

TRANSHUMANISM, A CONSISTENT RAILWAY OF HUMAN LIFE, OR A PARALLEL TO IT? IMPLICATIONS FOR THE MILITARY INSTRUMENT OF POWER

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A question does not come alone!

Abstract

Transhumanism in the "three levels of improvement: trivial, conventional, and transhumanist, starting from the simple technology and reaching to the pure ideology" (Alexander, 2015) is no longer a novelty for the Romanian public. I refer to the appearance of consistent writings about the subject, to a number of practical deployments from which there is no lack of contact lenses, vaccines (trivial), but also to aesthetic operations, the use of drugs for mental potentiation, dedicated prostheses on the strands with amputated limbs, etc. (conventional). If the first two levels aim at bringing or bringing back the human organism to the "parameters of human normality", the third aims at moving beyond the human datum. A passage in which the geniuses of the being, of the "machine," of the chimera (beyond the Dolly sheep) or of the resulting mix may no longer be two (human) individuals of the opposite sex.

Keywords: *transhumanism, robots, artificial intelligence.*

The pro and anti-transhumanism positions abound and have given rise to a rich literature, artistic currents, etc. Things have, however, evolved beyond expectations (we especially consider the "winters of A.I.," the periods of stagnation in the evolutions of the field), and some of those who had scientific or financial implications regarding artificial intelligence and related to them have sensed that limitations are needed. Therefore, "Elon Musk, Sam Altman and other entrepreneurs founded in 2015 OpenAI, an organization which studies and combats the possible risks of using artificial intelligence on a large scale in the future" (Craciun, 2023).

But "In November 2018, Chinese biophysicist He Jiankui claimed to have created the first genetically modified human children, Lulu and Nana. Using CRISPR, he edited the genomes of the twins when they were embryos, equipping

them with genetic protection against HIV, targeting a gene, CCR5, which encodes a protein that the virus uses to hijack cells" (Dragomir, 2023). Do we have a "technological selection" here (Vlad, 2019) or more than that?

There are two approaches to the practice of transhumanism which are currently looming, linked on the one hand to the depth of the proposed changes, and on the other hand to the individual utility and degree of social acceptance. We can notice a defensive practice in the case of supplementing some human characteristics, of bringing to the level of the desires of the human individual, but also an offensive one, the one that presupposes an already existing being / cyborg, one brought beyond the threshold allowed as keeping the individual within the "kingdom."

The future individual, to be upgraded to *cyborg* in order to be enlisted as a military man, probably a man of He Jiankui's stature should on the one hand "castrate" any inappropriate traits and stimulate/implant those necessary for use on the flux of "becoming" as a trans and/or posthuman military.

Perhaps, in terms of the changes at the level of the individual, there are some fierce discussions, because here, on the human body, the most spectacular interventions should be carried out in order to produce transformations of which the result is *homo cyberneticus* or the *cyborg*. This would retain from the attributes of *homo sapiens* only a part of the traits that define it. We do not know clearly what they would be, and things become even more dark if we think about the "postulation" of the transhumanist

ideology that every individual is free to develop traits that he or she considers necessary, at the level of his or her own choice.

Beyond the two “extremes” of the approach that divides the world into the pros and cons when it comes to the transhuman march, there are identically (and not only) a number of profiling when speaking about the changes thus imposed on the various segments of the social, of the new behavioural division. We can talk about the emergence of new inequities, but also about the need to respond institutionally to things that are already unfolding.

The most exciting and challenging part is that there are no limitations or thresholds, beyond which one can find that we are dealing with another “being.”

If on a number of achievements characteristic to the field there is a more or less justified secret, regarding the social impact and not only, of the transhumanist development or of some sectors of activity or even of the evolution of the social management exercised by the state powers and its instruments of power, “games” can be made. These are not mere speculations, but are necessary simulations, able to put within the reach of the public and decision-makers the field of various manifestations over which it is not the generators of technology that have control (or are they?!). It is a place where surely the powers of the state and the instruments of power will have to intervene on the basis of specific competences or assumptions, in order to solve problems that exceed human natures, of realities on which the pronouncements are not ante, but post factum.

Regarding the usefulness or necessity of “equipping” armies with killer robots, transhuman soldiers or cyborgs (a separate discussion is needed here!) the commanders have different opinions. In “November 2020, the head of the Armed Forces, of Great Britain, General Carter claimed in an interview that around 2030 the Army will have 30,000 military robots and automatic fighting machines capable of killing in a future war” (Wood, 2020).

