Recall John Perry Barlow

- "Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel, I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. On behalf of the future, I ask you of the past to leave us alone. You are not welcome among us. You have no sovereignty where we gather." … + …

- "We will create a civilization of the Mind in Cyberspace. May it be more humane and fair than the world your governments have made before."

And Dave Clark

- "We reject: kings, presidents, and voting. We believe in: rough consensus and running code."

- And Larry Lessig: "Code is Law" (in Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace)

- See also (1997) https://web.archive.org/web/20020420162518/http://www.telegraph.co.uk/connected/main.jhtml?xml=/connected/1997/04/22/ecdip22.xml

What went wrong?

– Centralisation (rich get richer) +

– Moore's Law + Metcalfe's "Law"

– i.e. growth 100%/18months, and super-linear value proposition

– Hyperscale (scale out) is a natural consequence of these net fx

– Imagine if Musk didn't just own Starlink (and supply via SpaceX)

– but also, say, GPS. Or a nation's power grid?

Apple market cap >> UK GDP

- Lots of other examples

- AI startup valuations >> GDP of small nations

- Yet energy consumption to have MVP also >> small nations

- Few people (even US e.g. FBI v. Apple) can co-erce compliance

Impact on Diplomacy

- Back to Kings (or at least robber barons)

- Maybe teach diplomats to code?

- Or re-decentralise?

Questions?