

# Richard Stallman's Personal Site

If you participate in the commercial ritual of end-of-the-year presents, please avoid the digital products that would mistreat the people you give them to.

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[RSS site feed](#) for the most recent political notes and new material.

This is the personal web site of Richard Stallman.

The views expressed here are my personal views, not those of the [Free Software Foundation](#) or the [GNU Project](#).

If you want to send me GPG-encrypted mail, do not trust key servers! Some of them have phony keys under my name and email address, made by someone else as a trick. See [gpg.html](https://rms.gpg.html) for my real key.

**I am looking for a few more volunteers to help install new political notes on the site. If you'd like to help me in this way, please write to [rms at gnu period org](mailto:rms@gnu.org).**

**Is your bank pressuring you to use biometric ID? If so, please write to [rms at gnu dot org](mailto:rms@gnu.org). It could be useful if you document what is happening.**

[Bernie Sanders for President.](#)

[Vote Green](#) in Australia.

Support the [US Green Party](#).

Support the [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#).

Please [donate to the Free Software Foundation](#) to support its work for your freedom.

"They" is plural — for singular antecedents, use [singular gender-neutral pronouns](#).

[Link Policy](#)

The largest part of the site is the [political notes](#), and they are typically updated every day.

I'm looking for people to...

- get info about Delta face rcognition.

Delta Airlines' [web site says clearly that using face recognition to for departures is optional](#).

However, there are reports that in the airport they cover this up.

Would someone flying on Delta out of Atlanta please record the announcements about face recognition for checkin and boarding? And what the checkin agent says to you about rejecting the face recognition. Also please take photos of any signs that talk about the matter. Then please send me email about what you saw/heard.

- write a firefox extension that will properly display the images in a Guardian page such as [this](#) in IceCat with LibreJS enabled.
- find articles about games that lure and pressure users into spending a lot of money on competitive advantages, or letting their children do so. I've concluded this is a form of malicious functionality, and I want to make a list to add to <https://gnu.org/malware/>. If you know of an article, please email me the URL.
- send me examples of how proprietary programs have been designed to be addictive.
- send me examples of how proprietary programs have been designed to cause programmed obsolescence of products.
- browse various sites and show me items that I ought to see and link to. If you would like to help me in this way, please write to rms at gnu dot o r g.
- (in India) make and sell buttons that say, "DON'T BE TRACKED PAY CASH", in English and/or a local language, to resist the campaign against cash. Talk with a local company that makes buttons, buy a batch of 50 to 500 buttons for a quantity price, then sell them for 2 or 3 times that price.
- volunteer to post videos of my talks on [audio-video.gnu.org](http://audio-video.gnu.org).
- help [maintain and operate](#) [savannah.gnu.org](http://savannah.gnu.org).
- help web sites put free licenses on their Javascript code.
- write site-specific Firefox extensions or local scripts to operate specific web sites.
- experiment to find good ways to attach fruits to a [Grav-mass tree](#).

Please email rms at the gnu site if you want to volunteer for any of those activities. For the Grav-mass decorations, please email only if you come up with a good way.

#### [Civil Liberties Minute:](#)



graphic by Susan Henson  
Americans, you may wish to copy this icon to your own page, as a way of showing what patriotism means to you.

#### Urgent action items

- 

### Most recent [Political Notes and News Items](#)

([RSS Feed](#))

#### [Introduced carnivorous plants](#)

22 September 2019

Introduced carnivorous plants, in places they were not naturally found, [can smother other growth like kudzu](#).

They can't eat other plants, but can drive them into extinction.

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The four factors of the apocalypse:  
global heating, global hating,  
global eating, global mating.

---

US citizens: call on the Department of Labor [not to allow government contractors to discriminate against LGBTQ people in the name of religion.](#)

•

US citizens: call on Congress to [pass stricter gun control.](#)

If you sign, please spread the word!

•

Everyone: call on big US banks to [stop financing fossil fuels.](#)

Warning to investors: [investing in fossil fuels could leave you broke.](#)

If you sign, please spread the word!

•

US citizens: [call on Big Pharma](#) to make insulin affordable, as it used to be.

If you sign, please spread the word!

