

Understanding Neoreaction: A Comprehensive Analysis

1. Defining Neoreaction: An Overview

The term "NRx," or Neoreaction, encompasses a loosely connected array of political ideologies and intellectual movements united by their fundamental critique of modern liberalism, democratic systems, and egalitarian principles [User Query]. This intellectual current generally advocates for a return to more traditional and hierarchical societal structures, often emphasizing governance models such as monarchy, aristocracy, or other forms perceived as inherently anti-democratic [User Query]. Furthermore, Neoreactionary thought is characterized by specific critiques concerning technology, race, and the prevailing notion of societal "progress" [User Query]. The decentralized and continuously evolving nature of Neoreaction makes it a complex subject to define with rigid boundaries. Its primary focus on critique suggests an intellectual underpinning, even as some adherents harbor political ambitions. The simultaneous skepticism towards modernity alongside reservations about certain technological advancements points to a nuanced, and at times seemingly contradictory, relationship with technological progress. The rejection of egalitarianism as a cornerstone of modern liberalism places Neoreaction outside the conventional spectrum of contemporary political thought prevalent in Western societies. The inclination towards traditional hierarchies also implies a degree of departure from meritocratic ideals.

2. The Intellectual Genesis of Neoreaction

Neoreaction emerged in the 2000s, its development and dissemination significantly shaped by online discourse through blogs and forums¹. This movement draws upon a rich history of reactionary thought that fundamentally questions the Enlightenment and its perceived consequences¹. Its intellectual roots can be traced to programmer culture and radical libertarianism, highlighting its digital origins and specific ideological foundations². The Dark Enlightenment, often used interchangeably with Neoreaction, is explicitly positioned as a reaction against the Age of Enlightenment, even offering an apologia for the popular understanding of the Dark Ages¹. This philosophical and political movement is anti-democratic, anti-egalitarian, and reactionary in its core tenets¹.

A pivotal figure in the genesis of Neoreaction is Mencius Moldbug, the pen name of Curtis Yarvin². His blog, "Unqualified Reservations," active between 2007 and 2013, served as a central platform for articulating and developing neoreactionary ideas, effectively forming the basis of this influential movement². Yarvin is recognized,

alongside philosopher Nick Land, as a founder of the Dark Enlightenment, a philosophical movement characterized by its anti-egalitarian and anti-democratic stances ³. In his blog, which ran until 2014, and later in his newsletter "Gray Mirror," initiated in 2020, Yarvin argued that American democracy is a failed experiment warranting replacement by an accountable monarchy, drawing parallels to the governance structures of corporations ³. His work on "Unqualified Reservations" explored themes such as anti-democracy, the advocacy for monarchy, and the concept of "the Cathedral," which he describes as an informal amalgamation of universities and mainstream media that collectively shapes public opinion ³. Yarvin's intellectual journey, starting from Austrian Economics, led him to advocate for a CEO monarch, particularly on his blog, where he frequently critiqued progressives and what he perceived as the Christian origins of progressivism ⁴. His vision involves replacing inefficient democratic governments with sovereign joint-stock corporations led by a powerful executive, much like a CEO-monarch, drawing inspiration from authoritarian regimes like Singapore and Deng Xiaoping's China ³. Key themes explored in "Unqualified Reservations" include a critique of progressivism, the analysis of "the Cathedral," the politics of universalism, an early examination of Wokeism as a religion, and revisionist interpretations of history ⁵.

Building upon Yarvin's foundational work, Nick Land further developed these ideas, coining the term "Dark Enlightenment" in his essay of the same name ⁶. Land's later philosophical contributions, particularly those associated with the Dark Enlightenment, fundamentally oppose egalitarianism ⁷. He posits that democracy inherently restricts both accountability and freedom ⁷. Land's association with accelerationism, the idea of intensifying societal trends to destabilize existing systems, is also a significant aspect of his thought ⁷. The overlap between programmer culture and the early stages of Neoreaction suggests a potential connection between a mindset favoring technological solutions and the embrace of radical political concepts. The strategic use of pseudonyms, such as "Mencius Moldbug," indicates a deliberate approach to online discourse, possibly intended to create a distinct intellectual persona or to mitigate real-world repercussions. The shift from a blog format to a newsletter may reflect an evolution in communication strategy or a change in the intended audience. A core tenet of NRx is its rejection of Whig historiography, the belief in an inevitable progression towards greater liberty, which positions it against prevailing historical narratives ⁶. The intellectual lineage of NRx includes influences from historical reactionary figures like Thomas Carlyle and esoteric thinkers such as Julius Evola, indicating a connection to established traditions of anti-modern thought ¹.

