

# THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON SOCIETY

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## ABSTRACT

As we prepare to enter the twenty-first century, civilization is in its greatest age of technological change. Society is in the midst of the massive task of absorbing science and technology on a scale never before experienced. Modern technology has given society new powers but also the responsibility to use science and technology in a way that enhances the quality of life.

Throughout history, science and technology has been pressed onward like a glacier, overturning everything in its way and grinding all opposition into dust. In early nineteenth century England, for example, a band of unhappy workers known as Luddites challenged the Industrial Revolution by roaming the countryside smashing machinery and burning factories. From their narrow viewpoint, machines were enemies taking away jobs and freedom and harming people. But the Luddites were soon overcome by the benefits brought by the same machinery they opposed. Their movement failed, much the same as their more modern successors did, such as the glassblower who opposed glassmaking machinery. We know now that they were largely mistaken about the broader significance of industrial technology. Though the Industrial Revolution created new and serious human problems for some people in society, it was a great advance in the history of civilization. Technology

continues to grow because of people themselves. Human beings, have tested the fruit of knowledge, cannot suppress their desire for it. They forever to expand knowledge of their environment, probably because of the excitement of learning and their belief that more knowledge will help them control their environment. This paper takes a closer look at how science and technology enhance or affect society as a whole with the main focus on Thailand.