•

US citizens: call on the Department of Agriculture [not to allow logging in the Tongass National Forest.](#)

If you sign, please spread the word!

•

Everyone: call on the Suwannee River Water Management District [not to let Nestle overdrain the Santa Fe river.](#)

If you live in a place where the public water supply is potable, you can also help by avoiding bottled water. When I travel I carry a refillable water bottle, and I rarely use bottled water except where it is medically necessary.

## **Wind farm blocked**

22 September 2019

Australia's former destroy-the-environment minister [blocked a wind farm even though the inhabitants of the region were in favor of it.](#)

The wind farm would have replaced burning diesel fuel.

## **Restraining corporations**

22 September 2019

How useful is it to require companies to [give workers some shares and some seats on the board of directors?](#)

This won't directly give most poor people a decent life. It won't do anything for the unemployed, the retired, the students, or those who cannot work. It won't do anything for the millions who are compelled to be "independent contractors".

But it could be one part of restraining corporations from predatory behavior and from lobbying for more suffering and inequality.

## **Repression of homeless people**

22 September 2019

[The bully](#) is [campaigning for increased repression of homeless people.](#)

Plutocratist policies make Americans homeless; now plutocratist politicians aim to make use of their troubles by scapegoating them.

## **Explaining global heating to politicians**

22 September 2019

[\[More Cartoons\]](#)



Copy [this button](#) (courtesy of R.Siddharth) to express your rejection of Facebook.

## **Support the Green Party**

## **Republican Election Rigging Tactics**

## **Evoting**

## **The Olympics**

## **Why everyone has a reason to fear massive surveillance**

## **Churchandstate.org.uk**

## **E-books**

[Non-oppressive Commercial E-books](#)

## **Don't use Facebook**

If you sign, please spread the word!

•

US citizens: call on Germany to [make the European Investment Bank get out of fossil fuels](#).

If you sign, please spread the word!

•

US citizens: call on Congress to [stop HHS from spending medical funds on Obria](#) and other anti-birth control, anti-abortion fake clinics.

If you sign, please spread the word!

•

Call on Congress to cut funding for ICE and CBP and [put a stop to the agencies' backdoor money grabs](#).

If you sign, please spread the word!

•

US citizens: call on Congress to [hold companies accountable](#) for selling PFAS chemicals and concealing the danger of them.

If you sign, please spread the word!

## Recording of Guantanamoero

Listen to the [recording](#) of [Guantanamoero](#), a protest song written in Spanish. The recording is in Ogg Vorbis format. To install an Ogg Vorbis player, see [the FSF's Ogg Players page](#).

## There Ought to Be a Law

- The staff of a Chicago medical organization are suing because it [identified](#)

"Perhaps we need to explain [\[global heating\]](#) to politicians [as we would to very small children](#)."

### [Brazil's deforested land](#)

22 September 2019

Brazilian Meat Company Which Has Supplied McDonald's And Burger King [Bought Cattle from Farm Using Deforested Land](#) Earlier This Year, Investigation Shows.

### [Bogong moth](#)

22 September 2019

A previously safe species of moth in Australia has [almost entirely disappeared in two years](#). The consequence could be the extinction of a species of mammal.

### [The brain injuries of diplomats in Cuba](#)

21 September 2019

Doctors [suspect that pesticides were responsible](#) for the brain injuries of diplomats in Cuba.

### [Persecution of journalist](#)

21 September 2019

Malta's persecution of murdered journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia [continues after her death](#).

### [Number of planes in sky](#)

21 September 2019

See the [current pol-notes page](#) for more.

(You may need to scroll down for more text if there is blank space in this column.)

Facebook's [face recognition demonstrates a threat](#) to everyone's privacy. I therefore ask people not to put photos of me on Facebook; you can do likewise.

Of course, [Facebook is bad for many other reasons as well](#).

## [Boycott Harry Potter Books, Movies, etc.](#)

## [Internet Music EULAS](#)

## [Business Supremacy Treaties](#)

## [Countries to Stay Away From](#)

## No national identity cards

I'd like to make a list of countries that do not require a national identity card, and have no plans to adopt one. If you live in or have confirmed knowledge of such a country, please send email to rms at gnu.org.