3. Core Ideological Components of Neoreaction

A central tenet of Neoreaction is its profound critique of democracy, which it views as an inefficient, unstable, and ultimately degenerative form of governance prone to descending into tyranny or chaos². In place of democratic systems, NRx advocates for alternative models rooted in hierarchy, such as monarchy or corporate-style governance³. Mencius Moldbug, for instance, argued that democratic regimes are inefficient, detached from reality, and destined to collapse². He proposed an accountable monarchy akin to the structure of corporations as a superior alternative³. Michael Anissimov's work, including his book "A Critique of Democracy: A Guide for Neoreactionaries," delves into various arguments against democratic systems⁹. The Dark Enlightenment movement generally rejects liberal democracy and constitutional monarchy, favoring a return to monarchism and other more traditional forms of leadership⁶. Curtis Yarvin further elaborated on this by suggesting that democratic governments are wasteful and inefficient, advocating for their replacement with sovereign joint-stock corporations³. Hans-Hermann Hoppe's "Democracy: The God That Failed" similarly argues that democracy precipitates civilizational decline and favors the rule of "natural elites"¹¹. This perspective aligns with the broader NRx belief that liberal democracy is fundamentally flawed and that equality is not a desirable societal goal, leading to the advocacy for techno-authoritarianism governed by a king-CEO figure analogous to a highly hierarchical corporation⁸.

Neoreaction fundamentally rejects the principle of egalitarianism, instead emphasizing the importance of natural hierarchies and social stratification². This rejection often extends to the belief in inherent differences between various groups, including racial categories¹. Moldbug's thought is explicitly antiprogressive, antiegalitarian, and antidemocratic². The NRx movement, as a whole, is characterized as anti-egalitarian³. Nick Land's later work also reflects this opposition to egalitarianism⁷. The Dark Enlightenment endorses "race realism," often referred to as "human biodiversity," further highlighting this aspect of their ideology¹.

Curtis Yarvin introduced the concept of "the Cathedral" to describe an informal yet powerful network comprising universities and mainstream media outlets. This network, according to Yarvin, actively promotes progressive values and exerts significant ideological control over society³. He views it as a socio-religious phenomenon, where progressive ideology functions similarly to religious dogma disseminated by religious authorities³. This concept is a key theme in Yarvin's "Unqualified Reservations"⁵. The "Cathedral" metaphor illustrates how various institutions within society can reinforce ideological conformity and maintain a particular worldview⁶. From an NRx perspective, this "Cathedral" represents a dominant ideological hegemony that

actively suppresses dissenting viewpoints ⁸.

Accelerationism, particularly associated with Nick Land, is another core component of Neoreactionary thought. It involves the strategic intensification of existing societal trends, often focusing on capitalism and technology, with the aim of destabilizing current systems and instigating radical societal transformation ⁷. Yarvin, on the other hand, advocates for neo-cameralism, a governance model where the state operates like a corporation, prioritizing efficiency and profitability ³. This "gov-corp" model, where small, authoritarian entities compete, was anticipated by Hans-Hermann Hoppe ¹. The Dark Enlightenment itself can be seen as a vehicle for achieving accelerationism, seeking to leverage capitalism and technology to disrupt established systems and bring about fundamental change ¹. Land views democratic and egalitarian policies as impediments that only slow down the process of acceleration and the emergence of a technocapital singularity ¹. The overlap between the Dark Enlightenment and neo-cameralism further underscores the NRx vision of a state governed with corporate efficiency and minimal democratic constraints ⁸.

The critique of democracy within NRx often stems from a fundamental belief in the superior competence and decision-making capabilities of elite individuals. The rejection of egalitarianism is frequently intertwined with arguments positing a natural order and the necessity of social stability achieved through inherent hierarchies. The concept of "the Cathedral" serves to highlight the NRx perception of a pervasive ideological dominance that marginalizes alternative perspectives. Accelerationism represents a radical, and potentially perilous, approach to achieving political change. Neo-cameralism reflects a prioritization of efficiency in governance, potentially at the expense of democratic accountability and citizen participation. The corporate model of governance proposed by NRx raises fundamental questions about the role of citizens and the very definition of political legitimacy outside the framework of democratic principles. The belief in inherent differences between groups carries the significant risk of fostering discriminatory ideologies and practices. The notion of a monolithic "Cathedral" might oversimplify the complex and often contradictory nature of media and academic institutions. The pursuit of accelerationism carries the inherent danger of leading to unforeseen and potentially negative consequences.

4. Profiles of Key Neoreactionary Thinkers and Their Contributions

Curtis Yarvin (Mencius Moldbug) and Nick Land have already been discussed in detail in sections 2 and 3.

Michael Anissimov is a figure associated with both Neoreactionary and transhumanist

circles, known for his exploration of the connections between NRx and technology [User Query]. He served as an editor for the "Outside In" blog, which focused on NRx topics, and was also associated with the Machine Intelligence Research Institute (MIRI) [User Query]. Anissimov authored "A Critique of Democracy: A Guide for Neoreactionaries," which examines arguments against democratic systems ⁹. He also had a blog called "Accelerating Future" and held positions as Media Director for the Singularity Institute and Fundraising Director for the Lifeboat Foundation ¹³. A debate between Anissimov and economist Noah Smith touched on various topics relevant to reaction, including social isolation, capitalism, and the concept of monarchy ¹⁴.

Anissimov is described as a self-professed neoreactionary who left MIRI to establish a competing forum, "MoreRight," which was more receptive to neoreactionary ideas ¹⁵. He also founded a publishing company and authored "Idaho Project," described as a white nationalist manifesto, alongside "A Critique of Democracy" ¹⁵.

