

## Timeline



*The moment when it was destroyed is burned into history.*

*We can't rewind like a video.*

*Misleading future not required.*

*Only the weak among you will be sacrificed.*

*A false history is not necessary.*

*No matter what, isn't even a harsh future better than a history made by somebody else?*

*-Fact, A Fact of Life*

*If you want to depress yourself, look at the future, and if you want to cheer yourself up, look at the past.*

*-- Eliezer Yudkowsky*

(Note that the original "Death of the Dragons" campaign was written in 1999, so history diverges at this point. In this timeline there was no 911, the political struggle turns to economic governance instead of terrorism and the radicals of the Middle East turn inwards until the 2020's)

2000 The Internet economy takes shape, including digital untraceable currencies.

2006-9 The "**Internet rebellion**". The EU and US fail to bring digital currencies and investments under control. Popular use of digimoney undermines the tax base, forcing restructuring and social upheaval.

2010 Discovery that the world is entering into an ice age, previously masked by greenhouse gas emissions.

2012 Tong Jikun, the first (officially) genetically modified human is born in Singapore. Germline engineering, early life extension treatments and other enhancing biotechnology begins to become consumer products.

2013 The **Chinese Collapse**. Beijing tries to control the economy, triggering massive capital outflow and unrest. After a year of increasing rioting Sichuan declares itself independent in January 5 2014, triggering the Chinese Civil war.

2014 The "Autumn Raid" net attacks cause economic and trust problems worldwide, together with the Chinese civil war causing a recession.



2018 **Neurocomputers** begin to broaden the concept of computers. Moores law begins to falter as processing is increasingly done in parallel or using low-energy wireless devices.

2018 Religious revivals in the US produce the **Brothers of the Land** conservative, anti-globalist movement.

2019 Sweden closes its economy to the outside world. Other isolationist states follow its example. They later form the **Normalist Block**.

2020 The **climate transition** is clear: the Gulf Stream brings moisture to Spain and North Africa rather than heat to northern Europe.

2021 First terrorist use of a nuclear weapon, destroying central Tallinn and killing 100,000 people.

2021 The devolution of power from state level to region is legally acknowledged in the US and EU. This marks the transition from the old national state to minimalist states protecting and coordinating heterogeneous and fluid regions inside them.

2022 **The Update Conflict** over new Internet protocols causes political and economic upheaval. New forms of Internet governance emerge, which later are copied for other forms of international cooperation. In particular the Threat Assessment Groups (TAGs) become important.

2023 Start of the “fatwa war”, the use of untraceable online money to finance assassination attempts or reward killers of disliked persons.



**Figure 1: (Capital gate, Dubai)**

2026 As the biotech economy develops, the Arab peninsula booms by pouring the last oil money into internationalist startups. Biobots, living materials, organic islands, neurocomputers, industrial crops and numerous other profitable products emerge on the market.

2033 The first solidly founded claims that a software-biocomputer system has reached human level intelligence.

2034 **Emergence of the first Hosts.** The neogenetic terrorist group Black Lotus appears, first noticed by spreading a modified cholera epidemic in Canton. Santiago Ramela begins preaching in Rio de Janeiro.

2035 **The Socotra Incident:** emergence of the dragons. The biotech islands outside the island are absorbed by the first dragon bloom ever. Omicron Technologies announces some information about the Hosts and Black Lotus to the public. NERD, Force Pasteur and local governments start investigating and fighting the dragons.

2037 Construction of the Persian Gulf Dam to keep the Dragons out of the Gulf. The Dam lasts two years before it is infiltrated. Dragons expand into the Red Sea, along the African coast and towards Iran.

2039 Desperate attempts to stop dragons from spreading fail. A widely cited NERD report predicts that by 2100 Earth will be uninhabitable.

2040 Founding of **Phoenix Space Development**. PSD will over the next 20 years develop into the most powerful and unaccountable space corporations. It rapidly begins to buy launch capacity.

2041 The Baikonur Science and Technology Worker's Republic breaks off from Kazakhstan, led by president Sergei Abildin. It gets economic support from PSD and becomes their main launch site.

2042-2047 **The betrayal of India:** as the Dragons expand along the coasts of India and infiltrate inland the subcontinent erupts in a deadly civil war. Massive refugee streams, deliberate spread of dragon infections and hostile neighbours cause enormous suffering and loss of life.