Here's my list of countries with no national ID cards and no plans for one: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK. Australia's previous government tried to institute national ID cards, but the Labor government dropped the plan.

India has mostly finished imposing a national biometric ID number in a grand act of oppression.

Switzerland has national ID cards which are optional, but they or

[them with fingerprints for each shift.](#)

I think it is bad that the employer has their fingerprints at all. Is it possible to authenticate people with a biometric that is normally hidden?

- 10% of the workers in Britain have been captured by the [piecework sweatshop dis-services](#).

We must extend all the rights and benefits of employees to cover these forms of work.

- Thousands of Americans — perhaps hundreds of thousands — have been killed because judges sealed evidence of deadly defects in products and kept the defects secret for years as more people died. The dangerous flaws of OxyContin, which spread opioid addiction, were [concealed for 12 years](#).

Trade secrecy is *always* bad for the public. Occasionally it is deadly, but usually merely harmful. We should change the law so that no significant problem can be concealed in this way.

Businesses should not be allowed to enforce an NDA to conceal mistreatment of workers, customers, or the public.

Agreeing to nondisclosure of generally useful technical information, such as software, is betrayal of society as a whole. I refuse on principle to do this.

- A woman in Alabama has been [charged with](#)

some other government ID card are needed for some purposes.

Iceland doesn't have ID cards as such, but they have ID numbers that citizens are forced to use frequently. For example, the national ID number is often required to rent a video or use a gym.

Denmark issues non-photo ID cards with a "person number", and many services use this card to identify people.

Norway will impose a national [biometric ID card](#).

[Ireland](#) - national ID card by stealth.

ACLU: the [five dangers of national ID cards](#).

Wikipedia has a list of [identity card policies by country](#).

## Borders

Stay away from certain countries because of their [bad immigration policies](#).

## Flight connections

Avoid flight connections in these airports because of their [treatment of passengers](#).

## The Lifelong Activist

People often ask how I manage to continue devoting myself to progressive activism (such as the free software movement) for years without burning out. The best way I can answer is by recommending a book, [The Lifelong Activist](#) by Hillary Rettig.

I disagree with the book on one theoretical point in the last part of

[manslaughter](#) for getting shot while pregnant. The state treats the fetus as a person.

### [More information.](#)

This is the natural conclusion of the twisted premises of those who treat fetuses as sacred.

But the problem may be broader than that. Suppose she had been shot while carrying a three-year-old child in her arms? Suppose someone else had shot at her and killed the child.

I don't think people should be prosecuted for the effects of being shot at.

- Facebook [treats the video moderators like shit](#). And that's in addition to the depression they feel from watching the videos.

The article gives no evidence that Utley's death was caused by his job, but the way the managers treated it is despicable even if they did not cause it.

Naturally, these workers are subcontracted, so that Facebook can deny responsibility for how they are treated. But Facebook is in fact responsible: it demands contractors offer a low price, which they achieve by treating the workers like shit. We need laws to hold companies like Facebook responsible for the treatment of indirect workers, and give them employee rights such as sick leave.

It should be a felony for employees of a company to

the book: we shouldn't think of political activism as *being* marketing and sales, because those terms refer to business, and politics is something much more important than mere business. However, this doesn't diminish the value of the book's practical advice about borrowing techniques from marketing and sales.

Disclosure: I am friends with the author.

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## Bob Chassell

[Writing](#) (mostly science fiction) by my friend Bob Chassell who recently died.

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## Solidarity Economy and Free Software

[Personal Declaration of Richard Stallman and Euclides Mance on Solidarity Economy and Free Software.](#)

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## Falkvinge articles

[I have reposted some of Rick Falkvinge's articles.](#) As posted on his site, you can't see them in a browser without running some nonfree Javascript code which is apparently non-free. These versions show the same text, without the obstacle.

ask a worker to sign a  
nondisclosure agreement  
covering any aspect of the  
working conditions,  
benefits, or pay.

[More items where there ought to  
be a law.](#)

## Quotes

Here are some [quotations](#) that I  
particularly like.

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## [Long-term action items](#)

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## Political Articles

These are my political articles that are not related to the GNU operating system or free software. For GNU-related articles, see the [GNU philosophy directory](#). You can also order copies of my book, '[Free Software, Free Society, 3rd edition](#)', signed or not signed.