James LaFond is a writer whose work contributes to the NRx conversation with a focus on themes such as race, culture, and society [User Query]. His writings often include critiques of modern Western society and its emphasis on egalitarianism [User Query]. He is the author of numerous books, including "Autumn in a Dying City: Letters from the Last Whiteman in Baltimore," which suggests an exploration of race and cultural dynamics ¹⁶. Other titles, such as "The Hunt for Whitey: Recognizing and Surviving the Condition of Anarcho-Tyranny," also hint at themes relevant to NRx concerns about societal order and perceived threats ¹⁷. His diverse bibliography includes 'urban survival' memoirs under the "Harm City" series and combat arts titles ¹⁶. Some of his science fiction and fantasy works, like "Skulker Jones: A Tale of Dark Devilry at the End of Caucasian Time," might also contain undertones related to NRx perspectives on societal decline ¹⁸.

Tom Holland is a British historian and commentator who has expressed sympathy towards certain ideas linked with Neoreaction, although he does not explicitly identify with the movement [User Query]. He is notable for his critiques of liberalism and Western modernity [User Query]. While a website under his name primarily focuses on his acting career ¹⁹, Holland the historian has published extensively on classical and medieval history, as well as the origins of Islam ²⁰. Some of his historical work, particularly regarding the influence of Christianity on Western civilization, might touch upon themes relevant to NRx critiques of modernity ²⁰. However, direct evidence of his explicit engagement with or endorsement of Neoreactionary ideology is limited in the provided materials.

Spandrell is a blogger associated with Neoreaction whose writings frequently explore topics such as politics, history, and sociology, with a particular emphasis on the

perceived decline of Western civilization [User Query]. His blog, often referred to as "The Dark Enlightenment," is well-known within NRx circles [User Query]. While the term "Dark Enlightenment" was coined by Nick Land, Spandrell's blog likely shares thematic and ideological similarities ⁶. A podcast discussion mentions Spandrell's writings on neoreaction ²². He also authored a blog post titled "Biological Leninism" on spandrell.com ²³. More recently, Spandrell started a blog called "Bloody Shovel," where he develops theories influential to reactionary thought, based on the premise that modern civilization is in a death spiral ²⁴.

John Derbyshire, a former columnist for the National Review, is associated with the Dissident Right, a movement that overlaps with Neoreaction [User Query]. He is known for his critiques of political correctness, multiculturalism, and modern liberalism [User Query]. Derbyshire was terminated from the National Review for publishing an article widely considered racist and subsequently began writing for the white nationalist website VDARE ²⁶. His book "We Are Doomed: Reclaiming Conservative Pessimism" advocates for skepticism and pessimism as key characteristics of a conservative temperament ²⁷. He also authored "From the Dissident Right," a collection of essays originally published on VDARE.com ²⁸. Derbyshire hosts a weekly podcast called "Radio Derb," where he comments on current events ²⁶. His inaugural column on VDARE stated that "White supremacy, in the sense of a society in which key decisions are made by white Europeans, is one of the better arrangements History has come up with" ³⁰.

Razib Khan is a geneticist and blogger who writes on topics related to race, genetics, and society [User Query]. While not explicitly a Neoreactionary, his views on race and human diversity resonate with some themes found in NRx thought [User Query]. Khan has written for various publications, including the National Review and Taki's Magazine, and is known for popularizing the term "human biodiversity" ³¹. He co-founded the blog Brown Pundits and has a Substack blog called "Razib Khan's Unsupervised Learning," where he discusses genetics, history, politics, and culture ³¹. A podcast featuring Khan discussed cultural futurism and his past interactions with neoreactionaries ³⁵.

Greg Johnson is the editor of Counter-Currents, a website that frequently discusses topics relevant to the alt-right and Neoreactionary movements [User Query]. His focus is on issues such as identity, race, and Western civilization [User Query]. Counter-Currents is described as a white nationalist publishing house that advocates for a "White Republic" and aims to legitimize the idea of a white ethnostate ³⁶. The website features articles, essays, book reviews, podcasts, and videos from a

right-leaning perspective on cultural and political topics ³⁸.

Richard Spencer is a controversial figure within the alt-right movement who has expressed some ideas that align with NRx, particularly in his critique of liberal democracy and advocacy for an ethnonationalist vision [User Query]. He heads the National Policy Institute (NPI), which aims to "elevate the consciousness of whites," and founded AltRight.com ³⁹. Spencer's vision centers on the establishment of a white ethno-state in North America ³⁹. He has been described as a leading "academic racist" who takes a quasi-intellectual approach to white separatism ³⁹. Leaked audio revealed racist and antisemitic remarks made by Spencer ⁴⁰.

Peter Thiel, a Silicon Valley billionaire and tech entrepreneur, is linked with some aspects of NRx due to his support for anti-democratic governance and critiques of modernity, although he does not directly identify with the movement ideologically [User Query]. His backing of certain ideas related to governance and societal structure resonates with elements of NRx thought, particularly his investments in projects like Curtis Yarvin's Urbit and the Seasteading Institute, which reflect ambitions for governance frameworks independent of state oversight ⁴¹. Thiel co-founded PayPal, Palantir Technologies, and Founders Fund, and his Thiel Foundation supports the Seasteading Institute and the Singularity Institute ⁴². Some argue that his support for J.D. Vance signifies NRx ideology entering mainstream politics ⁴¹. Thiel has also expressed conspiratorial views and a desire to use government power to support Big Tech's agenda ⁴⁴. His essays and talks cover a range of topics, including politics, technology, and governance, often from a libertarian-leaning perspective that critiques established institutions ⁴⁵.

