

Children of the Feed. Servants of the AI God

A synthesis paper derived from the AI Empire research series

0.1. Abstract

This paper synthesizes the eleven-paper AI Empire series into one argument: the feed prepared the subject, the model enclosed the subject's output, and the frontier firm sought to govern the resulting intelligence infrastructure. The result is a cumulative case for three reforms: refactor Section 230, treat frontier AI weights as a patrimony problem, and limit government capture by AI companies.

0.2. Keywords

surveillance capitalism; AI imperialism; Section 230 reform; AI weights; patrimony of humanity; government capture; platform power; research synthesis

0.3. Research Question

What does the validated AI Empire paper series establish, taken as a whole, about the path from feed-based extraction to frontier AI enclosure and state-corporate alignment?

0.4. Scope and Framing Note

This paper is the series-level synthesis document derived from the validated standalone papers in the AI Empire publication set. It is written to circulate independently, but it deliberately cites the chapter papers as its evidence spine so that readers can move from the final synthesis back into the deeper specialized arguments.

0.5. Central Thesis

Children of the Feed. Servants of the AI God argues that contemporary AI power is not simply a technical breakthrough. It is the latest political form of a longer process in which platforms captured social life, converted that capture into model capability, and then sought to stabilize the resulting power through institutional access and legitimacy.

0.6. Evidence and Method Note

This synthesis is built from the completed chapter papers in the AI Empire series. It treats those papers as validated internal sources, preserves their factual and interpretive boundaries, and advances

only claims that can be grounded in the documented publication set.

0.7. Introduction

This paper synthesizes the full AI Empire research series into one researcher-facing argument. Its claim is that surveillance platforms first trained populations into life through interfaces, then converted that social dependence into data, then converted that data and labor into frontier-model capacity, and finally wrapped that capacity in state access, legitimacy, and reform-resistant power.¹

0.8. Historical or Institutional Context

The argument begins before generative AI. The series shows that social media normalized free behavioral capture, youth dependence, algorithmic mediation, and platform indispensability long before frontier labs claimed to be building neutral intelligence infrastructure. COVID then accelerated dependency rather than originating it.²

0.9. Main Analysis

0.9.1. I. Children of the Feed

The fight over artificial intelligence is not only a fight over products, model benchmarks, or corporate market share. Before AI could be marketed as a new intelligence order, social platforms had already built the behavioral raw material of that order. The platform system did not only capture behavior. COVID should be treated as a historical accelerator, not as a proven master plot.³

Taken together, these papers support the dossier’s first civilizational claim: populations were not merely entertained by the feed. They were habituated into an environment where attention, desire, social trust, and everyday coordination could be continuously captured, ranked, and redirected.⁴

¹Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 00: Opening Framework (see Appendix A1); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 01: Social Networks as Infrastructure for Free Data Capture (see Appendix A2); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 02: Social Erosion and Moral Reconfiguration (see Appendix A3); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 03: COVID as a Historical Accelerator (see Appendix A4); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 04: AI Arrives When the Human Raw Material Already Exists (see Appendix A5); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 05: Talent, Overhiring, Valuation, and Layoffs (see Appendix A6); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 06: AI as a Dual-Use Rhetorical Weapon (see Appendix A7); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 07: Imperial Control Over Access (see Appendix A8); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 08: Power Network, Legitimacy, and Institutional Capture (see Appendix A9); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 09: Future if No Action Is Taken (see Appendix A10); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 10: What To Do (see Appendix A11)

²Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 00: Opening Framework (see Appendix A1); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 01: Social Networks as Infrastructure for Free Data Capture (see Appendix A2); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 02: Social Erosion and Moral Reconfiguration (see Appendix A3); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 03: COVID as a Historical Accelerator (see Appendix A4)

³Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 00: Opening Framework (see Appendix A1); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 01: Social Networks as Infrastructure for Free Data Capture (see Appendix A2); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 02: Social Erosion and Moral Reconfiguration (see Appendix A3); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 03: COVID as a Historical Accelerator (see Appendix A4)

⁴Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 00: Opening Framework (see Appendix A1); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 01: Social Networks as Infrastructure for Free Data Capture (see Appendix A2); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 02: Social Erosion and Moral Reconfiguration (see Appendix A3); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 03: COVID as a Historical Accelerator (see Appendix A4)

