

# News From Somewhere

By  
**Project Alphistia**  
**January 6, 2026**  
**Volume 2 Number 1**

## Alphistian Tract Society

One of the new projects for 2026 will be a series of inexpensively printed booklets about Alphistia. They'll be short, small format, generally not in color. I'll distribute them locally for people to stumble across. This actually has worked for me before. Last summer I had some spare copies of the Alphistian zine I made in 2022. I dropped some copies of it off in the foyer of a restaurant in Champaign I like, Fiesta Cafe. When I came back a few weeks later, the copies had been taken. And I got some positive feedback from a person who liked reading the booklet as he ate. He even asked if I could provide another copy for him because he'd spilled salsa on the "reading copy"!

I'll call the series "The Alphistian Tract Society" booklets. When I was growing up, in the entry hall of my Catholic church in Newport, KY there was a rack

with all kinds of small leaflets and pamphlets that provided indoctrination for the faithful and as a lure for prospective converts. A perfect model for Project Alphistia..



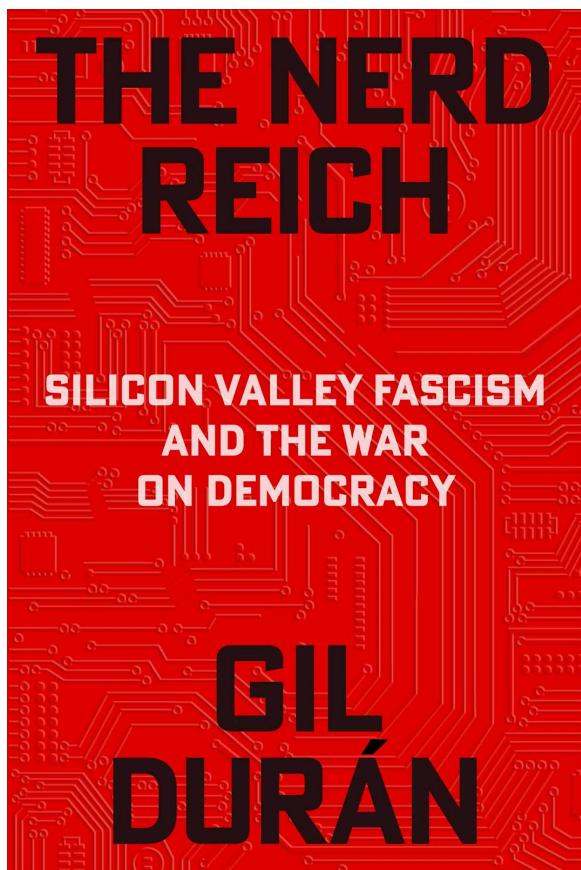
## Oligarchs and Serfs

In recent years, tech oligarchs have gained enormous influence politically. Almost to a man, they espouse authoritarian and corporate-dominated control of government and international institutions. Among them are radicals who propose the parceling of nation-states to remake them as vassals of a new feudalist model, centralized with a maximum leader (some call for an absolutist monarch). There would be no constitutional government, no human rights (except for dissidents to become refugees), no elections, no unions for workers, and ultimately very few actual workers. Through the use of technology, the oligarchs hope to make the surviving human workforce into serfs. Along with

taking over existing countries, this ideology proposes buying or leasing land to create new entities which the oligarchs would control outright. For those dissenting (and Alphistia would be one of those projects) the best opportunity would be to exit such places. This dystopian fascism and a new Dark Ages by oligarchs would not be an acceptable way to live.

Gil Duran is a very good writer who has researched the goals of the Oligarchs. He will publish a book on the topic later in 2026. His website is at:

<https://www.thenerdreich.com/>



## Renova

In the booklet “Alphistia Small and Beautiful”, which describes a one square mile project, a co-operative retail chain would be established to reuse and recycle the massive amount of consumer goods discarded or warehoused in a Mad Max America. The company would be called Renova.

Renova would be organized as a for-profit enterprise. Each member of Project Alphistia would hold shares in the co-op, and would receive an annual dividend.

Renova would find its merchandise in several ways. Since “Small” Alphistia is described as being located in Central Illinois, the co-op would organize a clearance service in the region (including Chicago). Those who need to move could arrange for Renova to haul away unwanted goods. For those who have passed away, Renova would provide estate removal services with surviving family and friends. The services would be free.

The co-op also would regularly visit towns on bulk pickup days to find furniture, electronic items etc. Renova would have a fleet of electric vans to retrieve goods. In Chicago, a central warehouse would store and process the large amount of goods collected. Staff would sort goods, repair and refurbish what can be sold, salvage spare parts that can be reused, and arrange sale for scrap of things that are of minimal value.

The warehouse would have a retail branch as part of its facility, and several other retail stores would operate in Central Illinois.

In Alphistia, Renova would have a retail chain in Enteve, the capital city. These stores would not just provide quality goods for members of Project Alphistia, but to visitors. Stores would include merchandise selling clothing, household items, furniture, electronics, and books.



Renova's profits would be used to subsidize costs of operating Project Alphistia and its small community, as well as to provide income for the project's members.

In a period of economic, political, and social turmoil, Renova would be a useful enterprise, providing jobs and goods to those who otherwise struggle. The collapse of the global economy would reduce disposable income of a great many Illinois residents, and failed schemes to replace workers with AI and robots would cause huge disruptions in the lives of ordinary people. Renova would help to fill the gap for affordable,

usable goods that otherwise would often just be dumped into landfills.

## Happy New Year From Pushkin



Pushkin usually spends some time on his own during the holidays, because I travel to Cincinnati for a visit with my brother and my sister-in-law. This year that just wasn't possible. To Pushkin's great joy, I stayed at home with him. This is a photo of him on Christmas Day. We had a fine time with good food and his company was wonderful.

## Hobbitcore, Hobbitpunk

“Travelling” around the internet recently, I came across a wonderful story of a young couple living in New Zealand who found a small piece of farmland and built a “tiny house” for themselves. The

image of their home, their garden, and the valley where they live was truly captivating.



I immediately thought...this is what Alphistia would look like.

New Zealand was a major setting for the filming of the Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit series of movies. Its natural beauty is renowned, and tourists who love Tolkien's works flock there to experience his imagined world depicted in the films, and to enjoy all the wonderful landscapes New Zealand offers to visitors.

The article about the tiny house included a mention of the idea of Hobbitcore and Hobbitpunk. While there is a bit of slight contradiction of coupling hobbits with punk, I "went for the ride" and read about the ideas and the images that I came across. The Shire of the Hobbits certainly appeals as an inspiration for Alphistia, even if the rural life and class divisions of Tolkien's adaptation of the English countryside don't attract (after

all Bilbo and Frodo are wealthy landowners...like the English gentry).

But artists depict an idyllic Hobbiton, and once beyond the borders of the Shire, the rest of Middle Earth was largely terrifying, just like much of the world is on its current trajectory.



I first discovered Tolkien in an article from Quinto Lingo magazine, which provided practice for students of foreign languages, with translated articles and plenty of feature articles about various "lingo" related topics. That was more than fifty years. I was amazed to discover that someone like Tolkien existed! His writings and the associated art that others have created have been a huge inspiration...and comfort for me.

Comments welcome:  
[alphistia@gmail.com](mailto:alphistia@gmail.com)