Bronze Age Pervert (BAP), likely the pseudonym of Costin Vlad Alamariu, is an internet personality associated with the far-right and the manosphere ⁴⁷. He is the author of "Bronze Age Mindset," which combines critiques of modern liberalism with a romanticized view of ancient warrior cultures, making it relevant to NRx thought due to its anti-modern and anti-egalitarian stance [User Query] ⁴⁹. BAP has a significant online presence, particularly on X (formerly Twitter) and Telegram, where he shares post-ironic far-right memes and images of bodybuilders ⁴⁷. His online persona is described as a "nudist bodybuilder" with neofascist leanings, known for exploiting homoerotic ambiguity in his argumentation ⁴⁸. Some right-wing politicians have been criticized for interacting with BAP online, and Peter Thiel has referenced him in speeches ⁴⁷.

Alexander Dugin, while more closely associated with Eurasianism and Russian nationalism, has indirectly influenced some within the NRx and far-right communities

[User Query]. His critiques of liberalism, democracy, and Western civilization align with many NRx themes [User Query]. Dugin is a Russian political philosopher and the leading theorist of Russian neo-Eurasianism ⁵⁰. His influential book, "Foundations of Geopolitics," advocates for Russia to rebuild its influence to challenge the United States-led "Atlanticist" empire and promotes a "conservative revolution" ⁵¹. Dugin's "Fourth Political Theory" further critiques liberalism and proposes a "revolutionary conservatism" rooted in traditional values but aimed at creating a new, multipolar world order ⁵².

Jared Taylor is a prominent figure in the racist and white nationalist movements, and the founder of American Renaissance magazine, which discusses racial issues and critiques egalitarianism [User Query]. His work aligns with some NRx themes, particularly regarding race and social order.

Keith Preston founded Attack the System, a website that discusses anarcho-pluralism and critiques both left-wing and right-wing ideologies [User Query]. His thoughts on hierarchical structures, authority, and governance intersect with some ideas within Neoreaction, especially in his critiques of state power and modern liberalism.

Mikhail Heller is an economist and philosopher who has written about the potential for a new political order and expressed ideas aligning with some aspects of Neoreaction, particularly his critiques of liberal democracy and modernity [User Query]. While specific details about his views on neo-reaction are not provided, a summary of neo-reactionary propositions mentions skepticism towards secularism and the historical success of cultures dominated by white men ⁵³.

Alexander McCobin, co-founder of Students for Liberty, has argued for the importance of individual liberty and critiqued the state [User Query]. While not directly an NRx thinker, his alignment with anti-statism and libertarian views places him near certain discussions within the NRx space ⁵⁴. He founded Students For Liberty to promote libertarian principles and later became CEO of Conscious Capitalism ⁵⁵.

Fred Reed is a former journalist and writer who has produced content aligned with Neoreactionary ideas, particularly around race, social order, and the decline of Western civilization [User Query]. His writings often critique multiculturalism, immigration, and the state's role in enforcing egalitarianism. Reed's concept of "Disengagement" advocates for a withdrawal of loyalty from a declining and oppressive state, prioritizing personal principles and self-sufficiency ⁵⁷.

Emil Cioran was a Romanian philosopher and essayist whose ideas on nihilism,

pessimism, and the meaninglessness of existence have resonated with some figures in the Neoreactionary and Dark Enlightenment camps [User Query]. His work on despair and the futility of progress aligns with some of NRx's more pessimistic strands [User Query]⁵⁸. While not directly involved in NRx, his philosophical pessimism has found resonance within the movement ⁶⁰.

Mark Citadel is a relatively lesser-known figure who has written about Neoreactionary themes and the Dark Enlightenment [User Query]. His work delves into critiques of democracy and liberalism, drawing parallels between current societal trends and the decay of civilizations throughout history [User Query]. Citadel was a speaker at an art gallery associated with far-right discourse, where he criticized the left and expressed views aligning with Christian traditionalism and Western supremacy ⁶¹.

Steve Sailer is a journalist and commentator known for his writings on race, genetics, and social issues [User Query]. His views often intersect with Neoreactionary ideas, particularly regarding race and intelligence, and his critiques of mass immigration [User Query]. Economist Tyler Cowen described Sailer as the "most significant neo-reaction thinker today" ⁶⁵. He writes for far-right platforms like Taki's Magazine and VDARE and popularized the term "human biodiversity" as a euphemism for scientific racism ³².

Vox Day (Theodore Beale) is a writer and prominent figure in the alt-right and Neoreactionary movements [User Query]. He has written extensively on culture, politics, and society, and his critiques of egalitarianism and support for hierarchical structures align with NRx thought [User Query]⁶⁶. A core belief of Vox Day, also central to the alt-right, is the need to secure the existence of white people ⁶⁶.

