



Written by [Rebecca Terrell](#) on July 16, 2026

Flocking to the Algorithmic State

[Flock Safety cameras](#) surveil thousands of American communities, scanning every license plate that passes and feeding the data into a centralized, searchable private database queried by law enforcement millions of times annually.

Flock cameras operate without warrants, without probable-cause requirements, and without meaningful judicial oversight. San Jose police ran nearly four million searches of Flock data between June 2024 and June 2025. Every American who drove past a Flock camera during that period had their movements logged, stored, and made available to law enforcement without their knowledge, without a court order, and without any legal finding against them.



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Egregious Errors

Errors are rampant. In March, [Jacob Rockwell](#) of Pensacola, Florida, received a red-light camera ticket, but he was out of state at the time. Someone had borrowed his vehicle and had run the light. Rockwell didn't dispute that. His quarrel was constitutional and structural. As he told the City Council: "I am guilty by default. I've been convicted by a computer program."

The camera conducts no driver verification. It photographs the vehicle, identifies the registered owner, and issues a citation. The owner is presumed guilty and must prove innocence. To do so, he must navigate an appeals process run not by any government agency but by a private company — Automated Enforcement Division of Orlando, itself owned by a foreign corporation — with no transparent criteria, no clear timeline, and no meaningful public accountability.

Rockwell told the council that Florida Statute 316.0083 "unduly shifts the burden of proof to the vehicle owner to prove my innocence, rather than the State having to prove my guilt."

Another case is that of [Hugo Parra](#), a San Diego man, who spent nearly a month in jail over Thanksgiving 2025, missing the holiday with his family and sharing space with murderers. A Flock camera had incorrectly linked him to a carjacking that occurred five miles away from his actual location. Cellphone data corroborated his innocence, as did other Flock cameras along his actual route. Parra and his co-defendant now seek \$1.5 million each for civil-rights violations and negligence.

The [Institute for Justice](#) identified at least 24 documented cases of Flock errors since 2018 — innocent people detained at gunpoint, handcuffed in driveways, jailed for weeks — including a couple stopped with a six-week-old baby in the back seat because a Flock camera misread a single digit on their license plate. Another camera [misread](#) an "O" as "0," and two grandparents were held at gunpoint while their three-year-old grandchild watched from the car. In another case, a camera misread a "7" as a "2," leading police to detain an innocent man, sic a dog on him, and jail him for several hours.



Emulating China

Flock Safety, a private company, functions as the *de facto* surveillance infrastructure of American law enforcement. This is the Chinese model — not imported by force, but adopted voluntarily by municipalities seduced by the promise of cheaper policing. China's [social credit system](#) and its network of 700 million surveillance cameras represent government-by-algorithm in its mature form: a state that tracks, scores, and controls citizens through automated systems too fast and too opaque for any individual to contest through normal legal channels. Western technocrats have watched this experiment with open admiration. The same globalist policy networks that promote digital currencies and the "circular economy" consistently point to China's governance efficiency as a model worth emulating.

The Dependent Administrative Class

Changes in Western education set the trajectory toward our current dystopia. In his 1895 book *The Crowd*, [Gustave Le Bon](#) identified mass education as the seed of autocracy. Observing the explosion of state-sponsored schooling across Europe, he warned that educating people in trivial matters rather than in skills useful to the economy would create "an army of malcontents." Having been credentialed for positions that don't exist, they become "apostles of discontent," constituting a potential danger to the State as they incline toward revolutionary sentiment. Le Bon wrote that "the French system of education transforms the majority of those who have undergone it into enemies of society, and recruits numerous disciples for the worst forms of socialism."

Government neutralized the threat by creating meaningless civil servant jobs to absorb these unemployable misfits. The system required higher taxes to manufacture spurious jobs, but it staved off revolution.

Economist [Joseph Schumpeter](#), writing in *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* (1943), refined the observation. The expansion of higher education produces "people who are used to the life of the salaried employee and who lack the aptitude for and interest in independent business enterprise." They acquire "a vested interest in unrest," gravitating toward labor organizing, political activism, and permanent bureaucracy, forming a dangerous class whose members "develop group attitudes and group interests" hostile to the productive economy that sustains them. Too elevated for manual work but not talented enough for genuine intellectual contribution, they become a class defined by high self-estimation and low market value.

Douglas Gairdner, in *The War Against the Family*, quantified what Le Bon and Schumpeter had observed: By the 1990s, roughly one-third of the Western workforce was employed in government and social services, an administrative class living off transfer payments extracted from productive workers with the ostensible purpose of "helping the poor." A situation emerged whereby two-thirds of the population were living off one-third. The ratio has since worsened dramatically. An economy in which four-fifths of participants live off the productive fifth is not a sustainable system.

Enter the Algorithm

Department of Government Efficiency-style purges of federal workers amount to inevitable fiscal correction when a bureaucracy of blue-haired bipolars becomes too expensive to maintain. The question is: What replaces the system of licensing requirements, code enforcement, and freedom-killing bureaucracy built to employ these civil servants?



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A technocrat’s answer is “the algorithm.” Cheaper than a civil servant, faster than a judge, and conveniently unaccountable to any democratic process, the algorithm is being positioned as government’s operating-system upgrade. By dislodging people, our government is completing the authoritarian conquest that our Founders were deliberately trying to avoid.

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