

Technology

Technology is a social practice fed by the disciplines of science, and in our day, in the West, a major driver of innovation on the social front; a driver of the culture changing telecommunications industry; a driver of consequential military hardware; a driver of the aerospace industry; and, through its universal electronic applicability, a major driver in the limitlessly wide industry of those medical appliances, Lazy boy chairs, kitchen utensil pacs and all that goes into supplying the modern household multiplied by who knows how many billion. The looseness and grossness, of this accounting for the age of Technology will I hope be forgiven out of respect for the sheer volume which forever accompanies this our Age of Technology.

As a corrective to whatever we may love, about the Age of Technology, it is worth recalling what was by and large the attitude of the ancient Greeks, concerning the kinds of achievement we have been discussing. The Greeks were not technocrats, in the brilliant fashion of the ancient Romans, who excelled over the Greeks in the technical sciences. The Greeks were on the whole not renowned as traders or even as men of business. They were, to generalize about a broad wave of at the time new cultural intrusions, men with a vast new creative power. Their power was to move the mind by the mind, to reinterpret the world in plays and stories, and in thoughts which provoked counter and deeper thoughts.

The Age of Technology has given us thoughts too, and new ways to interpret those thoughts. It has opened the mind through new possibilities of travel and discovery, and it has introduced us to new possibilities for healing and for understanding what kind of biological animals we are. We have created new ways to be amazed at ourselves, while at the same time inventing many new reasons to fear ourselves.