Alright.com Contributors contributed to Alright.com, a platform that was key for alt-right and Neoreactionary thinkers, promoting anti-democratic ideas [User Query]. While contributors may not all strictly identify as Neoreactionaries, their writings frequently intersect with NRx themes, especially in their critiques of liberalism, egalitarianism, and modernity [User Query]⁶⁷. The alt-right ideology, as reflected on such platforms, revolves around white identity, anti-globalism, and opposition to immigration and multiculturalism ⁶⁷.

Benjamin Noys is a scholar of critical theory who has written about accelerationism and Neoreaction [User Query]. His work on the intersection of politics, technology, and culture has resonated with Neoreactionary thinkers, particularly his critiques of progressive ideologies [User Query]. Noys defines accelerationism as a strategy of accelerating through and beyond capitalism, though he is critical of its potential

outcomes ¹².

Hans-Hermann Hoppe is a libertarian economist known for his work in anarcho-capitalism and argumentation ethics [User Query]. Though primarily associated with libertarianism, Hoppe's criticism of democracy and advocacy for governance based on natural law and private property align with some of the more right-wing, anti-democratic strands of NRx [User Query]. His book "Democracy: The God That Failed" argues that democracy leads to civilizational decline and favors exclusionary "covenant communities" ¹¹.

Ryuji Tsukamoto is a Japanese philosopher and sociologist whose work on the rise of new hierarchical orders and critiques of liberalism and progressivism has intersected with some NRx ideas [User Query]. He has written about the collapse of the modern democratic order and the possibility of a return to more organic societal structures. However, the provided snippets do not offer specific details on his connection to NRx ⁷².

David Reich is a geneticist known for his work on human population genetics, exploring the role of race and genetics in human history [User Query]. His research on the historical connections between different human populations has garnered some interest in NRx circles, although Reich himself is not an NRx advocate [User Query]. His findings on ancient DNA reveal complex patterns of human migration and admixture, challenging simplistic notions of race ⁷⁶.

Roger Scruton was a conservative philosopher and writer whose critiques of modernity, liberalism, and progressivism resonate with Neoreactionary ideas, particularly his defense of hierarchy and traditional values [User Query]. ⁷⁸.

David Goldman, writing under the pen name Spengler, is a commentator on geopolitics and culture who has expressed views aligned with Neoreactionary critiques of liberalism and democracy [User Query]. His works often explore themes of cultural decline and the collapse of Western civilization [User Query]. ⁸⁰.

Charles Murray is an American political scientist known for his controversial views on intelligence, race, and class [User Query]. His book "The Bell Curve" has been influential in discussions of race and genetics, and while not explicitly NRx, his views resonate with some aspects of the movement, especially regarding critiques of egalitarianism [User Query]. ⁵³.

Caitlin Johnstone is an Australian writer and journalist who critiques mainstream political and social structures, often offering anti-establishment commentary [User

Query⁸⁵. While not explicitly NRx, her critiques of Western democracy share some common ground with Neoreactionary thought.

Graham Harman is a philosopher known for his work on Object-Oriented Ontology (OOO), whose critiques of modernity have intersected with some metaphysical considerations within Neoreaction.

Nassim Nicholas Taleb is a statistician and author who critiques the risks of modernity and over-centralized control, echoing some NRx themes around the fragility of modern systems.

Gregory Hood is a writer and editor for *American Renaissance* and *The Occidental Observer*, contributing to discussions on race, culture, and politics that often align with NRx thought.

E. Michael Jones is a Catholic traditionalist writer whose critiques of modern secularism and liberalism resonate with certain Neoreactionary thinkers concerned with moral and cultural decline.

Michael O'Meara is a writer associated with the alt-right and Neoreaction, critiquing modern liberalism and advocating for traditional forms of order.

Owen Jones is a British political commentator whose critiques of modern political structures have overlapped with discussions within the NRx movement, particularly regarding the dysfunction of liberal democracies.

Matthew Raphael Johnson is a political scientist associated with traditionalist and paleoconservative movements, critical of liberalism and modern democracy.

Viktor Orban, the Prime Minister of Hungary, has policies and rhetoric that often align with NRx themes, particularly his defense of national sovereignty and skepticism towards liberalism [User Query⁸⁸. His approach to "managed democracy" resonates with NRx critiques of liberal globalism.

Christopher Caldwell is a conservative commentator whose work critiques the effects of mass immigration and multiculturalism in Europe [User Query⁸⁹.

Richard Lynn was a psychologist known for his controversial work on intelligence and race, influential in certain far-right and Neoreactionary circles [User Query⁹⁰. His views on racial differences in intelligence have been cited by NRx thinkers.

David Ray Griffin was a philosopher known for his work on 9/11 conspiracy theories,

whose critiques of modernity and mainstream narratives align with some aspects of NRx thought [User Query⁹¹].

David Hume, an 18th-century philosopher, has had a lasting influence on certain strands of NRx thought due to his skepticism about rational governance [User Query⁹²].

Alain de Benoist is a French philosopher and a key figure in the European New Right, whose critiques of modernity, liberalism, and egalitarianism align closely with Neoreactionary ideas [User Query³⁷].

Sebastian N. Gorka is a political analyst whose views on immigration and national identity overlap with some themes in the NRx movement [User Query¹⁰⁰].