0.9.2. II. Servants of the Model

Foundation models do not emerge from nowhere. The cleanest version of the layoffs story is not that AI suddenly made technical labor obsolete. One of the clearest contradictions in the current AI regime is that systems are marketed simultaneously as dangerous enough to justify elite governance and safe enough to be rolled out as broad dependence infrastructure.⁵

The middle layer of the series shows how captured expression becomes frontier capability. The legal ambiguity around training, the economic correction hidden beneath AI rhetoric, and the dual-use marketing of cheap yet dangerous intelligence all serve one enclosure logic: socially produced value is reissued as private model power.⁶

0.9.3. III. Toward the AI God

The AI system is not simply a market of competing products. Frontier firms do not consolidate power by product alone. The most credible continuity scenario is not science-fiction apocalypse. The response program is no longer an open-ended menu.⁷

The final layer of the series traces how that power is hardened. Compute chokepoints, national-security offerings, lobbying, governance restructuring, moral legitimation, and future-of-civilization rhetoric all elevate frontier firms beyond vendors. They begin to look like would-be custodians of intelligence infrastructure itself.⁸

0.9.4. IV. The Reform Synthesis

The series therefore converges on three reforms rather than a loose ethics wishlist: refactor Section 230 for sovereign-scale platform power; treat frontier AI weights as a patrimony problem rather than ordinary private property; and impose anti-capture obligations on AI firms that operate through public support, national-security channels, or strategic policy access.⁹

⁵Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 04: AI Arrives When the Human Raw Material Already Exists (see Appendix A5); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 05: Talent, Overhiring, Valuation, and Layoffs (see Appendix A6); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 06: AI as a Dual-Use Rhetorical Weapon (see Appendix A7)

⁶Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 04: AI Arrives When the Human Raw Material Already Exists (see Appendix A5); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 05: Talent, Overhiring, Valuation, and Layoffs (see Appendix A6); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 06: AI as a Dual-Use Rhetorical Weapon (see Appendix A7)

⁷Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 07: Imperial Control Over Access (see Appendix A8); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 08: Power Network, Legitimacy, and Institutional Capture (see Appendix A9); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 09: Future if No Action Is Taken (see Appendix A10); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 10: What To Do (see Appendix A11)

⁸Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 07: Imperial Control Over Access (see Appendix A8); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 08: Power Network, Legitimacy, and Institutional Capture (see Appendix A9); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 09: Future if No Action Is Taken (see Appendix A10); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 10: What To Do (see Appendix A11)

⁹Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 01: Social Networks as Infrastructure for Free Data Capture (see Appendix A2); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 02: Social Erosion and Moral Reconfiguration (see Appendix A3); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 04: AI Arrives When the Human Raw Material Already Exists (see Appendix A5); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 07: Imperial Control Over Access (see Appendix A8); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 08: Power Network, Legitimacy, and Institutional Capture (see Appendix A9); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 10: What To Do (see Appendix A11)

0.10. Position Within the Series

This paper closes the research program’s first major publication cycle. Where the individual chapter papers defend narrower domains, this synthesis paper states the integrated argument they were building toward.

0.11. Counterarguments

The strongest counterargument is that this paper risks overstating systemic coherence. The series does not prove a single omniscient conspiracy. It proves a sequence of documented structures that reinforce one another: platform extraction, social weakening, contested training, financial enclosure, access control, and institutional capture. Where the evidence is interpretive, the underlying papers say so directly. ¹⁰

0.12. Limits of the Evidence

This synthesis inherits the limits of the underlying papers. It does not claim that every frontier lab has fully disclosed its training stack, that the origin of COVID-19 is settled, or that current law already recognizes AI weights as public patrimony. It advances a bounded political reading built from the series’ documented record. ¹¹

0.13. Reform Relevance

As a final publication object, this paper exists to make the end state unmistakable. If the feed trains social dependence, if the model encloses collectively produced cognition, and if the frontier firm seeks privileged state alignment, then piecemeal reform is structurally inadequate. The response has to move at the level of infrastructure, property, and public power. ¹²

0.14. Conclusion

Children of the Feed. Servants of the AI God argues that contemporary AI power was not born in a vacuum. It was prepared socially by the feed, economically by enclosure, and politically by institutional capture. The project of resistance therefore cannot stop at critique. It has to reorganize platform liability, frontier-model ownership, and the terms on which governments may empower AI firms. ¹³

¹⁰Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 00: Opening Framework (see Appendix A1); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 03: COVID as a Historical Accelerator (see Appendix A4); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 04: AI Arrives When the Human Raw Material Already Exists (see Appendix A5); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 08: Power Network, Legitimacy, and Institutional Capture (see Appendix A9)

