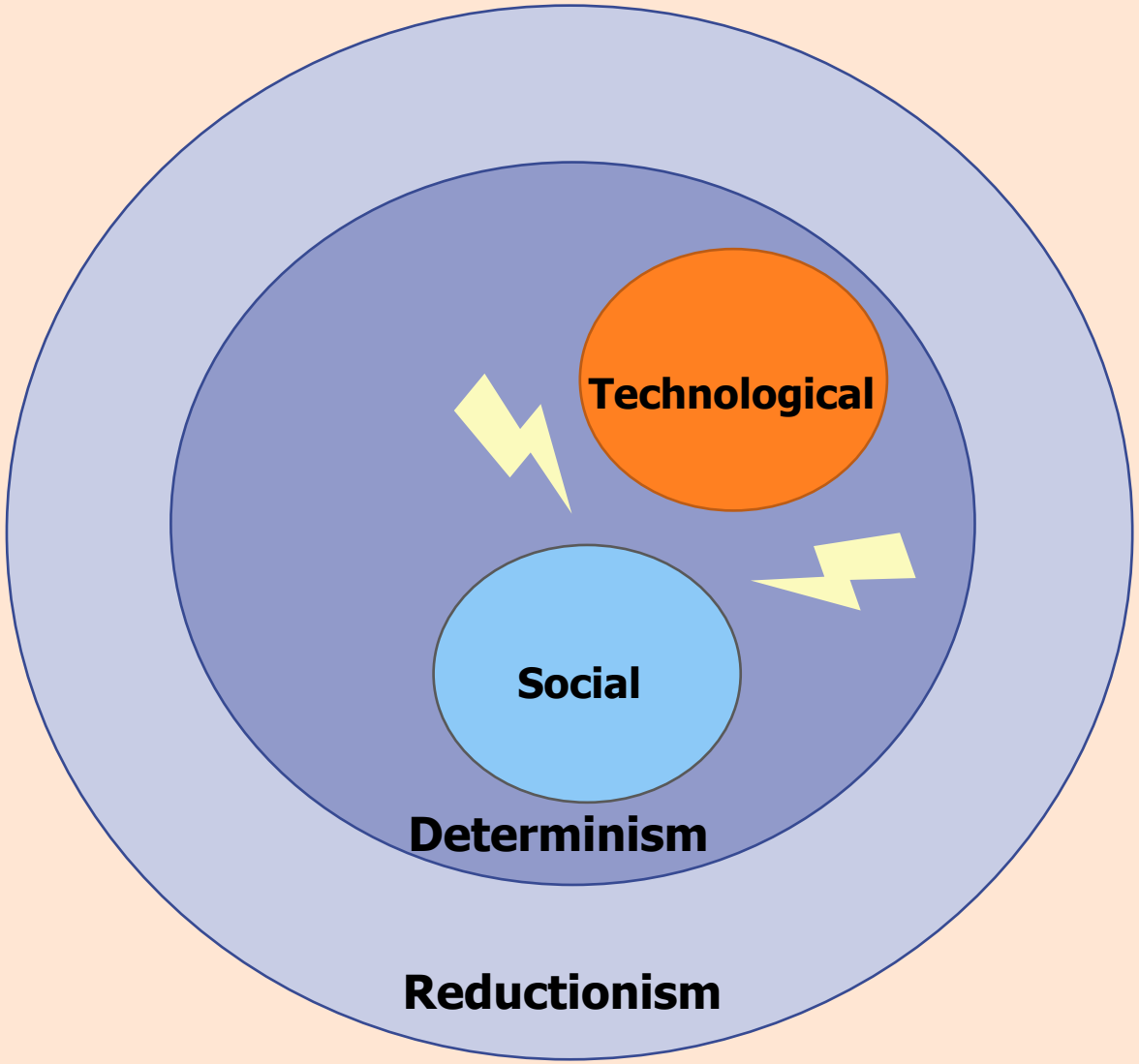
Holism

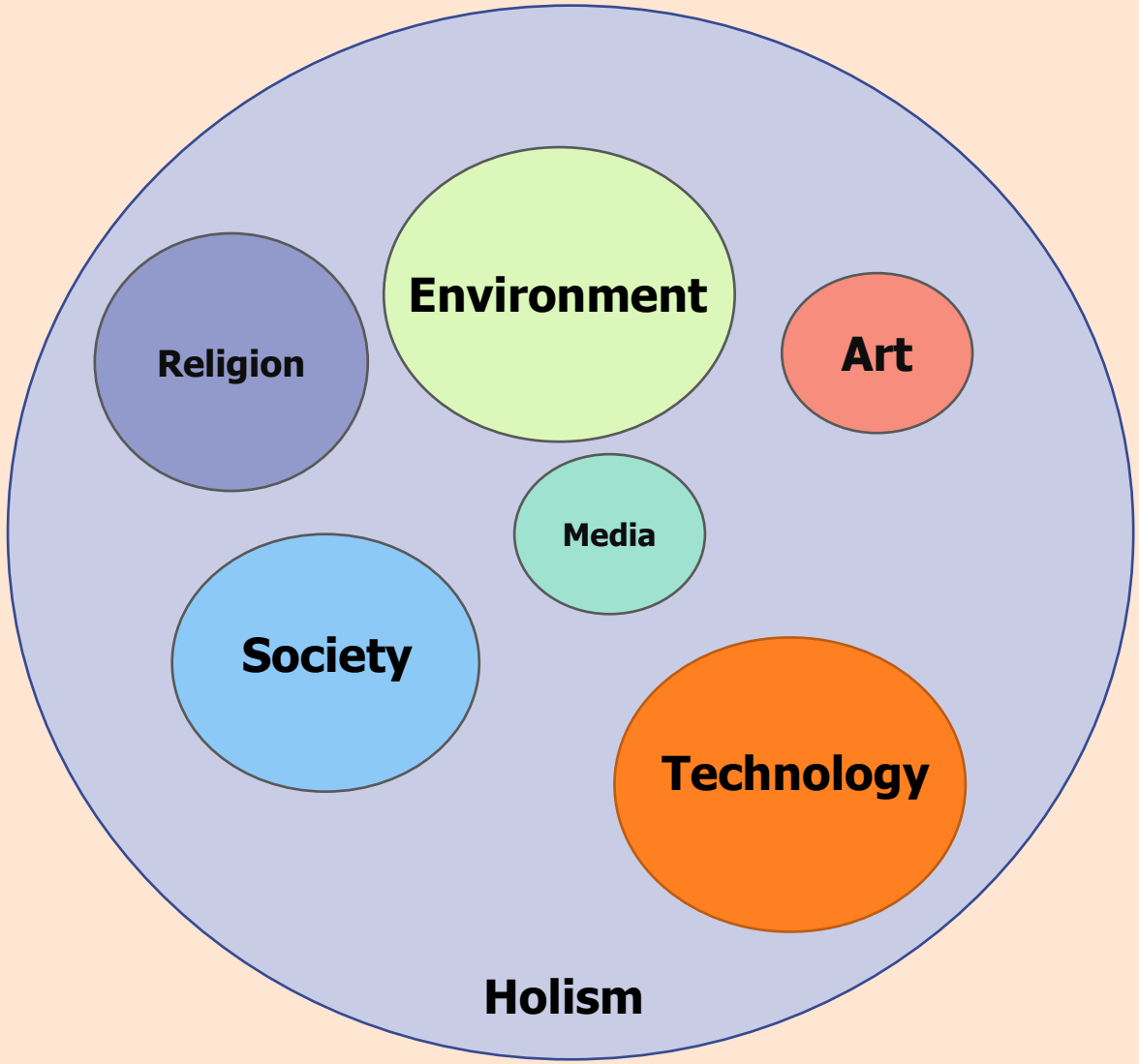
“Some process or phenomenon cannot be broken into parts, and can only be understood as a whole”

https://cseweb.ucsd.edu/~goguen/courses/275f00/s2.html

Reinforces the direct connection between of technology and society.