Andrew Anglin is the founder of the Daily Stormer, an extremist alt-right website known for its racist and white nationalist views, which overlap with the Dark Enlightenment [User Query¹⁰¹].

Randy “The Right Stuff” is the founder of The Right Stuff (TRS), a website associated with the alt-right and Neoreaction, espousing anti-democratic and anti-egalitarian views [User Query¹].

Thaddeus Russell is a historian whose critiques of liberalism and progressivism resonate with some segments of Neoreaction [User Query¹⁰⁶].

Theodore Dalrymple is a writer known for his critiques of modernity, focusing on social decay and the erosion of traditional values [User Query¹¹²].

The diverse backgrounds and expertise of these individuals highlight the interdisciplinary nature of NRx thought. The significant reliance on online platforms for disseminating their ideas is evident. The connections and overlaps between NRx and other right-wing movements are complex. Some figures explicitly identify with Neoreaction, while others share resonant views without direct affiliation. The level of influence and public recognition varies considerably among them. The inclusion of figures with scientific backgrounds suggests an attempt to legitimize NRx ideas with empirical evidence, albeit controversially. The engagement of philosophers indicates a theoretical depth to the movement. The presence of individuals associated with traditionalist or paleoconservative thought suggests historical continuities.

5. Neoreaction within the Context of the Broader Right

Neoreaction is frequently understood as an intellectual foundation or a more

theoretically developed branch of the alt-right movement ¹. It shares with the alt-right a fundamental critique of modern liberalism, egalitarianism, and the current state of modernity ¹. There is a notable overlap in key figures and online platforms associated with both movements, such as AltRight.com and Counter-Currents [User Query]. Mencius Moldbug and the early neoreactionary thinkers are seen as precursors to the web-based antiegalitarian movements that later coalesced into the alt-right ². While Nick Land's work has increasingly been recognized as an inspiration for the alt-right, he himself distinguishes NRx as a distinct entity ⁷. Some scholars argue that the Dark Enlightenment is a key intellectual component for understanding the alt-right's political ideology ¹. Despite some overlap, NRx is often characterized as more elitist and less populist in its approach compared to the broader alt-right ⁸.

NRx presents a more radical and fundamental critique of modern society compared to traditional conservatism. While some individuals associated with NRx may have libertarian origins, the movement's core embrace of hierarchy and, in some cases, authoritarianism sets it apart from mainstream libertarianism ¹. Moldbug's thought, though originating in radical libertarianism, ultimately advocates for a monarchic form of government ². His support for authoritarianism, even if argued on right-libertarian grounds, contrasts with typical libertarian ideals ³.

Significant connections exist between Neoreaction and white nationalism. Many NRx figures and their core ideas align with white nationalist perspectives, particularly concerning issues of race, immigration, and the aspiration for ethnostates ³. Online platforms such as VDARE and AltRight.com serve as important nexus points for both NRx and white nationalist discourse [User Query]. Curtis Yarvin is explicitly identified as a far-right white nationalist blogger ³. John Derbyshire, after being fired for racist content, now writes for the white nationalist website VDARE ²⁶. Greg Johnson's Counter-Currents is described as a white nationalist publishing house ³⁷. Richard Spencer, a key figure in the alt-right, is a prominent white nationalist leader advocating for a white ethno-state ³⁹. Even within the Dark Enlightenment, some proponents endorse racial separation and believe in the enhancement of IQ within racial groups ⁷.

Neoreaction can be viewed as a more extreme and theoretically sophisticated segment of the broader right-wing ideological spectrum. Its fundamental rejection of democracy distinguishes it from many other right-wing ideologies that generally operate within democratic frameworks, even while criticizing specific policies or aspects of the system. The strong emphasis on race within much of NRx thought frequently aligns it with explicitly white nationalist groups, although the philosophical justifications for these views may vary. The internal tensions between the libertarian

roots of some NRx thinkers and their ultimate embrace of authoritarian conclusions warrant further scholarly examination. The dynamic between the elitist tendencies observed in some core NRx thinkers and the more populist elements characteristic of the alt-right represents another area for potential exploration.

6. The Online Ecosystem of Neoreaction

The internet has played an indispensable role in the emergence, development, and proliferation of Neoreactionary ideas. Online platforms have provided crucial spaces for discourse, intellectual collaboration, and the formation of communities among adherents¹. Blogs such as Curtis Yarvin's "Unqualified Reservations" and potentially Spandrell's "The Dark Enlightenment" (though the latter's exact URL isn't confirmed) served as central hubs for the initial articulation and refinement of NRx thought². Later, figures like Nick Land utilized platforms such as Substack for newsletters and archived their blogs, including "Outside In" and "Urban Future," further expanding the reach of these ideas⁷. Social media platforms, particularly Twitter (now X) and Telegram, are actively used by individuals like Bronze Age Pervert to disseminate their perspectives and engage with followers⁴⁷. Even those with connections to NRx, such as Razib Khan, utilize platforms like Substack to share their writings and podcasts, fostering discussions that resonate with NRx themes³¹.

