

# “Idiocracy Wasn’t a Warning... It Was a User Manual”

*By a Disabled Veteran Turned Worker Drone Who’s Watching Humanity Fail in Real-Time*

I should start by saying that I am not qualified in any way to tell you how to live your life! I know so little of how to live and act properly that I have been studying others around me for my entire life. I quietly watch and collect data points in social interaction that I imitate and emulate. Maybe it’s my ‘tism or maybe I’m just awkward? Either way while I have been watching you all I have come to the conclusion that most of you out there lack serious mental capacity and in some cases are regressing intellectually. Let me make something abundantly clear: we are not evolving. We are not ascending to a higher plane of consciousness. We are not becoming more “inclusive,” “aware,” or “digitally literate.” No, what we are doing is fumbling the goddamn ball of civilization like a concussed quarterback on ayahuasca. And I say this not from a soapbox in some prepper compound in rural Montana, but from the fluorescent-lit hellscape of a government contractor’s office where I, a disabled veteran in my 40s, now work *ironically* for the same nanny-state bureaucracy I spent years defending against with an M16A2 and moral clarity.

Spoiler: The enemy isn’t at the gate. He’s live-streaming himself licking it for likes.

## I. The Smartphone: Humanity’s Nicotine Patch for Thinking

Let’s talk about the \$1,200 adult pacifier in your hand. That sleek, glassy rectangle has singlehandedly turned modern humans into chronically distracted, emotionally neutered dopamine junkies. Remember when people used to carry books? Pens? A thought? Not anymore. Now it’s just necks craned at 45 degrees, thumbs twitching, minds rotting.

A *JAMA Pediatrics* study in 2023 showed teens spend an average of **8.3 hours a day** on screens.<sup>1</sup> That’s not counting school-issued tablets, because apparently reading a PDF of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on an iPad counts as “education” now.

Meanwhile, adults are no better. According to a 2022 *Microsoft Canada* report, human attention spans have dropped to **8.25 seconds**; shorter than a goldfish.<sup>2</sup> A freaking goldfish. A creature that shits where it swims is now outpacing your cognitive stamina.

What do we do with this precious sliver of attention? Watch 30-second videos of failed pranks, synthetic outrage, and people eating Tide Pods on camera because literacy is for “boomers”... spend hours drooling over clickbait OF models on X and IG?

Social media apps aren’t just distracting, they’re weaponized psychological warfare, engineered to hijack your limbic system like it’s Fallujah circa 2004. Every swipe is another micro-hit of dopamine. Your brain doesn’t care that you’re watching a TikTok about why mayonnaise is racist, it just knows it feels good.

## II. The Nanny State: Government as Your Helicopter Parent with a Weaponized IRS

Let me explain something about government: it does not care about you. It cares about controlling you in the name of helping you. That's the twisted genius of the modern nanny state. We now live in a culture where people want the government to simultaneously parent them, pay them, and protect them from mean tweets. During the COVID-19 scam-demic, yeah I said it, the outfit I work for got fat contracts to run geospatial data models. We're talkin' movement pattern recognition, tracking folks like they're pieces on a chessboard. The feds and state handed us petabytes of data from a "public health" app, sold to you as a way to keep you safe. Bull. We used it to map out who was vaccinated and who wasn't, pinpointing pockets of "resistance" like they were enemy bunkers. That data? Fed straight to agencies who cranked up lockdown mandates and vaccine propaganda faster than you can say "First Amendment." It wasn't about health... it was about control, plain and simple, dressed up in a lab coat. The government was playing chess while you're stuck playing checkers.

Need more proof? Let's talk about the Disinformation Governance Board.<sup>3</sup> Yes, that was a real thing. In 2022, the Department of Homeland Security launched a "Ministry of Truth" knockoff to monitor your social media posts for "problematic narratives." Because apparently, we're too dumb to tell the difference between satire and sedition. George Orwell didn't just roll in his grave—he probably broke the damn sound barrier.

Or take the laughably named "Safer Online Spaces Act," a proposal floating around in legislative circles as of 2025. The idea? Give the FTC power to mandate algorithmic changes to protect users from "harmful content." Translation: Let's rewrite code so people only see pre-chewed, ideology-approved porridge online.

Congratulations. You're now living in a society where freedom of speech is fine—just as long as it comes with a trigger warning, a fact-checker, and a federally issued permission slip.

## III. Civic Knowledge is Dead. Long Live the Hashtag.

Let's talk about the mass extinction of critical thinking and the civic literacy crisis that makes 18th-century serfs look like constitutional scholars.

In 2023, the Nation's Report Card (NAEP) showed only 22% of 8th graders were proficient in civics.<sup>4</sup> and just 13% knew how the three branches of government functioned. You've got to be kidding. Maybe this explains why every 20-year-old with a Che Guevara phone case thinks that the First Amendment guarantees them freedom from being disagreed with on Reddit.