2044 The spacecraft *Eurydice* reaches the NEO Orpheus, setting up the first orbital mining colony. JAXA astronaut finds water ice in Shackleton crater. Baikonur starts to accept Indonesian refugees to the "embassies". Indonesia is increasingly seen as the final redoubt to prevent the dragons from spreading into the Pacific.

2045 *Heaven Habitat* constructed. **Emergence of the immunities:** France announces the development of a countermeasure against the Dragons, and begins immunization.

2047 The first orbital factory, *Daedalos*, functional. PSD relocates headquarters to Heaven. Germany announces their independent immunity.

2048 **Destruction of Sao Paolo** in nuclear terrorist attack. In the aftermath several versions of Santiago Ramela appears, eventually uniting into the Church of the Three Saviours. The Church will over the next decade become the dominant power in South America. Dragon infestation appears close to New Orleans, likely a terrorist attack. **The Kazakhstan-Baikonur war.** Kazakhstan, secretly supported by nationalist groups (especially the US), attempts to seize control over the Baikonur launch facilities. Phoenix Space Development defends the nation with laser weapons and drones, forcing a ceasefire.

2049-2050 **The fall of the United States.** As retaliation for the Kazakhstan-Baikonur war PSD and internationalist allies "pull the plug" on the US federal government. A combination of economic embargoes, propaganda and sabotage of the logistics of the US immunization effort causes the federal government to fall apart economically. To pay necessary debts assets are sold off to various private or regional groups.

2049 The **Maponyo immunity** is discovered in East Africa; it has been quietly spreading for a few years. Development of the **first generation sytrophic brains**. *Inanna*, the first real ecosphere habitat is constructed. **The Orion disaster:** experimental Orion rocket explodes during boost, creating a dangerous debris cloud and destroying parts of the Serbian city Niš. PSD blames Black

Lotus, the world blames PSD and the Marshall Islands Rocketry Club. Shipyards in orbit around the moon.



Figure 2 (Martinez)

2050 The Marshall Islands Rocketry Club disbands after investigations reveal its plans and nuclear stockpiles. The **Iyë-iyanu immunity** is spread in Nigeria. President Yusuf Lukman seizes control over it and uses it to make Nigeria a major regional power over the next decade, using neogenetic social control. *Juno*, the first large habitat in Luna orbit instituted. **Japan begins a national evacuation to space.** A massive plan, involving 30 batteries of laser-launchers across the Home Islands, several transfer habitats and a monumental settlement effort inside the moon. Over the next 15 years most of the Japanese population is relocated.

2051 The Agence de l'immunité (AI) absorbs Force Pasteur. Hard nanotechnology begins to be practically useful, in particular in space.

2052 **OTA founded.** *Kore*, the first O'Neill type habitat able to house 100,000 people, is opened. NekoNitrogen begins towing outer system ice to the earth-moon system.

2053 First NEO captured and moved to L4. In a daring (and very controversial) move PSD uses limited aerobraking to capture LN543 into orbit. OTA eventually bans aerobraking.

2054 The Voice of the Dragons is finally accepted as having an information link to the Dracosphere. Attempts at mutual understanding begins.

2056 *Kore* suffers ecological crash.

2065 The Japanese evacuation is declared officially over. President Lukman is unseated and the Nigerian empire breaks up into squabbling mini-immunities. The Spica Agreement gives further power to OTA; Japan donates excess orbital capacity to the organisation, giving it serious clout.

2066 *Angaraka* habitat arrives at Phobos. India Salgado is the first human on Mars.

2069-73 **The Spamocalypse**. The dragons connect to the Internet and cause a massive, persistent overload of parasitic software. The breakdown of the old system causes a major economic recession, an upsurge in isolationism and temporary stop of habitat building. The old syntronic networks are destroyed.

