

IET 300 - Technology and Society
Group Activity - The End Justifies the Means

Considering the recent videos, readings, and class discussions about truth in science and technology, complete the following questions.

1. Explain positive and negative aspects of public opinion regarding science and technology from Galileo's time until the beginning of World War II. In your explanation, provide evidence by citing two or more references from readings and/or videos from this class.

In Galileo's time there was a problem with aspects of the public. The church decided on what was acceptable and what was not restricted the public (Week 6). This problem with the church was not fixed until 300 years later. Then there was the industrial revolution in America in the 1800's to the early 1900's. This started with the invention of the cotton gin and the industrial boom started. This has even had a positive aspect from the public's opinion because there were jobs. Technology was at full speed ahead and everyone wanted to keep / up (About.com). People liked technology because it brought jobs and they were able to buy neat new things from the industrial revolution to the Great Depression. The beginning of World War II brought us out of the depression by creating jobs with the mass production of war goods and products.

2. Martin Fichman stated, "The marriage of science and technology, so common today, is a novel historical phenomenon" (1993).
Use Fichman's statement to explain how the events of the last century have influenced society's views about the legitimacy and usefulness of science and technology.

Make at least 1 reference to the Original "Einstein's Letter" on the Leo Szilard website link.

Fichman's statement does ring true from our past century. In this past century so many great things have been invented or improved upon. Technology and science was once thought of as a bad thing has now turned into something awesome. Science and technology are together no matter what. One cannot get something these days without either of the two. However, in today's society we have become so used to science and technology we would be lost without either of the two. Our society has become dependent on these things that we have come to love and know so well. Most of today's society likes science and technology and what it has done for us, though there are always the people who do not like science nor technology. For the most part society does accept the legitimacy and usefulness of science and technology, but things are becoming very fast these days and more and more people are starting to expect more research from what is going on in the science and technology fields. The atom bomb was an invention that was intended to be good for the U.S. and bad for enemies of the U.S. It really scared many people with the rapid advance in technology. For the most part people saw the invention of the atom bomb as a good thing, until they saw the destruction it caused. "A single bomb of this type, carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory." (Einstein's Letter) The invention improved our science and technology drastically. " However, now citizens do want more testing and more knowledge about science's creations.

2. Considering your answers from questions #1 & #2 above, develop a statement supporting the notion that "the end justifies the means" in science and technology. It is important for the group to develop a statement supporting the notion cited; do not let your personal opinions deter you from your assigned task.



In response to the statement "the end justifies the means" we feel whatever one has to do to get something accomplished and get a result then whatever one had to do to get that result justifies itself.