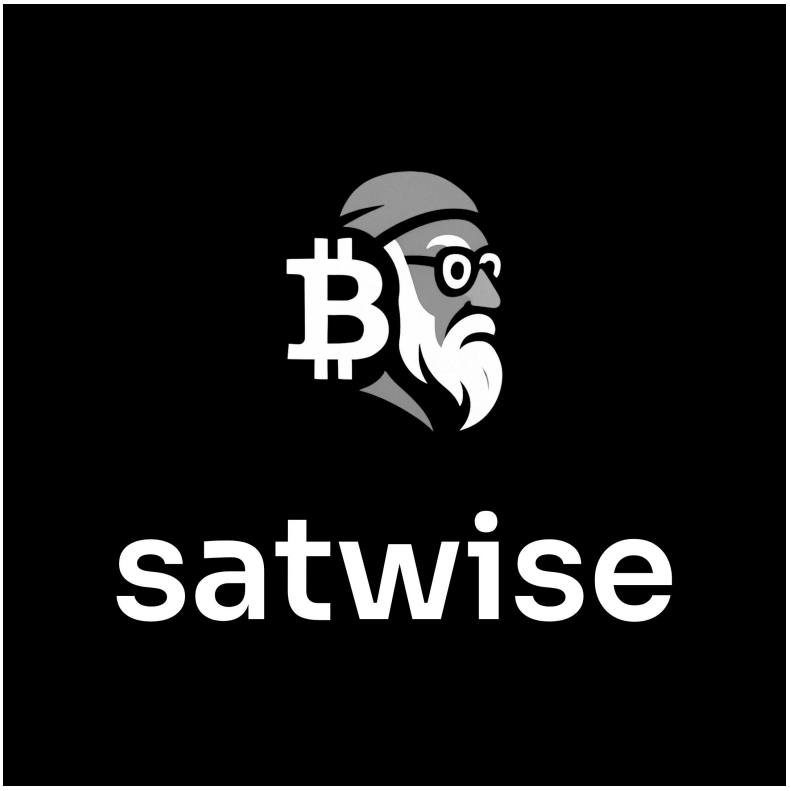

MONETARY POWER PROJECTION THESIS

ABSTRACT

Summary of Jason Lowery's softwar and how it effects bitcoin as a monetary power projection

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Jason Lowery's *Softwar* and the Future of Bitcoin

Introduction to *Softwar* and Jason Lowery

Softwar: A Novel Theory on Power Projection and the National Strategic Significance of Bitcoin is a 2023 academic thesis-turned-manifesto by Major Jason P. Lowery, a U.S. Space Force officer, astronautical engineer, and National Defense Fellow at MIT. Lowery, drawing from his military background, argues that Bitcoin's proof-of-work (PoW) consensus mechanism transcends its role as a digital currency, positioning it as a revolutionary tool for national security and geopolitical power dynamics. The book blends insights from biology, anthropology, computer science, psychology, and military strategy to reframe Bitcoin not as "peer-to-peer electronic cash" (per Satoshi Nakamoto), but as "softwar"—a form of electro-cyber warfare that projects physical power into cyberspace. Originally self-published and available on platforms like Amazon and MIT's DSpace repository, *Softwar* was controversially withdrawn from circulation in mid-2023—reportedly on orders from unnamed authorities—sparking speculation about its sensitive content on U.S. defense policy. Despite this, it remains accessible via archives and has garnered a cult following in Bitcoin circles for its bold, interdisciplinary thesis.

Lowery's core innovation is **Power Projection Theory**, which posits that all security—biological, social, or digital—stems from the ability to impose physical costs on aggressors. In human history, this has evolved from kinetic weapons (e.g., spears, nukes) to abstract systems (e.g., laws, currencies). Bitcoin, he claims, bridges the two by using real-world energy (electricity) to secure abstract bits of information, creating a "thermodynamically honest" defense layer against manipulation.

