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ECS 089L: Ethics for Technology

Quiz 3

October 16, 2024

1) The quote “The hand-mill gives you society with the feudal lord; the steam-mill, society with the industrial capitalist” is from

- a. Robert Heilbroner, the author of the paper you were supposed to read,
- b. Immanuel Kant,
- c. Karl Marx,
- d. Homer Simpson.

This is a famous quotation from Karl Marx that Robert Heilbroner puts beneath the title of his essay.

2) On the question of whether there is a fixed sequence to technological development, the author (Robert Heilbroner) believes that

- a. There is no such sequence as history has shown that technology develops by chance,
- b. There is such a sequence, as technology is always the next “stage” in a technical conquest of nature.

This is the first main point of his essay

3) According to Heilbroner, does technology set a pattern of social relation on society?

- a. Yes, as it influences the composition of the labor force and the hierarchical organization of work,
- b. Yes, as technology always gives rise to capitalism,
- c. No, as technology is perfectly neutral,

Heilbroner agrees with Marx to some extent, but not to the point of equating technological progress with capitalism.

4) Are Science and Technology related?

- a. Yes, as the rise of science gives new impetus to technology,
- b. No, science has always been theoretical with no practical applications,
- c. Yes, as technology is merely just another word for science.

It can be said that technology is the application of scientific knowledge to solve problems and achieve practical goals.