Dirigisme and Police Innovation; reflections on the technology of security-control and social change

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What is policing?

- Part of a family of words which includes: politics, policy, & polity

- Pertains to authoritative intervention into situational exigencies which cannot be predicated in advance

- Policing is the practical policy of social ordering

- Its core feature is the capacity to muster coercive force in the maintenance of a particular or general social order

- It involves the surveillance of populations & territory in order to intervene against past wrongs & pre-empt future problems

- Democratic policing is undertaken on behalf of a citizenry which both understands and endorses the police mission (legitimacy)

- Democratic policing is not mere law enforcement, it is a social service
Watching The New Techno-Police
THREE IDEAL TYPES OF COMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION

Centralized

De-centralized Sectoral

Networked Point-to-Point

Successive waves of technological change have transformed police organization.
Putting police in cars unexpectedly changed the quality of police-public interactions in English towns.
Technopoly
Berk is quoted in Craig Atkinson and Laura Hartrick’s award winning documentary film about the militarization of American policing titled: *Do Not Resist*.

When asked about the future of predictive policing Richard Berk said: “Oh, I think it’s inevitable. I mean, it’s already here in places, isn’t it?”
The Future is Technopolicing
Echoing Isaiah Berlin in *Four Essays on Liberty*, purveyors of Police Science believe that “… reality is wholly knowable, and that knowledge liberates, and absolute knowledge liberates absolutely.” (p. 42)
Company Description
Shockknife is a privately owned North American company whose sole objective is to revolutionize the edged weapon training industry with the only training knife that induces the necessary stress required for realistic edged weapon training. Shockknife is designed to improve tactical knife defense training in law enforcement, military, and corrections markets around the world.

Mission Statement
“Shockknife’s mission is to be the world leader in non-projectile, realistic training products that are capable of inducing acute stress during survival training.”
Last Thought

... and remain vigilant concerning unintended consequences because, as we all know, the Road to Hell is paved with supposedly good intentions.

“Officers need to understand and sense the noble purpose and meaning of police work: a vocation of selfless service, compassion, and doing good for others.”