



Written by [John and Nisha Whitehead](#) on July 11, 2024

## Project Total Control: Everything Is a Weapon When Totalitarianism Is Normalized

The U.S. government is working to re-shape the country in the image of a totalitarian state.

This has remained true over the past 50-plus years no matter which political party held office.

This will remain true no matter who wins the 2024 presidential election.

In the midst of the partisan furor over Project 2025, [a 920-page roadmap for how to re-fashion the government to favor so-called conservative causes](#), both the Right and the Left have proven themselves woefully naive about the dangers posed by the power-hungry Deep State.



John Whitehead

Yet we must never lose sight of the fact that both the Right and the Left and their various operatives are *extensions* of the Deep State, which continues to wage [psychological warfare](#) on the American people.

For [years](#) now, the government has been bombarding the citizenry with propaganda campaigns and psychological operations aimed at keeping us compliant, easily controlled and supportive of the government's various efforts abroad and domestically.

For example, in 2022, the U.S. Army's 4th Psychological Operations Group, the branch of the military responsible for [psychological warfare](#), released a recruiting [video](#) that touts its efforts to [pull the strings, turn everything they touch into a weapon, be everywhere, deceive, persuade, change, influence, and inspire](#).

[“Have you ever wondered who's pulling the strings?”](#) the psyops video posits. “Anything we touch is a weapon. We can deceive, persuade, change, influence, inspire. We come in many forms. We are everywhere.”

This is the danger that lurks in plain sight.

Of the many weapons in the government's vast arsenal, psychological warfare may be the most devastating in terms of the long-term consequences.

Aided and abetted by technological advances and scientific experimentation, the government has been subjecting the American people to [“apple-pie propaganda”](#) for the better part of the last century.

Consider some of the ways in which the government continues to wage [psychological warfare](#) on a largely unsuspecting citizenry in order to acclimate us to the Deep State's totalitarian agenda.

**Weaponizing violence in order to institute martial law.** With alarming regularity, the nation continues to be subjected to spates of violence that terrorize the public, destabilize the country's ecosystem, and give the government greater justification to crack down, lock down, and institute even



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more authoritarian policies for the so-called sake of national security without many objections from the citizenry.

**Weaponizing surveillance, pre-crime and pre-thought campaigns.** Surveillance, digital stalking and the data mining of the American people add up to a society in which there's little room for indiscretions, imperfections, or acts of independence. When the government sees all and knows all and has an abundance of laws to render even the most seemingly upstanding citizen a criminal and lawbreaker, then the old adage that you've got nothing to worry about if you've got nothing to hide no longer applies.

**Weaponizing digital currencies, social media scores and censorship.** Tech giants, working with the government, have been meting out their own version of social justice by way of digital tyranny and corporate censorship, muzzling whomever they want, whenever they want, on whatever pretext they want in the absence of any real due process, review or appeal. Digital currencies, combined with social media scores and surveillance capitalism, will create a litmus test to determine who is worthy enough to be part of society.

**Weaponizing compliance.** Even the most well-intentioned government law or program can be—and has been—perverted, corrupted and used to advance illegitimate purposes once profit and power are added to the equation. The war on terror, the war on drugs, the war on COVID-19, the war on illegal immigration, asset forfeiture schemes, road safety schemes, school safety schemes, eminent domain: all of these programs started out as legitimate responses to pressing concerns and have since become weapons of compliance and control in the police state's hands.

**Weaponizing behavioral science and nudging.** Apart from the overt dangers posed by a government that feels justified and empowered to spy on its people and use its ever-expanding arsenal of weapons and technology to monitor and control them, there's also the covert danger associated with a government empowered to use these same technologies to influence behaviors *en masse* and control the populace.

**Weaponizing desensitization campaigns aimed at lulling us into a false sense of security.** The events of recent years—the invasive surveillance, the extremism reports, the civil unrest, the protests, the shootings, the bombings, the military exercises and active shooter drills, the lockdowns, the color-coded alerts and threat assessments, the fusion centers, the transformation of local police into extensions of the military, the distribution of military equipment and weapons to local police forces, the government databases containing the names of dissidents and potential troublemakers—have conspired to acclimate the populace to accept a police state willingly, even gratefully.

**Weaponizing politics.** Fear is the method most often used by politicians to increase the power of government and control a populace, dividing the people into factions, and persuading them to see each other as the enemy. This Machiavellian scheme has so ensnared the nation that few Americans even realize they are being manipulated into adopting an “us” against “them” mindset.

**Weaponizing the dystopian future.** With greater frequency, the government has been issuing warnings about the dire need to prepare for the dystopian future that awaits us. For instance, the Pentagon [training video](#), “[Megacities: Urban Future, the Emerging Complexity](#),” predicts that by 2030 (coincidentally, the same year that society [begins to achieve singularity with the metaverse](#)) the military would be called on to use armed forces to solve future domestic political and social problems. What they're really talking about is martial law, packaged as a well-meaning and overriding concern for the



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nation's security. The chilling five-minute training video paints an ominous picture of the future bedeviled by "criminal networks," "substandard infrastructure," "religious and ethnic tensions," "impoverishment, slums," "open landfills, over-burdened sewers," a "growing mass of unemployed," and an urban landscape in which the prosperous economic elite must be protected from the impoverishment of the have nots. "We the people" are the have-nots.

The end goal of these mind control campaigns—packaged in the guise of the greater good—is to see how far the American people will allow the government to go in undermining our freedoms.

As I make clear in my book [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#) and in its fictional counterpart [The Erik Blair Diaries](#), the facts speak for themselves.

Whatever else it may be—a danger, a menace, a threat—the U.S. government is certainly not looking out for our best interests, nor is it in any way a friend to freedom.

#### ABOUT JOHN & NISHA WHITEHEAD:

*Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. His latest books [The Erik Blair Diaries](#) and [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#) are available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Whitehead can be contacted at [johnw@rutherford.org](mailto:johnw@rutherford.org). Nisha Whitehead is the Executive Director of The Rutherford Institute. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at [www.rutherford.org](http://www.rutherford.org).*



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