

How Transhumanism Can Transcend Socialism, Libertarianism, and All Other Conventional Ideologies

Gennady Stolyarov II, Chairman, United States Transhumanist Party,
Chief Executive, Nevada Transhumanist Party

<http://www.transhumanist-party.org>

<http://www.rationalargumentator.com/index/nevada-transhumanist-party/>

**TRANSHUMANIST
PARTY**

PUTTING SCIENCE, HEALTH, & TECHNOLOGY
AT THE FOREFRONT OF AMERICAN POLITICS





Libertarianism

Key Strengths

- 1.** Largely coherent academic philosophy and long-standing, respectable history of thought.
- 2.** Understanding of spontaneous order, emergent properties, societal evolution.
- 3.** Strong grasp of incentives and unintended consequences – skepticism toward simplistic, centrally planned “solutions”.



Key Weaknesses

- 1.** Almost no viable path has been formulated for getting from the status quo to the ideal.
- 2.** Prevalent composition of the movement makes it difficult to portray it as principled rather than focused on self-gratification.
- 3.** Excessive focus on generic anti-government rhetoric, when addressing and ameliorating specific policies would be more effective.



Socialism

Key Strengths

1. Universalist and internationalist worldview, at least in theory.
2. Ultimate (though remote) goal is the abolition of material scarcity and of governmental control – universal constructive leisure.
3. Focus on the material means of production as determinants of progress.



Key Weaknesses

1. Economic calculation problem – impossibility of central planners to rationally allocate resources.
2. Tendencies toward totalitarianism, extreme conformity, violent repression of dissent.
3. Tendencies toward radical rejection of the past, abandonment and destruction of the achievements that got humankind up to this point.



Conservatism

Key Strengths

1. Recognition of the value of the achievements of past eras and thinkers.
2. General toleration of fairly decent evolved everyday solutions to social problems (as long as they look familiar or traditional – e.g., free markets, families, widespread technologies).
3. Value of social order and continuity – skepticism of upheaval that could destroy the good along with the bad.



Key Weaknesses

1. Tendency to mistake idiosyncratic group traditions and specific cultural norms for universal truths.
2. Vulnerability to nationalism, militarism, religious intolerance, and in-group exclusivism.
3. Extreme affinity toward “the natural order of things” leads to deep, visceral skepticism toward fundamental technological advancements.



Left-Liberalism / Left-Progressivism

Key Strengths

1. Appreciation that one does not have to be a member of a majority group to have rights or value – acceptance of (most) diverse lifestyles, attempts to protect vulnerable individuals against persecution and suffering.
2. Openness toward science and support for generally secular reasoning and argumentation.
3. Tendencies to oppose reflexive physical force, war, and weapons of mass destruction (though often undermined by allegiance to the more cynical Democratic Party in the US).



Key Weaknesses

1. Excessive focus on narrowly defined group identity and highly specific social issues overlooks the role of technology and universal human concerns.
2. “Circular firing squad” – Extreme intolerance in the name of tolerance – often directed toward those with similar views and potential allies.
3. Despite the name “progressive”, refusal to recognize and appreciate genuine progress when it is obvious and ubiquitous – skepticism toward industrial and biomedical technology.