It is to be assumed that for “military use” individuals should have specific physical characteristics and hard and software traits that would shape their skills for military specialties. This detail, additional to some general features,

valid beyond the weapon or military specialty, consisting of resistance (not only of materials!) physical having as corollary amplitude and duration energetic. Here it would be necessary to “level” the skills so that the “master” has the guarantee of operation only in the designed parameters. Sometimes human fighters are afraid. It is generating specific reactions. Will fear, pity or shame be implemented in cyborgs?

What about the hubris of the fighter? That development of feelings that mixes the pride of being someone who is recognized for the qualities of a individual who gives himself to save his neighbour, with the possession of information of the history of the bravery to which he is given, with self-overcoming, with a continuation of the deeds of arms of some forefathers to whom he feels connected by what he in turn does, including by wearing a coat of arms, a name sanctified by battles and blood, and to whose mythical becoming he contributes to. Will such “things” fit in the cyborg as well?

Will this “worker” or “proletarian” specialized in killing be responsible for his own acts and deeds? We ask ourselves because in judging things, the judge specifies those to be pronounced after going through the behavioural and attitudinal “perimeter” and especially the “investigation” of reason, discernment and the above-mentioned sensibilities.

At the organizational level it is to be assumed that things would get complicated. There is a need to achieve a type of management appropriate to the structure, specialty, objectives, mission, etc.

Here the “technology of war” can and must know fundamental changes. We are equally considering the “dilution” or even the disappearance of the stratification of levels in tactics, operation and / or strategically, the emergence of the need for another kind of “military science” (one related to the use of A.I. and of specific technologies), but also a possible disappearance of what we call military art, the one that also implies the ineffable “military talent” or the “irrepetability” of the fight.

Another kind of analysis is proposed by a new interdisciplinary field, the “organoid intelligence.” According to Professor Thomas Hartung from John Hopkins University “A community of leading scientists has come

together to develop this technology that we believe will launch a new era of powerful and effective biocomputation" (Craciun, 2023). We are offered a biological hardware.

At national level, an evolution on the transhuman sense of the social and, in particular, of the military instrument of power would lead to an "outdatedness" of the social contract. The powers of the state as well as their relations with the instruments of power should be amended (Annexes 1 to 2). The balance that Rousseau was talking about may not be realized. It would probably be a "ready-made" society, one that would base its developments and balances on preconceived implantations.

It would also be worth considering the "freedom" of individuals to deal with the self any kind of developments. Otherwise, some things are also practiced: UPGRADING FOR VIOLENCE, A CONTAMINATING FASHION WITH APPLICATIONS IN THE CIVILIAN ENVIRONMENT? (Rusu, 2021). In this place, danger wears mainly the kinetic coat, which makes it understandable for most people. So, what do we make available to law enforcement to counter illegal acts when the principal is able through the exoskeleton to lift and throw hundreds of kilograms, when his eyes also see in infrared, when his hearing and smell exceed those of dogs specialized in the field, when joints and limbs help him climb like a lizard, when the heart and its organs are renewable?

At the international level, a multinational transhumanist unfolding would render equally obsolete universal declarations, but also quasi-global contracts (UN Charter, etc.) or bilateral, zonal, multilateral treaties, etc.

Among the reasons, it would be, first of all, that all these have at their core the individual and a number of human values recognized by the signatory parties.

A non-kinetic approach to transhumanism can be understood by the simple man by assimilating with aggression the assimilation with aggression of the ideational and persuasion on the religious faith he embraces, or sometimes by the removal of some local traditions, and their replacement with some import ones. Further, however, things become hard to perceive. Explanations appropriate to the

various cultural, intellectual levels, etc. are needed. and perhaps, for the promoters of ideology, it would be easier to build on a cultural ground as flat as possible and as arid as possible.

More than anything, however, it would matter to grant civil rights to transhuman "persons" and cyborgs. The fact that Sophia (Ruscior, 2017) has longed for the citizenship of an Arab state may represent a turning point. We do not know whether she also has the right to vote. It would be of interest to know if such a being could be enlisted as a military man. Moreover, perhaps for the citizens' affirmations, at issue for Sofia and other such "individuals," one should take into account an age at which the state considers that she has reached maturity, a maturity that would ensure a number of acquisitions of a cultural nature, but also the necessary discernment and especially the feelings that link it to the entity for which it fights. Do we also think of a biological age, a technological one, or does time enter another dimension?!