Neoreaction employs a specific lexicon, incorporating terms like "the Cathedral" (Yarvin's metaphor for the progressive establishment), the "red pill" (a concept borrowed and repurposed from the movie *The Matrix* to signify a shattering of progressive illusions), and "human biodiversity" (a term popularized by Steve Sailer often used as a euphemism for race realism)³. The use of memes and a characteristically ironic style of online communication are also prevalent within NRx and related online communities⁴⁷. These online spaces, including blog comment sections, social media threads, and dedicated forums (though not explicitly detailed in the provided snippets), facilitate the formation of communities around shared ideological viewpoints.

The online nature of Neoreaction enables the rapid dissemination of its ideas across geographical boundaries, fostering the development of transnational communities of interest. The specific terminology and the use of memes contribute to the creation of a strong in-group identity among adherents, while simultaneously potentially creating a barrier for those unfamiliar with the movement's specific language and cultural references. The prevalence of pseudonyms among key figures within Neoreaction highlights how online anonymity can facilitate the expression of controversial or socially unacceptable views with potentially fewer real-world repercussions for the

individuals involved. The online ecosystem of NRx contributes significantly to its inherently decentralized and continuously evolving character. The memetic nature of certain NRx concepts allows for their organic spread and adaptation within broader online subcultures, sometimes in ways that may extend beyond the direct control or original intent of the core intellectual figures within the movement.

7. Influence and Implications of Neoreactionary Thought

Neoreactionary thought has the potential to exert influence on broader political discourse by offering a fundamental critique of democracy and liberalism that could resonate with individuals who feel disillusioned with the current political and social order⁸. Even if not directly adopted by mainstream political actors, NRx ideas can indirectly shape political debates through their dissemination within the wider ecosystem of right-wing thought⁸. Some observers argue that NRx ideology is already beginning to enter mainstream politics through the association of figures like J.D. Vance with individuals and ideas stemming from this intellectual current⁴¹. The connections between Neoreactionary thinkers and influential figures like Peter Thiel, particularly Thiel's backing of projects aligned with NRx principles, suggest a potential pathway for NRx ideas to gain traction within certain economic and political circles². The significant overlap between NRx and the alt-right movement further indicates its influence on a substantial segment of the far-right⁸. Some even speculate about the potential for NRx to exert influence on future political administrations⁸.

Neoreactionary thought is subject to widespread criticism and controversy, primarily due to its anti-democratic, anti-egalitarian, and frequently racist sentiments¹. Accusations of neo-fascism and white supremacy are commonly leveled against the movement and many of its key figures¹. The association of prominent NRx thinkers with platforms known for promoting racist ideologies, such as VDARE, further amplifies these criticisms²⁶. The potential for Neoreactionary ideas, which fundamentally reject core tenets of modern liberal democracies, to gain traction within mainstream discourse is a source of significant concern for many observers due to their radical and often exclusionary nature. The close association of NRx with controversial figures and online platforms known for extremist views only serves to intensify the criticisms and concerns surrounding this intellectual movement.

8. Conclusion

Neoreaction represents a complex and controversial set of political ideologies that fundamentally critiques modern liberalism, democracy, and egalitarianism. Originating in online discourse, it draws upon historical reactionary thought while engaging with

contemporary issues such as technology and race. Key figures like Curtis Yarvin and Nick Land have been instrumental in shaping its core tenets, which include a rejection of democracy in favor of hierarchical governance models, a fundamental opposition to egalitarianism, and the concept of "the Cathedral" as a dominant ideological force. Accelerationism and neo-cameralism are also significant components of NRx thought.

While Neoreaction remains a relatively niche intellectual movement, its connections to the broader alt-right and the presence of its ideas within certain influential circles, particularly in technology and right-wing politics, suggest a potential for indirect influence on mainstream political discourse. However, the movement is widely criticized for its anti-democratic, anti-egalitarian, and often racist views, leading to significant controversy. Understanding the online ecosystem in which NRx thrives is crucial for comprehending its reach and dissemination. The future impact of Neoreactionary thought remains uncertain, but its radical critique of modern political systems warrants continued attention and analysis.

Table: Key Neoreactionary Thinkers and Their Core Ideas

Name	Affiliation/Pseudonym	Core Neoreactionary Ideas/Themes	Key Publications/Platforms	Explicitly Identifies as NRx?
Curtis Yarvin	Mencius Moldbug	Critique of democracy, advocacy for monarchy, concept of "the Cathedral," neo-cameralism	Unqualified Reservations, Gray Mirror	Yes
Nick Land		Rejection of egalitarianism and democracy, accelerationism, "Dark	The Dark Enlightenment, Outside In, Urban Future	Yes

