

Summary:

The world of 2030 has changed dramatically since the technologically dependent era of the decades before it. Citizens of the world, up until the the Great Solar Flare of 2020, had been living their lives under the assumption that satellite communications would work forever, and that electricity would be abundant. Little did they know how vulnerable their systems of communication were to be disrupted. The storm showed that our reliance on satellites had led to a weakening of our society. The reality of being able to instantly contact someone from across the globe in a matter of seconds was no longer attainable. People would have to learn to live with each other and find other ways to communicate long distances, just as humans have done for thousands of years before the development of these technologies. This timeline explored life leading up to The Great Solar Flare of 2020 and how people were able to cope and make changes to their lives for the better. People had become addicted to their smartphones to the point that many people could not go mere minutes without checking their smartphones. This technology was popularized mainly by the iPhone and Apple Watches that were continually upgraded every year. These gadgets were mainstream, so people became reliant on them as their main means of communication. People could get into contact with others instantaneously, increasing global productivity. The only negative to this convenient long-distance technology is that it all came down to the eternal functionality of Earth's satellites. The entire world was connected by them, so once The Great Solar Flare of 2020 hit Earth, people were forced to find other methods of communication that did not depend on satellites. Power was also lost globally, so people were forced to live life sustainably without being so dependent on a single technology, as we could not risk continuing with the mindset that our technologies would never fail. Power grids were eventually brought back online, but not to the capacity of allowing many citizens to actually use it leaving only the government and the very wealthy with access.

After the Solar Flare, regions all around the world used varying technologies to help create more efficient and sustainable ways of communicating. The Solar Flare reminded people of the immense power the sun holds and that it is necessary to utilize natural resources as a means to communicate with one another. Using cell phones were very harmful from the extraction process of resources and had caused less human interaction with each other.

In Easton, Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley, old pipes were repurposed for pneumatic air messaging, which helped get messages quickly around town from the trading post that was now a major community center in the town circle. These tubes were also connected to a central location in Bethlehem so the entire Lehigh Valley was able to be connected on this communications network. These tubes were accessible using an air pressure system which is of extreme abundance on the earth. The aftermath of the storm resulted in an urgency to use more reliable natural resources. Similarly, in Burlington, Vermont a regional communication system developed as well. They developed a system of messenger owls. These owls were abundant in the Vermont area and were easily able to be trained for communication purposes. The Solar Flare really made people more in touch with their roots and have more of an appreciation for their environment and their surroundings.

There was still a need for more easily accessible communication throughout the country so the government was able to release a new technology that they have been working on to solve the situation. Flying drones were able to pick up messages from the regional communication hubs to transport messages greater distances. At first, the solar flare turned the world into darkness; a gloomy place with the lack of communication leaving people lost and confused. But as time passed, people began to adjust

to their new way of life. People waned away from instant attachment which made them more patient and observant. People became closer to each other because they were forced to have face to face conversations without the distraction of technology. People were more relaxed, there was no immediate urgency to be connected to others right away. Going into the future, there are rumors of new technologies to shift back toward interconnected communication instantaneously, but many were against this idea for the fear that it could all collapse again after having adjusted to this new way of life.

As our societies have grown and proliferated, it has become inevitable and unavoidable that we would have the need to come up with a solution to long-distance communications. However, that does not mean that we should avoid reestablishing a sense of community with our fellow humans. We should certainly embrace the need to function globally, but human interaction with the people directly around us is also crucial to our survival. In 2030, we have begun to overcome the disregard for community and are in the process of working towards a more locally connected and sustainable reality.