



The United States of America

Week 11



Questions

Do you have any questions from your reading assignment?



Discussion Question

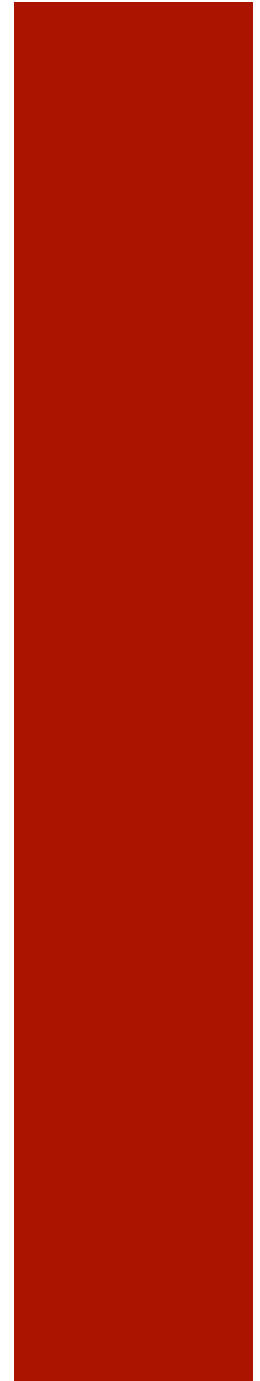
In your opinion, is technology the **answer** to humanity's problems or is it the **cause** of humanity's problems?

Explain why you feel the way you do.



The United States

(Technology in America – unit 11)



Important Topics

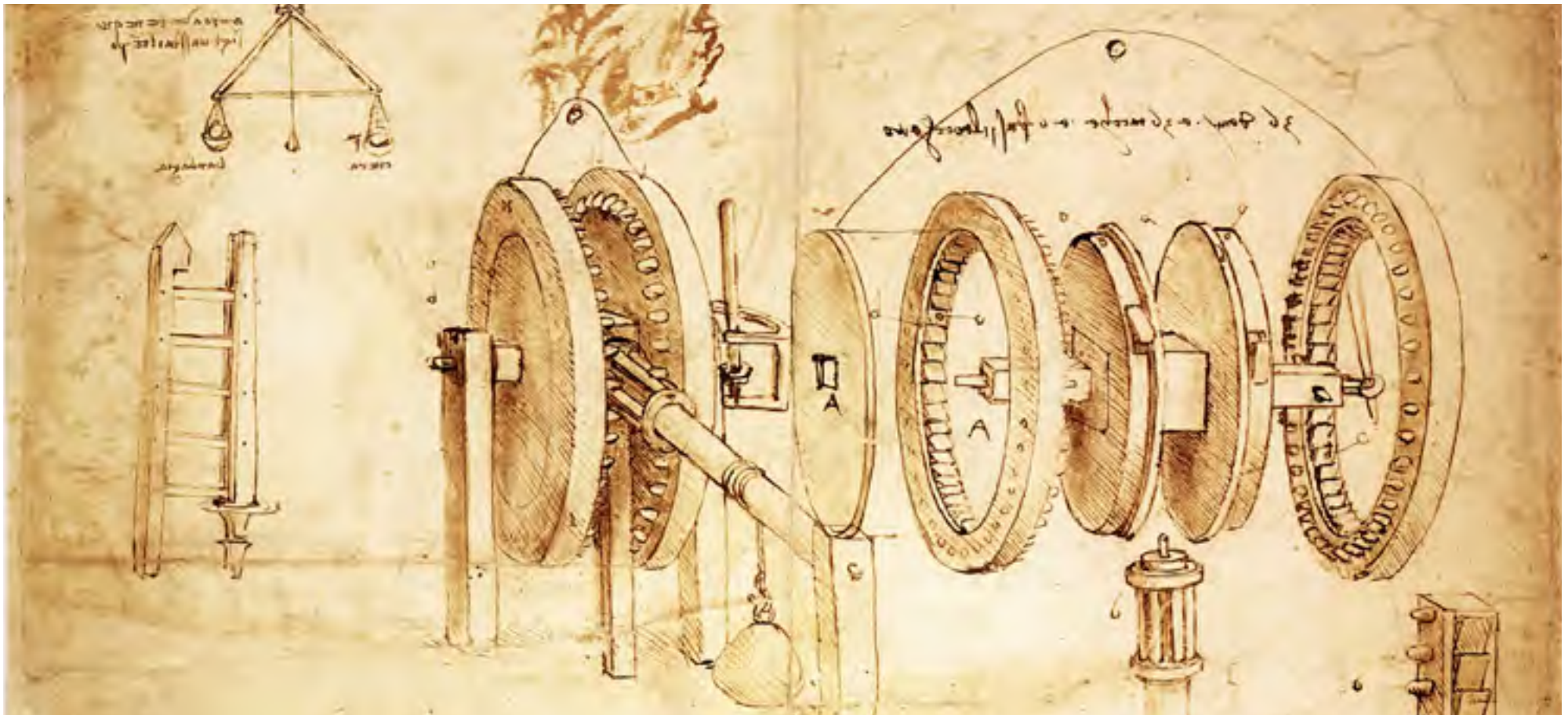
Unit Eleven – Technology in America

- Technology
 - Definition
 - Philosophy - Good or Bad?
- History of Tech in America
 - 19th Century (1800 – 1899)
 - 20th Century (1900 – 1999)
 - NASA - Space
 - Personal Computing
 - 21st Century (2000 – present)
 - Communication



Technology

- Technology is a broad concept that deals with the usage and knowledge of **tools** and **crafts**, and how it affects one's ability to control and adapt to one's environment.