		Enlightenment"		
Michael Anissimov		Links between NRx and technology, critique of democracy	A Critique of Democracy, More Right	Yes
James LaFond		Race, culture, critique of egalitarianism, urban survival	Harm City series, Autumn in a Dying City	Sympathetic
Tom Holland		Critique of liberalism and Western modernity	Various historical works	Sympathetic
Spandrell		Decline of Western civilization, critiques of modernity	The Dark Enlightenment (blog), Bloody Shovel	Yes
John Derbyshire		Critique of political correctness and multiculturalism, conservative pessimism	We Are Doomed, VDARE, Radio Derb	Sympathetic
Razib Khan		Race, genetics, human biodiversity	Brown Pundits, Razib Khan's Unsupervised Learning	Sympathetic
Greg Johnson		White identity, race, Western civilization, white ethnostate	Counter-Currents	Yes
Richard Spencer		Ethnonationalism, critique of	AltRight.com, National Policy	Sympathetic

		liberal democracy, white identity	Institute	
Peter Thiel		Anti-democratic governance, critique of modernity, techno-authoritarianism	Essays, talks, investments	Sympathetic
Bronze Age Pervert	BAP, Costin Vlad Alamaru (likely)	Critique of modern liberalism, romantic vision of ancient warrior cultures, anti-egalitarianism	Bronze Age Mindset	Sympathetic
Alexander Dugin		Critique of liberalism and democracy, Eurasianism	Foundations of Geopolitics, The Fourth Political Theory	Indirect Influence
Jared Taylor		Racial issues, critique of egalitarianism, white nationalism	American Renaissance	Sympathetic
Keith Preston		Critique of state power and modern liberalism, anarcho-pluralism	Attack the System	Sympathetic
Mikhail Heller		Critique of liberal democracy and modernity	Various philosophical writings	Sympathetic

Alexander McCobin		Individual liberty, anti-statism, libertarianism	Students for Liberty	Near NRx Space
Fred Reed		Critique of multiculturalism and immigration, decline of Western civilization, "Disengagement "	Various articles	Sympathetic
Emil Cioran		Nihilism, pessimism, critique of progress	Various philosophical essays	Indirect Influence
Mark Citadel		Critique of democracy and liberalism, decay of civilizations	Writings, talks at LD50	Yes
Steve Sailer		Race, genetics, intelligence, critique of mass immigration, "human biodiversity"	Taki's Magazine, VDARE	Sympathetic
Vox Day	Theodore Beale	Critique of egalitarianism, support for hierarchy, white nationalism	Various books and blogs	Yes
Altright.com Contributors		Anti-democratic ideas, critiques of liberalism and egalitarianism, white identity	Altright.com	Yes/Sympathetic

Benjamin Noys		Accelerationism, critique of progressive ideologies	Malign Velocities	Scholar of NRx
Hans-Hermann Hoppe		Critique of democracy, advocacy for anarcho-capitalism and "natural elites"	Democracy: The God That Failed	Sympathetic
Ryuji Tsukamoto		Critique of liberalism and progressivism, rise of new hierarchical orders	Various philosophical writings	Sympathetic
David Reich		Research on human population genetics, role of race in history	Various scientific publications	Not NRx Advocate
Roger Scruton		Critique of modernity and liberalism, defense of hierarchy and traditional values	Various philosophical writings	Indirect Influence
David Goldman	Spengler	Critique of liberalism and democracy, themes of cultural decline	Asia Times, First Things	Sympathetic
Charles Murray		Views on intelligence, race, and class, critique of egalitarianism	The Bell Curve, Losing Ground	Sympathetic

Caitlin Johnstone		Critique of mainstream political and social structures, anti-establishment views	Various articles and books	Shares Some Ground
Graham Harman		Critique of modernity, humanism, and Western thought	Object-Oriented Ontology	Intersects Metaphysically
Nassim Nicholas Taleb		Critique of modernity and over-centralized control	The Black Swan, Antifragile	Echoes Some Themes
Gregory Hood		Race, culture, politics, critique of multiculturalism and democracy	American Renaissance, The Occidental Observer	Sympathetic
E. Michael Jones		Critique of modern secularism and liberalism, traditional Catholicism	Various writings	Sympathetic
Michael O'Meara		Critique of modern liberalism and the Enlightenment, advocacy for traditional order	Toward the Far Right	Sympathetic
Owen Jones		Critique of modern political structures, social justice	Various writings	Overlapping Critiques

		issues		
Matthew Raphael Johnson		Critique of liberalism and modern democracy, advocacy for traditional hierarchy	Various writings	Sympathetic
Viktor Orban		Defense of national sovereignty, skepticism toward liberalism, "managed democracy"	Policies and rhetoric	Indirect Influence
Christopher Caldwell		Critique of mass immigration and multiculturalism in Europe	Reflections on the Revolution in Europe	Sympathetic
Richard Lynn		Views on intelligence and race, advocacy for eugenics	Race Differences in Intelligence	Influential in NRx Circles
David Ray Griffin		Critique of modernity, skepticism of mainstream narratives	Various books on 9/11	Shares Some Critiques
David Hume		Skepticism about rational governance, views on human nature	A Treatise of Human Nature, Essays Moral and Political	Historical Influence
Alain de Benoist		Critique of modernity, liberalism, and	Various philosophical	Shares Many Ideas

		egalitarianism, advocacy for ethnopluralism	writings	
Sebastian N. Gorka		Views on immigration and national identity	Various commentary	Shares Some Themes
Andrew Anglin		White nationalism, antisemitism, anti-democracy	Daily Stormer	Sympathetic
Randy "The Right Stuff"		Anti-democratic and anti-egalitarian views	The Right Stuff (TRS)	Yes
Thaddeus Russell		Critique of liberalism and progressivism, revisionist American history	A Renegade History of the United States	Shares Some Critiques
Theodore Dalrymple		Critique of modernity, social decay, erosion of traditional values	Various essays and books	Shares Some Critiques

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