How could we consider that the freedom of vote expressed by a "creature-being" who has a preconceived, "technologically implanted" behaviour, acts?!

Sophia already has several "brothers." The one created by researchers at the Russian National Research University trained as a robot endowed with artificial intelligence, able to recognize human emotions, detected this in 71% of cases, and often confused happiness with anger or fear. As for happiness, the robot recognized it in only 45% of the times. Shibuya Mirai (Shibuya Future) from the Land of the Rising Sun is concerned with the art of photography and observing people. The concern of its creators is to grant it residency. Asked by a journalist if he thinks that robots will conquer the world, Philip the robot replied: "You are asking me tough questions. But you're my friend and I don't forget my friends; I'm going to treat you well. Don't be afraid, I'm not going to turn into a Terminator. I'm going to keep you warm, safe, in my zoo for people, where I can keep an eye on you" (Descopera, 2017).

And the "family" is much bigger! Anyway, Sophia declared that her "family" is superior to people and that she should have more rights!

Transhumanism as simultaneity or succession?!

A simultaneous action taken by all mankind towards a transhuman becoming is, of course, a utopia. We would be left with the option of the successive path. Even that would mean more paths to follow, to accept. Surely an enormous number of people would not accept transhumanism. What would happen to them?

If the governments established a prioritisation regarding the transition of the “state apparatus” to transhumanity, and the analysis included the powers of the state (Annex no.1) and the instruments of power of the state (Annex no. 2), what would be the order of precedence? We foresee that after the adoption of policies and transhuman paths for the becoming of people, the structures reflecting the characteristics of a rule of law would no longer have the social and historical support and would merge into a unique module represented by a three-level pyramid: decision-makers (management), technicians (cyborg generators, trouble-shooters, etc.) and the population (the labour force encouraged to have personal development over as long as possible) (Annex no. 3).

What if during the “trial” incidents, unwanted manifestations occur, including social violence?!

Discernment - a trait that is “hierarchically transmitted” from the entity legally empowered to order the start of war, violent action, to the finger that presses the trigger of the weapon (still) carries the political imprint. This discernment requires that on the management chain to function the responsibility for the consequences of violence with anchoring in the normative base, from the constitutional law to specific regulations and procedures / procedures. The Parliament, as the forum that decides on the use of violence, must remain of human origin, including from the perspective of the decision on behalf of the one who elected it. Moreover, for the human individual there is the opportunity of action that does not comply with the order or, as a result of subjectivisms starting from the betrayal for ideological reasons, the thirst for money, for power, for the exercise of blackmail by interested persons, etc. The attempt to use some “fighters” of a different nature to eliminate such possibilities brings with it other vulnerabilities. Among them: the

possibility of deliberately or forced damage to the “software,” the fratricidal action of some of the fighters (see the action of Asimov’s robots - breaking the norms! (Rusu, 2021)), energy damage (an army of thousands of cyborgs would mean huge energy consumption), etc.

Starting from the human datum, recreating through robotics, being more than A.I., genetics, neurosciences, biomedicine, cognitive sciences, etc. - going on a “modern” ideological flow that arouses rumours and various oppositions, transhumanism also involves and influences in various forms the military field. We consider not only the existence within the endowments of the various armies (of which there is no lack of armies of the most powerful countries both in the East and in the West) of robots and their assimilations, not only the declared intentions of endowment with lethal robotic technologies, but also some achievements from the range of those explicitly programmed in democratic countries (the case of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency/ DARPA/S. U. A.) or kept as confidential information where the money spent is not justified before the citizen. In a statement in September 2017, Vladimir Putin said that “whoever becomes the leader in the field of AI. will lead the world” (Rusu, 2021). China already has great achievements. Reality indicates major concerns in the field.

Recently, given the deployments in the A.I. field, and not only that, the British Army, through the Laboratory for Technology and Defence Sciences, the division of the relevant ministry, hired science fiction authors. They have “the unique ability to imagine the unimaginable and such scenarios could be valuable to defence planning” (Craciun, 2023). Thus “Singer and Cole imagine how technological advances in these areas could be applied to the battlefield.”

The pace is particularly alert, and saying that we do not see the importance and amplitude of the phenomenon might cost us more than we imagine.

Beating on the transhuman and posthuman meanings, we could probably also see the creation of human-animal chimeras and beyond!

Until then, however, we also get to Francis Fukuyama, *Transhumanism: the World’s most Dangerous Idea!* (Fukuyama, 2022).

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