



Colossus: A New Look at an Old Movie

By Russell Madden



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An 1800 word essay analyzing the freedom-related themes of the movie, "Colossus: The Forbin Project." Despite presenting out-of-date technology, this movie explores the timeless theme of freedom versus safety. While too many people today opt for the latter, liberty is the only source for true security. Colossus is a frighteningly real symbol for the out-of-control Nanny State that seeks to micromanage all of our lives.

Echoing current calls that declare that risk and mistakes must be eliminated from human society, the President in the world of Colossus states that, "There is an old saying: 'Everyone makes mistakes.' But that is just what man can no longer afford." Just as collectivists of all stripes have faith in the mythical superiority of a centralized planning agency, the President says, "Colossus decisions are superior to any we humans can make, for it can absorb and process more knowledge than is remotely possible for the greatest genius that ever lived."

Exhibiting the same type of "best intentions" that infect those current public servants who want to "help us," Forbin delineates the line of social engineers everywhere: "I hope...that the immense power of this computer will not only be used for the defense of this country, but hopefully also as an aid to the solution of the many problems that we face on this earth..."

This new world dictator, Colossus, believes in the false premise of the "greatest good for the greatest number" regardless of the means required to achieve those ends. It has no reluctance to destroy us for our "own good."

In an era in which many people in this country would repeal recognition of all or part of our Bill of Rights, freedom often does seem more illusory than real.

Those today who love a big and ever-expanding government are the types who would love the Orwellian world of Colossus and the anti-speak in which the "freedom" that Colossus promises is the freedom of death.

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