Social Formations in A Transhumanist World

Presentation by Lev Lafayette to the Australian Summit of the Singularity Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Saturday, September 11, 2010
Transhumanism argues that there will be merging of the trends that, through technological change, will result in the self-transformation of the human species.
A social formation is a combination of the formal structures of society, rather than the cultural contexts.

A social formation is based on the forces of production which correlate with social structures; (a) principles of social organisation (b) system and social integration (c) crisis tendencies (d) means of communication and (e) modes of consciousness.
Social Formations in A Transhumanist World: Social Formations Through Time

Social formation, Principle of Organisation, System Institution, Crisis Tendency, Means of Communication, Mode of Consciousness

*Primitive* Gather-Hunter, Kinship (Sex/Age), Tribal Totem, External Nature, Speech, Mythic

*Traditional* Agricultural, Political Rank, Church and State, Social Identity, Written, Religious

*Modern* Industrial, Economic Class, Political and Economic Autonomous Subsystems, System Generated, Printed, Secular
In modern society systematically derived crises include: the environmental and ecological balance; the international balance; induced economic crises; political legitimation, mass loyalty and motivation.

The human dimension is challenged by alienation, anomie and disenchantment.
Postmodernism: In social theory; what exists after the modern social formation. According to transhumanism, this will be a posthuman condition.

If a society does not resolve its internal contradictions whilst technology advances to conditions appropriate to a qualitatively new development then a violent, often reactionary or revolutionary, situation results.
Social Formations in A Transhumanist World:
Social Formation Issues towards the Transhuman and Postmodern

Nanotechnology as the dominant force of production. Conflict between environmentalism vs the landlord class in developing an organising principle.

Development of the education system as a autonomous subsystem; conflict with funding and the economics of 'free and open source'

Crisis tendency is the transformation and differentiation of the species.

Means of communication based on thought-transference conflicting with self-independence. Mode of consciousness is universalistic.