

Technology

Good or bad?

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When it comes to the topic of technology, many may readily agree that it has benefitted us. What many fail to see is that technology has also caused a majority of problems. The cotton gin, telephones, and factory machines are example of technological developments that had bad outcomes and effects.

Furthermore, due to the creation of the Cotton Gin (Separated Seed from Cotton Fibers), slaves were in high demand, increasing slavery. The cotton gin, made the process of producing cotton much more efficient. The south became dependent on slaves (Slave-Dependent), because they were needed to run the Cotton Gin. Working on plantations (Large Farms) was something brutal and harsh, slaves were treated very poorly on these large farms. Now, many may say the cotton gin only had good effects, however that is very one sided and wrong. Without slaves, the south would suffer and lose production along with profit. Which is why when it came to passing of the thirteenth amendment which abolished all slavery, the south was angered. How would one say technology is good if it's causing someone to be so dependent on it, they cannot survive without it?

Moreover, adding to my stance that technology is bad and also a curse is telephones. This invention is terrible for a majority of reasons. According to "Methods of Communication," there are reasons the telephone isn't good, and was a waste of time. First off "the person must be available," if they aren't and it's an emergency what are you to do? If you had sent them a letter they would get it no matter what, despite the fact that it will take long. Another reason "you generally have to pay for every minute you spend on the call... Making it expensive," why pay so much, if you can send a letter

and pay less? One last reason is "it is not easy to make a record of what is said during the call." Let's say, you're making an important call, and North Korea states a bomb will be dropped on the United States, within twenty-four hours. The government will not help you unless you had proof, which you do not contain. Whereas if this was written in a letter, you would have the proof to get help.

In addition to telephones and the cotton gin, factory machines were bad as well as harmful also. The creation of factories in general was a curse. New inventions of machines led to more urbanization into cities in search of jobs. This later on, led to over population. The reason this was harmful, was because conditions in factories got worse in result of this, and they were already really bad prior to this. Child labor increased, if a mistake was made a limb could be lost, or a child/anyone can be seriously injured for life. Factories were not a safe place for children. Factory machines caused pollution due to chemicals that seeped into the air during work hours. Further, this led to diseases in factories causing many deaths. Due to machines pulling people into cities to work, more people stood in tenements. Tenements were bad because they were unsanitary, crowded and had no plumbing. Factory machines also led to more women working and more of them being taken advantage of. In factories, women were abused, and paid less than what men were paid. Women were not treated fairly, they were raped, beaten, and were more vulnerable to the abuse of the factory owners. On the other hand, children, were paid half as well, they worked really long hours to earn very little money, that did not even meet minimum wage. Despite, them being able to help out at home with rent and buying necessities, factories are not places children should be exposed

to. Urbanization just made these conditions more worse and more dangerous, new inventions of machines, although it presented more jobs, it hurt many people, because injuries and the conditions.

In addition to these three technological inventions, the Steel Production/Bessemer Process, was also something that had harmful effects, making technology a curse. Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish American industrialist, dominated the steel industry. The Bessemer process was when impurities were removed from iron. Steel was so much more manageable, stronger, and reliable. At the time, monopolies (Good for the producer but not the consumer, prices could be raised as high as they desired because the item wouldn't be available anywhere else) were illegal. Carnegie found a way to get around this. He started something called 'Vertical Consolidation' this was when he bought businesses instead of buying out other stores, and managing his own business. Due to this, he was able to charge his own prices, and lower/veto the competition other businesses brought. Many places lost business because of this, making this process just as bad as a monopoly. However, this was not illegal, simply due to this NOT being a monopoly, he got around it finding a way to dominate.

In conclusion, my stance is that technology is horrible. There were so many bad outcomes, it out weighed the good ones. Despite what people say, technology is harmful and threatens mankind. For example, with today... we are way too dependent on technology for everything, even thinking, especially critically. Nowadays, we expect google to do the thinking for us. Technology takes away so much from our lives, and

keeps us from doing physical activities and exploring the world. I must admit, it does have some good contents, but as I stated "More bad outcomes than good."

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