



American Security Project

***Open Letter from the American Security Project Calling for U.S. Leadership on Exponential Technology***

Monday, February 7

*The American Security Project (ASP) is a nonpartisan organization created to educate the American public and the world about the changing nature of national security in the 21st century.*

As members of the Board of Directors of the American Security Project and the Consensus for American Security, we call on policymakers to harness the untapped potential of exponential technologies—this is a matter of critical importance for America’s continued economic security and economic competitiveness. It is imperative that we capitalize on disruptive innovation and developing technologies as well as harden our existing digital infrastructure. Gone are the days when a nation’s security could be measured solely by bombers and battleships. Security in this new era requires harnessing all of America’s strengths: the force of our diplomacy; the might of our military; the vigor and competitiveness of our economy; and the power of our ideals. At no time since the post-War era has this call to action and clarity of national purpose been more urgent than now.

From digital currency to artificial intelligence and genomic technologies to autonomous mobility, many innovation platforms and technologies are evolving and converging at the same time. The centrality of exponential technologies will increasingly be the defining feature of economic competition in the 21st century and serve as the global economy’s central nervous system.

U.S. security and national economic competitiveness depend as much on shoring up the strength of our democracy and institutions at home as amplifying our value systems and unity of democratic purpose around the world. Critically, this includes our ability to compete in the emerging realm of exponential technologies and the third generation of the internet or web3, which enables a new form of internet-native industry, commerce, and risk-resilient applications and business models to emerge. As the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us, the very premise of our household, financial, economic, and political viability and continuity, depends on technology. Digital public goods and the provision of always-on public and private services in the U.S. and around the world are the next domain of global competition. The technologies that underpin this competition not only promote our national values of democratization; like the internet itself, their distributed nature is a powerful security feature that should be embraced.

We are locked in a modern-day space race and bending the arc of these forces to favor our democracy, economic competitiveness, security, and resilience is a whole of society effort. As Congress and regulators continue to examine developments in financial technology, digital currency, and digital public goods, we urge you to embrace innovation and catalyze the American technological enterprise to position the United States for the next chapter of global economic competition. Harnessing these forces will not only unlock trillions of dollars in

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economic value, but also allow us to lead democratic nations in a wave of exponential development and growth that builds digital public goods supporting the always-on global needs of the 21st century. This is the very infrastructure, like the bridges and roads and telecommunications networks that assured our way of life in the last century, that will assure it in the next.

Sincerely,

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