2069-74



**Figure 3 (Daan van den Berg, elephantiasis)**

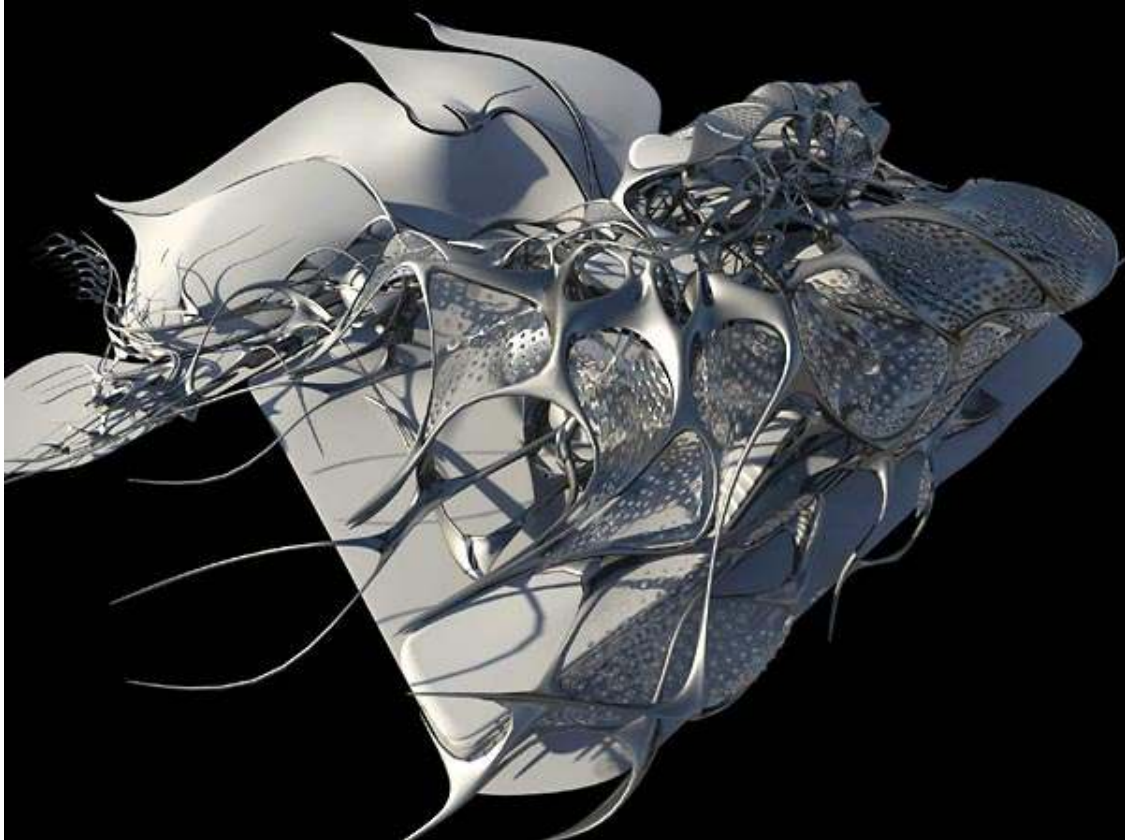
2072 Emergence of the **Restoration Authority** from the local ad hoc teams. They take charge of an unified response, using military and technological resources supplied by many polities and corporations.

2073 Dragon spam arrays destroyed from orbit. End of Spamocalypse, rebuilding of society begins. Deliberate limitations of network globalization built in at the lowest levels.

2079 **The Great Barrier Reef dissolves**, largely due to Dragon activity and climate changes.

2080 Barefoot Base on Mercury opened.

2080 The largest Dragon outbreak in orbit (among spacers just called “2080”). Several habitats are infected, *Longue Durée* becomes an orbital dragon-castle and is sent into the Earth’s atmosphere, where it is detonated with orbital lasers.



**Figure 4: Space artilife (Xefirotarch)**

2082 The 2082 superflare: massive solar eruption irradiates the Earth-Moon system, disrupting communications, harming space industry and giving radiation poisoning to over 4300 people (14 of which died). Since then radiation protection has been a higher priority on most habitats.

2085 **Artilife** becomes practical.

2086 The Izhevsk massacre: lotus eaters kill hundreds using neurotoxic wasp swarms.

2087 The **Irene Adler** syntronic subversion network is discovered; it had (with some success) destabilized habitat corporations and American states.

2088 The **Maranatha downgrade**. Plasmid infection turns Indigo habitat Yellow.

2090 Dragon climate engineering starts to slowly restore the interglacial.

2090 Matonge Immunity appears in Kongo.

2091 The **West African Co-Prosperity Sphere treaty** is signed, stabilizing central and west Africa somewhat.

2096 Outgassing causes a navigation deviation of the cometary body Tollenaar-Swift 14 on its way to L4. Despite extreme attempts a collision with the habitat *MidNight Oil* occurs, destroying the habitat and killing the 5490 people who could not be evacuated in time. Spinhoven Corporation is bankrupted by debris cleanup claims and settlements with the victims.

2097 Conflict in Sudan between Iyë-lyanu “apostate makers” and military from Caliphate nations.

2099 Lotus eater attacks on the Netherlands; nobody killed.

2100 Now