The distinction between science, engineering and technology

- **Science** is the reasoned investigation or study of phenomena, aimed at discovering enduring principles among elements of the phenomenal world by using formal techniques such as the “scientific method.”
- **Engineering** is the goal-oriented process of designing and making tools and systems to exploit natural phenomena for practical human means, often (but not always) using results and techniques from science.
- **Technology** is often a consequence of science and engineering. Scientists and engineers may both be considered technologists; the three fields are often considered as one for the purposes of research and reference.

Technicism

- Generally, technicism is an over reliance or overconfidence in technology as a benefactor of society.
- Taken to extreme, some argue that technicism is the belief that humanity will ultimately be able to control the entirety of existence using technology. In other words, human beings will someday be able to master all problems using technology.



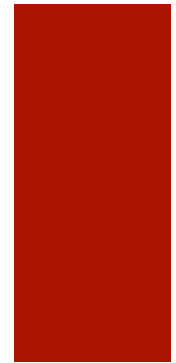
Pessimism

- Technology pessimists believe that technological societies are inherently flawed. They suggest that the result of such a society is to become evermore technological at the cost of the environment, freedom and psychological health.



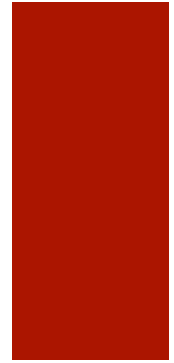
Optimism

- Optimistic assumptions are those which view technological development as generally having beneficial effects for the society and the human condition. These ideologies take the position that technological development is morally good.

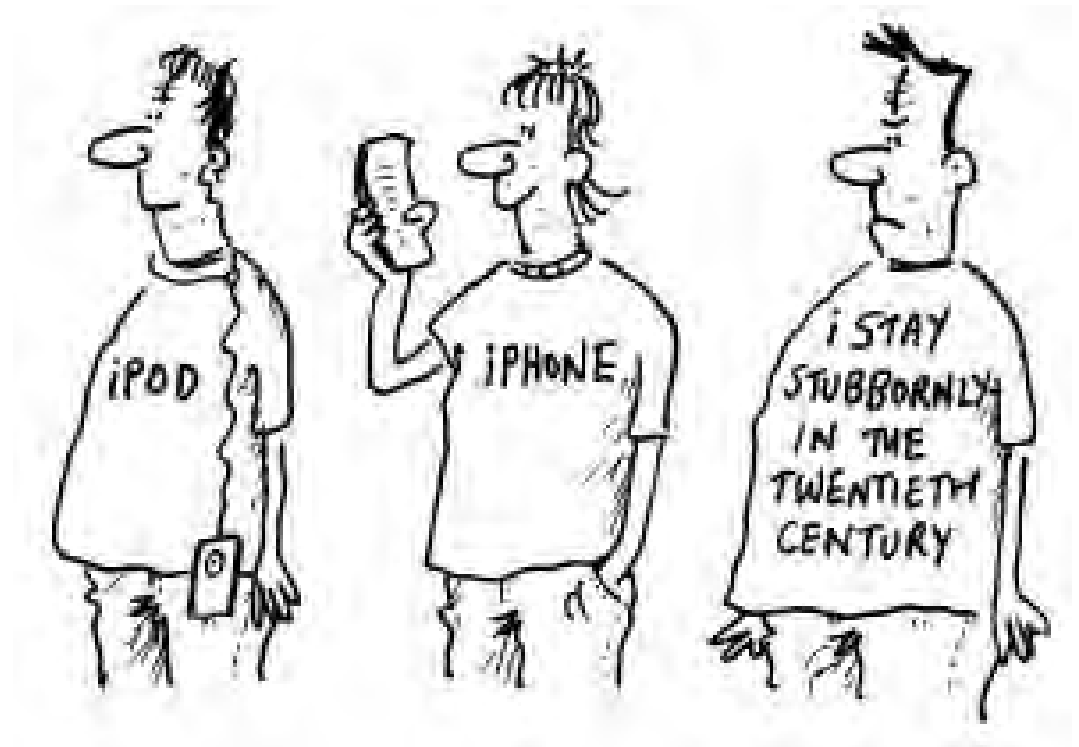


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19th Century (1800 – 1899)

- **Railroad**
 - *John Stevens*
- **Telegraph**
 - *Samuel F. B. Morse*
 - *Alexander Graham Bell*
- **Movies, Phonograph, Electric Lights**
 - *Thomas Alva Edison*
- **Assembly Line**
 - *Henry Ford*



20th Century (1900 – 1999)

- **Radio**
 - *2 Way / Broadcast*
- **Home Appliances**
 - *Refrigerator, Washing Machine, Dishwasher, Vacuum Cleaner, Television*
- **Military / Civilian Tech**
 - *Radar, Microwave, Nuclear Energy, Space Travel, Internet*
- **Personal Computers**



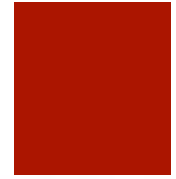
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21th Century *(2000 –Present Day)*



- **Telecommunications**
 - *Ubiquitous*
 - *De-centralized*
- **‘Green Technology’**
 - *Require fewer natural resources*
 - *Make less (negative) impact on environment*
- **Medical**
 - *Less intrusive, less expensive, widely available*