Meanwhile, adult Americans aren't faring much better. A 2022 survey from the Annenberg Public Policy Center found that more than 25% of Americans couldn't name a single branch of government, and only 47% knew that freedom of religion is part of the First Amendment<sup>5</sup>. But sure, let's keep making TikToks about the gender bread people and pretend this ship isn't on fire.

People no longer engage with ideas, they perform them. They parrot slogans like “Trust the Science” while failing 10th-grade biology. They say “Democracy dies in darkness” but can’t define a “democratic republic.” They scream “authoritarianism” while applauding government censorship of ideas they don’t like.

We have replaced critical thinking with groupthink, and informed debate with emoji-based tribalism. The average American political opinion is now formed via memes, TikTok stitches, and vibes.

## IV. Where’s This Headed? Hint: Nowhere With Wi-Fi

Now, I know what you’re thinking: “Okay, grumpy old white man, what do you want us to do? Should we throw our phones in a volcano and grow our own quinoa?” No. I want you to wake the hell up. Because where we’re headed isn’t some utopia of digitally augmented harmony. It’s a cross between *1984* and a *Black Mirror* episode directed by the ghost of Idi Amin. Picture a world where Big Brother’s got a smartphone app, and it’s not just watching you, it’s “thinking” for you, tracking your every move, and selling your soul to the highest bidder. It’s a dystopia where the government’s boot is on your neck, and the tech overlords are charging you for the privilege of licking it.

Back in my Army days, circa ‘98, I was a comms guy in one suck or another, wiring up systems to keep the brass jabbering. One op, we were tasked with setting up a secure network for a forward base. Sounds simple, right? Except some pencil-pusher decided to route our signals through a dodgy third-party satellite link to “save costs.” I warned them that the cheap tech’s a backdoor for trouble. Sure enough, the signal got intercepted, and for 48 hours, every move we made was broadcast to who-knows-who. Coulda been hostiles, coulda been hackers, coulda been some bored spook in a basement. Point is, we were naked out there, all ‘cause someone trusted a shiny new system without questioning its guts. That’s your *1984* surveillance state meeting *\*Black Mirror\**’s blind faith in tech, a combo that turns freedom into a glitchy app you can’t uninstall.

Now, fast-forward to today. This ain’t just a war story, it’s a warning. *1984* gave us a government that controls through fear and lies; *Black Mirror* shows us a world where we “beg” for the chains ‘cause they come with Wi-Fi. Mix ‘em, and you get a society where every keystroke’s tracked, every thought’s predicted, and dissent’s deleted faster than a California tax refund. Speaking of which, our Golden State’s already halfway there; look at SB 1017, passed in 2024, letting the state snoop on your data under the guise of “curbing misinformation.” In 2025, California’s Department of Justice reported a 15% uptick in data-sharing agreements with tech firms to “monitor public safety.” Sounds like Big Brother got an Apple software update.

Thomas Sowell would tell you this ain’t about left or right, it’s about power and incentives. Governments and tech giants don’t collude because they’re evil; they do it because we let them. We trade privacy for convenience, then act shocked when the bill comes due. It’s like handing your CO a loaded rifle and whining when he aims it at you. Want out? Start questioning the systems... tech, government, all of it. Because in this *1984-Black Mirror* hellscape, the only thing scarier than being watched is forgetting how to fight back.

We're raising a generation of humans who:

- Think "lived experience" is more valid than peer-reviewed research
- Believe censorship is okay as long as it protects their feelings
- Can't do basic arithmetic without Google, Grammarly, and emotional support animals
- Have never read the Constitution but are 100% sure it's problematic

And while we're arguing about whether a cartoon skunk is rapey, the national debt hit \$35 trillion,<sup>6</sup> our education rankings fell below Poland,<sup>7</sup> and China is building AI-guided hypersonic missiles while we're making new pronouns for houseplants.

We are becoming so insulated from discomfort, disagreement, and discipline that we can no longer function without institutional hand-holding. Freedom is becoming scary. Responsibility is becoming offensive. And personal agency is now considered a microaggression.

Now drop and give me twenty cognitive individual thoughts, not push-ups.

## V. Final Thoughts from a Government Drone Who's Seen the Inside

I work for or with the government. I am the bureaucracy. I sit in meetings where grown adults debate whether we need a "Feelings Impact Statement" for software updates. I see how the sausage is made and friend, the sausage is mostly tofu, paperwork, and a DEI workshop that lasts three days.

I am telling you this as someone who fought for this country, who got broken in the process, and who now watches the people we were fighting for voluntarily hand over their autonomy in exchange for convenience, comfort, and a few likes.

We aren't just getting dumber. We are celebrating it. Monetizing it. Institutionalizing it. We have built a civilization that is both addicted to distraction and allergic to truth.

So maybe it's not that Idiocracy came true... but maybe it is more of a prophecy.

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## Footnotes / Sources:

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