Key Concepts in *Softwar*

Lowery structures his argument around several foundational ideas:

- **Proof-of-Work as Physical Power Projection**: Traditional computing is cheap and manipulable (e.g., easy to fake data or hack systems). PoW, however, requires massive, verifiable energy expenditure to validate transactions and secure the blockchain. This turns the global power grid into a "state machine" that converts joules of electricity into tamper-proof bits—any attack (e.g., double-spending or 51% attacks) demands outspending the network's collective hashrate, imposing "physical costs" in the non-physical realm of cyberspace. Lowery contrasts this with proof-of-stake (PoS) systems like Ethereum, which he dismisses as "proof-of-belief"—vulnerable to social engineering because they rely on abstract stakes rather than real energy.
- **Bits as the New Battlespace**: Information is the ultimate resource in modern warfare. Lowery argues that Bitcoin's network could secure *any* critical data (financial, military, or infrastructural) by embedding it in a PoW-secured ledger. This creates "Mutually Assured Preservation" (MAP)—a deterrent where nations compete in

hashrate (computational power) rather than missiles, potentially reducing kinetic conflicts by raising the energy bar for cyber aggression.

- **Evolutionary and Strategic Imperatives**: Drawing from biology (e.g., DNA as "proof-of-real" survival mechanisms) and anthropology, Lowery views PoW as an evolutionary adaptation for humanity's "prosperity margin"—the surplus energy that enables civilization. He warns that ignoring Bitcoin risks ceding dominance to adversaries who adopt it first, echoing historical shifts like the Industrial Revolution.

The book is dense and repetitive (intentionally, to build rigorous logic), but reviewers praise its "positive energy" and fresh perspective, though some critique it as pseudoscientific or overly speculative.

Implications for Bitcoin's Future

Lowery envisions Bitcoin evolving from a niche asset to a cornerstone of global strategy by 2030–2050:

1. **National Security and Geopolitics**: The U.S. should build a "National Hash Force"—strategic Bitcoin reserves, subsidized mining, and PoW integration into defense infrastructure—to maintain superpower status. This could neutralize threats like China's hashrate dominance or quantum computing risks, while deterring wars by making cyber incursions prohibitively expensive. In a multipolar world (e.g., BRICS vs. West), Bitcoin becomes a "neutral weapon" for projecting power without enriching rivals like gold reserves might.
2. **Technological and Economic Shifts**: As AI and data centers explode energy demand, Bitcoin mining could optimize "stranded" energy (e.g., flared gas, renewables), turning waste into security. Hashrate surges (as seen in 2025 posts) signal nation-state adoption, potentially creating a "secure base layer" for the internet—beyond finance, securing AI models, supply chains, or even voting systems. Lowery predicts Bitcoin halvings and rising hashrate will amplify its scarcity, driving value as fiat debases.
3. **Societal and Ethical Dimensions**: Bitcoin empowers individuals and decentralized networks, eroding state monopolies on violence and money. This could foster "digital peace" via MAP, but risks a hashrate arms race if unregulated. Critics argue it overlooks Bitcoin's non-military roots, but proponents see it aligning with cypherpunk ideals of unbreakable security.
4. **Current Momentum (as of October 2025)**: With Bitcoin at ~$108K and hashrate exploding (per recent X discussions), Lowery's ideas are gaining traction. He's applied to advise U.S. policy on PoW stockpiles, and threads tie *Softwar* to events like U.S. elections or AI energy races. A Naval Postgraduate School study echoes its themes on decentralized warfare.

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Conclusion

Softwar challenges Bitcoin maximalists and policymakers alike: it's not just sound money, but a thermodynamic bulwark against chaos in an AI-fueled, cyber-vulnerable world. Lowery's thesis, while provocative, substantiates Bitcoin's path to ubiquity as a dual-use technology—financial freedom today, strategic deterrence tomorrow. For deeper dives, read the full manuscript (available via archives) or follow Lowery @JasonPLowery on X for updates. As one reviewer put it, *Softwar* "makes you excited to look forward to the near future."