

Abstract

Transition to the future Society 5.0 is only a matter of time if not already happening. The Super Smart Society is accelerated and powered by technological advancements and revolutions. On the one hand, mass dependence on advanced technologies will bring prosperity and opportunities to the society. On the other hand, it comes at security costs. Society will be prone to unprecedented security challenges and risks. Society 5.0 will bring new challenges to every aspect of our lives and will concentrate more power in the hands of high-tech companies.

This raises questions on how to preserve society and maintain technological advantages. The solution starts with restoring sovereignty to the hand of people where it should belong.

This dissertation analyzes all technology-driven threats that accompany Society 5.0 via three approaches: theoretically researching the risks and challenges, qualitatively analyzing interviews with experts for the case of Switzerland, and finally quantitatively and statically forecasting key future figures for Swiss society.

Later, this dissertation will highlight the steps needed to reduce potential dangers in this transition procedure and will introduce a novel concept: Smart Sovereignty. Through new organizations, NGOs, and NPOs, Smart Sovereignty seeks to reposition the balance of power away from governments and major high-tech companies and to, directly and indirectly, enable citizens to drive change and become real sovereigns.

This novel concept paves the way for a large research area that directly affects our security. The research presents a framework that would allow society to achieve, govern, and preserve the status of sustainable Smart Sovereignty.