- [Surveillance Ordinance](#) (November 2018)
- [How the Ramayana endorses caste bias](#) (April 2018)
- [Better Genderless Pronouns in English](#) (April 2018)
- A [radical proposal](#) to keep your personal data safe. (April 2018)
- [What Mary Had](#) (May 2017)
- [Anonymous internet payments using pay phones](#) (Apr 2017)
- When people are [conscripted by the DMCA into the War on Sharing](#). (Dec 2016)
- If you feel your organization needs a ["presence" in Facebook](#). (Dec 2016)
- [How Much Surveillance](#) Can Democracy Withstand?
- Yes, [You Have Something to Fear](#). (August 2016)
- A [proposal for resolving the dispute](#) over the South China Sea. (July 2016)
- Is [duckduckgo.com partially enforcing](#) the "celebrity threesome injunction"? (May 2016)
- Adapting the Marseillaise to the [greatest threat to civilization](#).
- [Proposing the Logo Sea Turtle — for Whales](#) (October 2015)
- [Controlling When the Cameras Record](#) (August 2015)
- A few [words to Greece](#) (June 2015)
- Fixing [Too Big To Fail](#) (Apr 2015)
- [Enslaved Workers](#)
- [What I said about Hrant Dink](#) in my talks in Turkey (Apr 2015)
- Earth [under attack from planet Koch](#).
- [Fine government contractors for hiring ex-officials](#) (Feb 2015)
- [Suggestion to the target of a witch hunt](#) (Feb 2015)



- [Nonexistence](#) (Feb 2015)
- [The Thermocene Epoch](#) (Feb 2015)
- [Digital Voting.](#) (Jan 2015)
- My letter asking the judge not to sentence [Jeremy Hammond to prison](#). (Jan 2015)
- [Internet Voting](#) (May 2014)
- The patent system is, at best, [not worth keeping](#). (February 2014)
- [Why We Need A State](#) (November 2013)
- We can put an end to "too big to fail" with an [innovative tax](#) that also defeats corporate tax-dodging. (August 2013)
- [Exxon and the Letter Exx.](#) (April 1, 2013)
- [Fixing too big to fail](#) (February 2013)
- [Why internet music "sale" is a bad deal.](#) (January 2013)
- [On-line education](#) is using a flawed Creative Commons license (September 2012) [French Translation](#)
- [Redistributable Scientific Publishing](#) (April 2012)
- [My Doctor's Office Asked me to Lie](#) (August 2011)
- [Responding to Beggars](#)
- [UK extreme pornography law.](#)
- My criticism of the [The Zeitgeist Movement](#). The Venus Project is more or less the same idea.
- [The states need to form a union.](#)
- [Additional Political Articles](#) are on a separate page

## Political notes

*"Those who profess to favor freedom, yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."*

[Frederick Douglass](#), American Abolitionist, [Letter to an associate, 1849](#)

Here are notes about various issues I care about, usually with links to more information. The current notes are [here](#). For all previous notes, see [this page](#).

See [this page](#) for information on efforts to maintain links in the political notes.

Political notes about the 2001 G8 summit in Genoa, Italy are being archived on [their own page](#).

## Media/Press/Bios

Richard Stallman's bio and publicity photos, and other things of interest to the press, have been moved to a [separate page](#).

## Travel experiences

- [How it happened](#) that I planned speeches at Israeli universities, then cancelled them.
- [Richard Stallman's travel blog](#)
- My [visit to Machu Picchu](#)



- Stories about visits to [Tikal](#) and [Greece](#)

## Photos about my travels

- Photos of me [working on my laptop](#) at various places
- [All of my photos](#), organized by location, from my trips.
- [Photos people like best](#), among those I have taken and posted here.
- [OSCON](#)
- [More Photos from OSCON](#)
- my [visit to Switzerland](#) in May 2003 (and the same [photos at the original photographer's site](#).)
- Some pictures from [Vaasa](#) where I slipped on icy ground in the airport, broke my elbow, and gave my speech by telephone from the hospital bed
- my [trips to Greece](#)
- In Singapore in March 2001, a [lovely parrot](#) (50k jpeg) became enamored of me, while others [enjoyed my recorder playing](#) (91k jpeg)
- my [visit to China](#) in May/June 2000. I also visited Tibet unawares, because nobody told me that JiuZhaiGou was part of Tibetan territory annexed by China since the conquest
- my visit to Brazil: some from [Rio de Janeiro](#) and some from [Porto Alegre](#) where the Software Livre 2000 event was held.
- [my trip to Slovenia](#)
- A [photo of me](#) by Blake Livingston (may be used under CC-BY-SA).