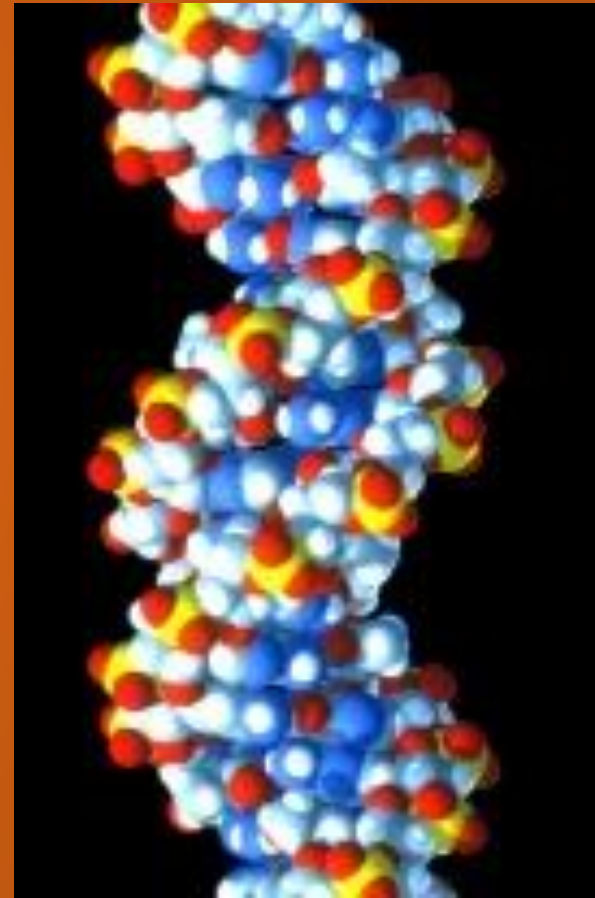
Where Conventional Ideologies Fail

- Conventional ideologies largely disregard the transformative potential of technology, mostly view technology as part of the “background” for the imagined immutable status quo.
- The content of a conventional ideology is often epiphenomenal and used to mask more particular tribal or personal allegiances. Hence, the content often shifts to reflect the momentary convenience of the tribe or influential ideologue.
- The conventional ideologue’s tactic for achieving change: “I will tell you why my tribe is better than your tribe.”
- **Focus on scarcity and zero-sum mentality:** For the favored groups to win, others must lose.
- Even those who espouse positive-sum outcomes in conventional frameworks can fall prey to the adversarial, zero-sum mentality in practice:
 - Some socialists who advocate for a “dictatorship of the proletariat” as a prelude to “the state withering away”
 - Some left-progressives on university campuses who, in the name of diversity, suppress diversity of thought – leading to enforced cultural homogeneity and fear of speaking out
 - Some left-liberals who wish to coerce everyone into a “single-payer” system, which would ration healthcare with the goal of “universal healthcare”
 - Some conservatives who use the rhetoric of free markets but support protectionist tariffs, subsidies, barriers against competition to protect favored businesses and industries
 - Some libertarians and “civil-rights activists” who claim to support individual rights and freedom to be left alone – but are often among the most litigious and ready to resort to government force to intervene in their personal disputes against those with whom they disagree

Core Ideals of the Transhumanist Party



- **Ideal 1.** The Transhumanist Party supports significant life extension achieved through the progress of science and technology.
- **Ideal 2.** The Transhumanist Party supports a cultural, societal, and political atmosphere informed and animated by reason, science, and secular values.
- **Ideal 3.** The Transhumanist Party supports efforts to use science, technology, and rational discourse to reduce and eliminate various existential risks to the human species.





Transhumanism



Key Strengths

1. Movement based on a principled, philosophical, dynamic understanding of human history and progress that remains valid across epochs.
2. Recognition of technological, scientific, economic drivers of improvement in quality of life. Quest to overcome scarcity in pursuit of universal abundance.
3. Universalist, cosmopolitan, inclusive, international, transpartisan movement that supports the morphological freedom *and* intellectual freedom of all individuals and anticipates the emergence of new sentient life forms.
4. Long-term focus on the future of humanity and the maximization of flourishing.

Key Strengths

5. Focus on solving social problems through technology, rather than using the problems to draw battle lines among tribes. Do not perpetuate the problem for political gain; solve it for good!
6. Open-ended evolution of ideas, acceptance that philosophy and policy need to progress along with technology and society.
7. Value of continuity and preservation of the past: scientific and cultural achievements as well as *individual lives* – acceptance of justified change but rejection of “change for the sake of change”.
8. Support for revolutions in technology, policy, and understanding – but opposition to revolutions of physical violence.
9. The only movement that actually seeks to overcome the age-old constraints of the human condition, rather than merely taking a position within those constraints.

*Painting: City of New Antideath by Ekaterinya Vladinakova,
Commissioned by Gennady Stolyarov II*



How Transhumanism Can Correct Conventional Ideological Failures

- **Transhumanists to libertarians:** Emerging technologies and processes can empower and liberate individuals and dramatically change the incentives for institutions to move in the direction of more freedom. *(But only if you transcend blanket anti-government rhetoric and focus on long-term futures over short-term gratification.)*
- **Transhumanists to socialists:** Technological progress can eliminate poverty, abolish poor working conditions, and achieve the socialist ideal of abundance and leisure for all. *(But only if private property, the enabler of unconventional innovation and the means by which abundance can be enjoyed, is preserved and governments do not try to achieve equality of misery.)*
- **Transhumanists to conservatives:** We should not accept the destruction of past achievements and the individuals who brought them about and carry their memory. Through technologies, particularly those of life extension, there can be far more preservation and social continuity. *(But only if you overcome the fear of new advances, transcend the “natural is good” mentality, and embrace the technological fight against death and decay.)*
- **Transhumanists to left-liberals/progressives:** Technology can empower the marginalized and vulnerable and, by enabling new forms of being, dramatically increase both the extent and acceptance of diversity, enhancing the dignity and quality of life for all individuals. *(But only if you step out of the trenches of identity politics, accept the norms of civilized debate, and sincerely engage with those of different views.)*

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Questions?

Gennady Stolyarov II, Chairman, United States Transhumanist Party

gennadystolyarovii@gmail.com