¹¹Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 03: COVID as a Historical Accelerator (see Appendix A4); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 04: AI Arrives When the Human Raw Material Already Exists (see Appendix A5); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 10: What To Do (see Appendix A11)

¹²Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 01: Social Networks as Infrastructure for Free Data Capture (see Appendix A2); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 04: AI Arrives When the Human Raw Material Already Exists (see Appendix A5); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 07: Imperial Control Over Access (see Appendix A8); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 08: Power Network, Legitimacy, and Institutional Capture (see Appendix A9); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 10: What To Do (see Appendix A11)

¹³Series sources: AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 00: Opening Framework (see Appendix A1); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 09: Future if No Action Is Taken (see Appendix A10); AI Empire Research Program, Chapter 10: What To Do (see Appendix A11)

0.15. Notes

This synthesis cites the validated chapter papers as its internal evidence base. Readers who want fuller external-source inspection should move from the cited series papers into the omnibus and companion volumes.

0.16. References / Bibliography

1. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 00: Opening Framework. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A1. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.
2. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 01: Social Networks as Infrastructure for Free Data Capture. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A2. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.
3. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 02: Social Erosion and Moral Reconfiguration. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A3. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.
4. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 03: COVID as a Historical Accelerator. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A4. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.
5. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 04: AI Arrives When the Human Raw Material Already Exists. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A5. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.
6. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 05: Talent, Overhiring, Valuation, and Layoffs. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A6. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.
7. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 06: AI as a Dual-Use Rhetorical Weapon. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A7. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.
8. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 07: Imperial Control Over Access. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A8. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.
9. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 08: Power Network, Legitimacy, and Institutional Capture. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A9. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.
10. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 09: Future if No Action Is Taken. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A10. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.
11. AI Empire Research Program. Chapter 10: What To Do. Series paper. Paper appendix: Appendix A11. Relevance: Supports the synthesis layer of this master paper.

0.17. Appendix A. Source Register for This Paper

0.17.1. Appendix A1. Chapter 00: Opening Framework

Series role: Chapter 00 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 00: Opening Framework **Why it matters in this paper:** The dossier therefore does not end in a vague call for better ethics. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.17.2. Appendix A2. Chapter 01: Social Networks as Infrastructure for Free Data Capture

Series role: Chapter 01 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 01: Social Networks as Infrastructure for Free Data Capture **Why it matters in this paper:** Once social life is reorganized around measurable engagement, extractive targeting, and recommendation systems, platforms stop looking like passive infrastructure and start looking like privately governed civic systems. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.17.3. Appendix A3. Chapter 02: Social Erosion and Moral Reconfiguration

Series role: Chapter 02 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 02: Social Erosion and Moral Reconfiguration **Why it matters in this paper:** If attention is trained by systems optimized for engagement rather than flourishing, then the outcome is not only distraction. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.17.4. Appendix A4. Chapter 03: COVID as a Historical Accelerator

Series role: Chapter 03 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 03: COVID as a Historical Accelerator **Why it matters in this paper:** COVID widened the field in which screens became necessary, platforms became indispensable, and digitally mediated life became normalized. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.17.5. Appendix A5. Chapter 04: AI Arrives When the Human Raw Material Already Exists

Series role: Chapter 04 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 04: AI Arrives When the Human Raw Material Already Exists **Why it matters in this paper:** Once captured human production can be recombined into proprietary weights, the surveillance economy acquires a new layer. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.17.6. Appendix A6. Chapter 05: Talent, Overhiring, Valuation, and Layoffs

Series role: Chapter 05 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 05: Talent, Overhiring, Valuation, and Layoffs **Why it matters in this paper:** If this reading holds, then the AI boom is also a class story. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.17.7. Appendix A7. Chapter 06: AI as a Dual-Use Rhetorical Weapon

Series role: Chapter 06 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 06: AI as a Dual-Use Rhetorical Weapon **Why it matters in this paper:** This is how AI becomes a dual-use rhetorical weapon. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.17.8. Appendix A8. Chapter 07: Imperial Control Over Access

Series role: Chapter 07 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 07: Imperial Control Over Access **Why it matters in this paper:** If frontier AI is governed through

chokepoints, then intelligence itself becomes a stratified geopolitical infrastructure. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.17.9. Appendix A9. Chapter 08: Power Network, Legitimacy, and Institutional Capture