## Scientific Links

- [Homeopathy debunked](#), and thoroughly, as pseudoscience.
- 

## Some humor

Earth [under attack from planet Koch](#).

[On doxing](#), and how to spell it.

[Futon Physics](#)

[A Spanish cartoon: La Ruleta Española.](#)



[The Night before M-x-mas](#)

Here I am [wearing my "power tie"](#).

Here I am [struggling to open a bottle of water](#).

My application to an join Marian Henley's [Ex Boyfriends List](#)

My [funny poetry and song parodies](#)

New song (06/2016) - [Si la face ay pale](#).

[My Cartoons](#)

[My Puns in English](#) ([Little Leaguer](#), August 2019).

[My Puns in Spanish](#) (New pun: [Apostasía](#) April 2019)

[My Puns in French](#) (New pun: [Microsoft à l'école](#) July 2019)

[My Puns in Portuguese](#)

[My Puns in Italian](#) (New pun: [Quale pesce fa starnutire?](#) New 10/2018)

[My Puns in German](#) (New 02/2016)

[Linguistic Swifties](#) (Now with: Wintu, Penutian, Cochiti, Taos, and Towa.)

[What Republicans Believe.](#)



--[Saint IGNUcius](#)-- The Church of

Emacs will [soon be officially listed](#) by at least one person as his religion for census purposes.

There are no godfathers in the Church of Emacs, since there are no gods, but you can be someone's [editorfather](#).

[Stallman Does Dallas](#): "I have to warn you that Texans have been known to have an adverse reaction to my personality . . . "

[The Dalai Lama today announced the official release of Yellow Hat GNU/Linux.](#)

[Pre-Zen Studies.](#)

I found [A funny song about the Mickey Mouse Copyright Act](#) (officially the Sonny Bono Copyright Act) which extended copyright retroactively by 20 years on works made as early as the 1920s.

If you are a geek and read Spanish, you will love Raulito el Friki, who said "Hello, world!" immediately after he was born. Here's [an archive of this now-defunct comic strip](#).

[Sleeping with Stallman](#) at MIT.

[Un malentendido gracioso.](#)

ESR's favorite programming language: [Objectivist C](#).

[American Extremists](#)

[My Small Mouth](#)

[The huns and the writs](#). I don't know who wrote this, but I hope he does not object to sharing it here.

[No Kludges in Cluj](#) (June 2014)

## Fiction

[A science fiction story: Jinnetic Engineering](#) ([in Portuguese](#), [Farsi](#), [Spanish](#), [Armenian](#), [Russian](#), [French](#), and [Italian](#)).

[The Right to Read](#)

[Made for You](#) (December 2012) ([local copy](#)) [Esperanto translation](#)

## Books

My book of essays about the philosophy of Software Freedom, is available from the [GNU Press](#).

## Non-Political Articles

[Avec des chapeaux](#) French song parody.

My [radio program of Music from Georgia](#), originally broadcast on WUOG in Athens, Georgia on Oct 13, 2014.

[Resolving the trolley problem](#)

[Quantum Theory and Abortion Rights](#)

A [proposal for gender neutrality in Spanish](#), suitable for both speech and writing.

[Origin of the POSIX name.](#)

[On Hacking](#): In June 2000, while visiting Korea, I did a fun hack that clearly illustrates the original and true meaning of the word "hacker".

[My Childhood Sweetheart](#)

[Love and Dance](#)

Predicting the attack on [Pearl Harbor](#)

## Links

## Thanks

I would like to thank:

- Positive Internet for sponsoring this web site.

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Please send comments on these web pages to **rms at gnu period org**.

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