Reductionism vs Holism

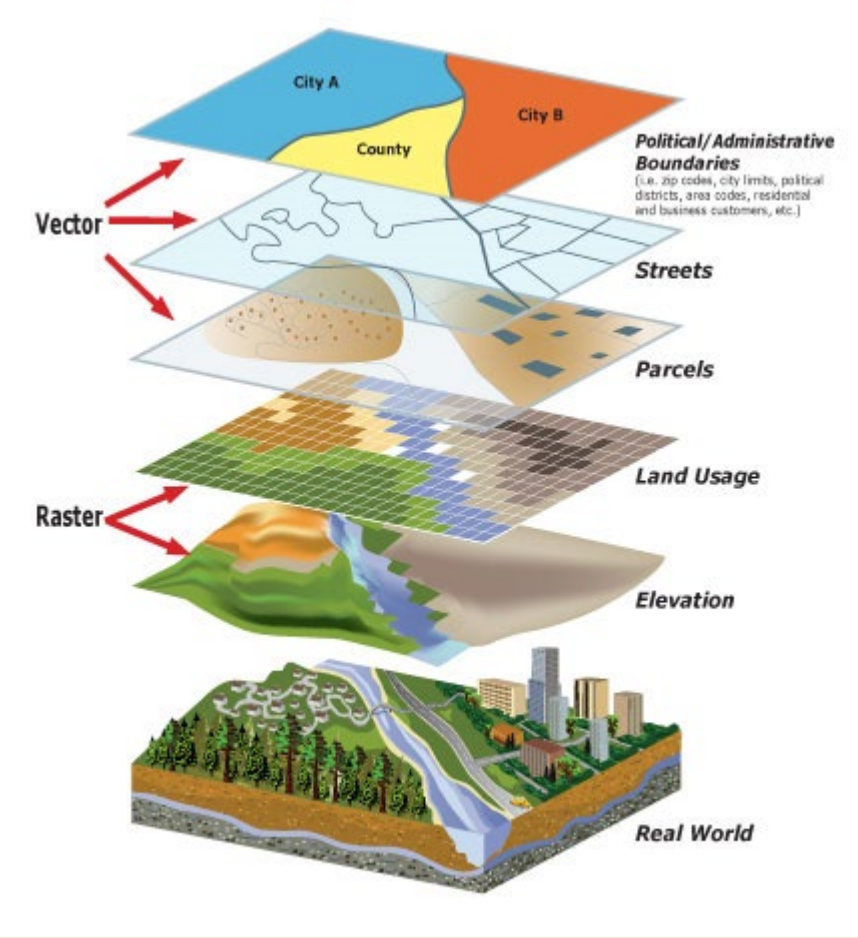




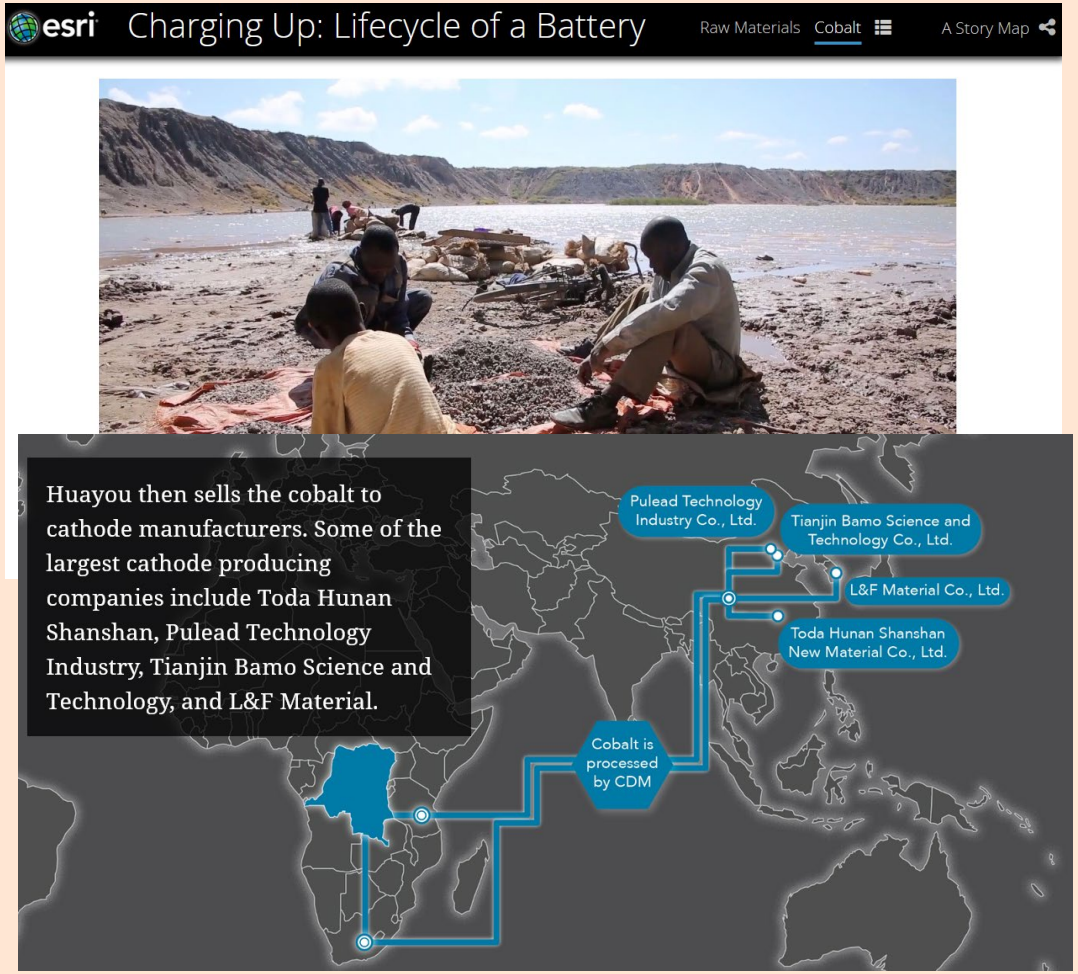
Eastern perspectives

Buddhism and Hinduism believe in a middle path to describing our decision-making by connecting it to consequence of our actions.

Reductionism vs Holism



Reductionism



Holism

http://storymaps.esri.com/stories/2017/batteries/index.html

Considering all we just covered...

How to apply it to mapping, beyond just Critical Cartography?

Focus on Tradition-based GIS

Tradition	Key Ideas	Example Publications
Queer(ing) Cartographies, GIS	• Recognize queer labor and lives present in production of knowledge/maps • Interrogate political, economic, and social relations present in software, algorithms, code used to produce maps	Brown & Knopp (2008); Gieseking (2018)
Marxist Cartography	• Visualize and map the contours of capital and state power • Interrogate how mapping serves interests of the state	Lacoste (1973); Toscano & Kindle (2015)
Indigenous Mapping	• Make claims upon ancestral lands to secure tenure and other rights • Simultaneously, potentially make said lands visible for looting and destruction	Chapin et al. (2005); Hunt (2013); see **Figure 3**

https://gistbok.ucgis.org/bok-topics/cartography-and-power

Finally

Consider what are your ethical views when it comes to society and technology?
How does it empower civil society?

Thinking Cap for the week:

Consider what are your ethical views when it comes to society and technology? How does it empower civil society?

Assignments

Due Thursday 4/29:

1. Group Assignment #3

Due Tuesday 5/4:

1. Readings
2. Thinking Cap #5
3. Extra Reading