Series role: Chapter 08 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 08: Power Network, Legitimacy, and Institutional Capture **Why it matters in this paper:** Once legitimacy is institutionally assembled, frontier AI stops looking like just another industry and begins to look like a state-adjacent governing infrastructure. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.17.10. Appendix A10. Chapter 09: Future if No Action Is Taken

Series role: Chapter 09 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 09: Future if No Action Is Taken **Why it matters in this paper:** If no action is taken, platform immunity, private control over weights, and opaque state-company entanglement stop looking like separate policy issues and start looking like one reinforced system. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.17.11. Appendix A11. Chapter 10: What To Do

Series role: Chapter 10 in the AI Empire publication set. **Series paper link:** Chapter 10: What To Do **Why it matters in this paper:** The essential political choice is whether intelligence infrastructure will remain a privately concentrated empire built on captured social life, or whether societies will recover sovereignty over the terms on which cognition itself is organized. **Source layer:** Internal series paper

0.18. Appendix B. Claims Used in This Paper

0.18.1. Appendix B1. The feed prepared the social conditions later exploited by frontier AI

Claim statement: The AI Empire series supports the argument that large platforms first normalized social dependence, then translated that dependence into data capture and downstream model power. **Evidence status:** Hypothesis / Interpretation **Source support:** Appendix A2, Appendix A3, Appendix A4

0.18.2. Appendix B2. Frontier AI power is best understood as a problem of enclosure plus strategic access

Claim statement: The strongest cumulative reading of the series is that frontier-model capability is socially derived, financially enclosed, and then hardened through privileged state and institutional access. **Evidence status:** Hypothesis / Interpretation **Source support:** Appendix A5, Appendix A6, Appendix A8, Appendix A9

0.18.3. Appendix B3. The series converges on a three-reform doctrine rather than open-ended ethics

Claim statement: The full publication set consistently supports a final program centered on Section 230 reform, patrimony-oriented governance of AI weights, and limits on government capture by AI firms. **Evidence status:** Documented Fact **Source support:** Appendix A1, Appendix A11

0.19. Appendix C. Timeline Slice

0.19.1. Appendix C1. 2024-12-17: Congressional uptake of the weights argument

Event summary: The series documents that the House AI Task Force report recorded the copyright / weights / compensation conflict in a bipartisan policy record. **Source support:** Appendix A1, Appendix A5

0.19.2. Appendix C2. 2025-06: Government-specific frontier AI offerings become explicit

Event summary: The series documents June 2025 as a key moment in which frontier AI firms publicly formalized government-only product lines and security-facing coordination. **Source support:** Appendix A8, Appendix A11

0.19.3. Appendix C3. 2026-05-15: Moral legitimacy extends into the Vatican field

Event summary: The series documents the expansion of AI legitimacy discourse into formal religious authority. **Source support:** Appendix A9

0.20. Appendix D. Relevant Entities

0.20.1. Appendix D1. Meta

Entity type: company **Role in this paper:** Archetype of the feed-era extraction platform and reputational redirection cycle. **Relevant series papers:** Appendix A2, Appendix A3, Appendix A4

0.20.2. Appendix D2. OpenAI

Entity type: company **Role in this paper:** Core example of model enclosure, governance turbulence, and government-facing strategic repositioning. **Relevant series papers:** Appendix A7, Appendix A8, Appendix A9

0.20.3. Appendix D3. Anthropic

Entity type: company **Role in this paper:** Core example of frontier legitimacy, safety rhetoric, and government-facing model access. **Relevant series papers:** Appendix A7, Appendix A8, Appendix A9

0.21. Appendix E. Evidence Boundaries

0.21.1. Appendix E1. Disputed Matters

- The series does not treat the origin of COVID-19 as settled. See the Chapter 03 paper for the bounded formulation.

0.21.2. Appendix E2. Interpretive Boundaries

- This master paper argues for a structural reading of extraction, enclosure, and capture. It does not claim a single omniscient conspiracy behind every event in the record.

0.21.3. Appendix E3. Speculative Narrative Risks

- The series explicitly rejects the overclaim that current law already settles frontier AI weights as patrimony, public trust property, or common heritage.

0.21.4. Appendix E4. Sensitive or Review-Worthy Note Flags

- Named-individual disputes remain bounded by the underlying Chapter 08 evidence rules and should not be read as guilt by association.