
TECHNOLOGY AS SALVATION? CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES FROM AN AESTH/ETHICS OF THE SPIRIT

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Abstract

The idea that technology offers a tool for the ‘salvation’ of humanity falls into line with a Western history of thousand years, where one has tried to achieve salvation through technical innovations. Man/Woman who has been created in the image of God was supposed to achieve a godlike state of being on earth by using his/her creative practical skills.

Will we really achieve a better life through the progress of technology? What technology can we do without, and what should we develop? What are the criteria for to decide about technology development, that what benefits life or that what increases profits?

The article explores critically the discussion between optimist and pessimist understandings of technology, H. Marcuse’s analysis of power as technology, the ambivalence of environmental technology, and technology’s function as religion. It argues for to revise and radically change technology concepts and practices with regard to climate change, and suggests to revision technology as arts in the horizon of a theological Aesth/Ethics, where the Trinitarian doctrine of the life-giving Spirit, the remembrance of the suffering and the epistemological principle of apophaticism is at the core.

Keywords: technology, power, environmental technology, spirit, Aesthetics, Ethics, salvation

1. Power as technology

In his classical novel ‘Homo faber’ (1953), the Swiss author Max Frisch depicts how the art of engineering shapes a specific kind of human being, who loses his skills as a moral, religious and artistic person [1]. Ever since the problems with technology’s influence on the human person and its function in the social process have rather become more than less. Different conflictual understandings of technology and its significance for the modern society are at the heart of modern self-understanding, and these are by no means reconciled with each other.

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