



Redeeming Technology: An Overview: Beyond a Utilitarian View

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Common Views of Technology

- ▶ Utilitarian: How to use it for a purpose? Or for a good purpose?
- ▶ Dystopia of emergent technology: Automobile as shitless horse
- ▶ Utopian view of new technology: End of illiteracy by radio
- ▶ Technology is neutral
- ▶ Good and bad use of technology
- ▶ Technology has no life of its own, all human use



Common Applications of Technology

- ▶ Education: Information is education. Domination of technology in ranking schools.
- ▶ Business: Big data for commercialization of products
- ▶ Religious: PowerPoint for worship
- ▶ Religious: Church website
- ▶ Communication: Advance technology for media training
- ▶ Medical: Genetic counselling
- ▶ Missiology: Media in mission
- ▶ Personal: Mobile phone for connecting and working
- ▶ Urban planning: Bridges and high-speed training of remapping



What Do We Gain or Lose in an Invention?

- ▶ The Judgement of Thamus on invention of Writing
- ▶ Case of Photoshop
- ▶ Case of the A-Bomb



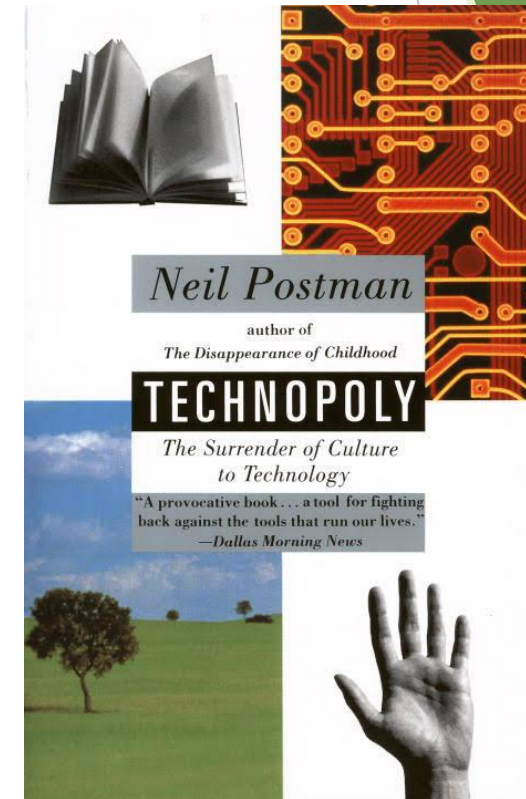
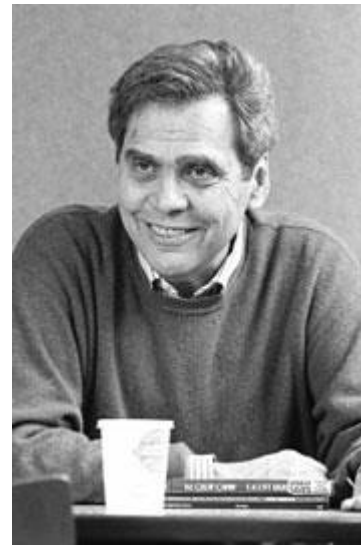
Does Form Shape Our Consciousness & Culture?

- ▶ Medium is Message (Marshall McLuhan): Form is content
- ▶ Third Wave and Power Shift (Alvin Toffler): Speed of change and social restructuring
- ▶ Harold Innis and Communication Forms shape our consciousness, society and culture
- ▶ Walter Ong on orality and literacy
- ▶ Elizabeth Eisenstein on the printing press
- ▶ Martin Buber on oral storytelling as recreation and healing
- ▶ Implication for online education, communication, business



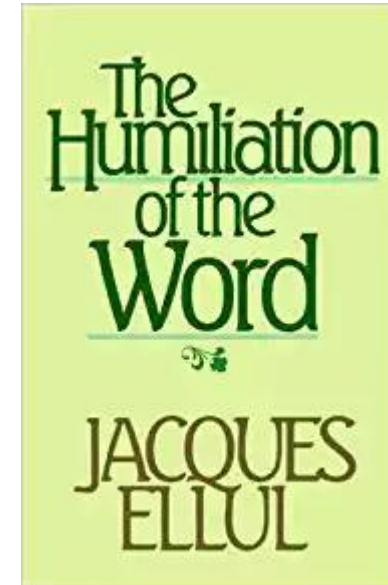
Is Technology Merely a Tool or Will It Rule Over Us?

- ▶ Technology as tool
- ▶ Technocracy (Neil Postman)
- ▶ Technopoly



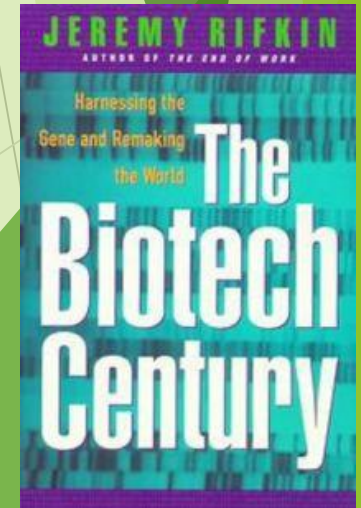
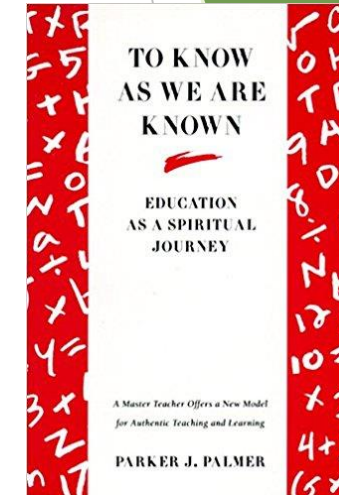
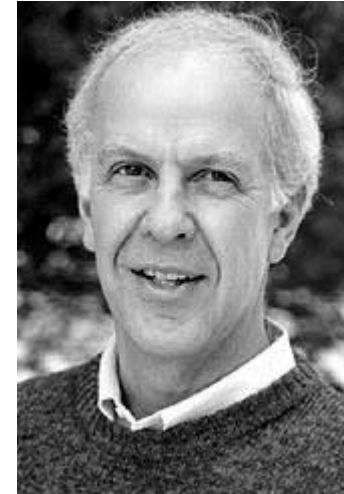
What is the Inner Logic of Technology?

- ▶ La technique (Jacques Ellul)
- ▶ Autonomous system
- ▶ Machine culture
- ▶ Efficiency
- ▶ Excellence
- ▶ Maximization
- ▶ Information bits



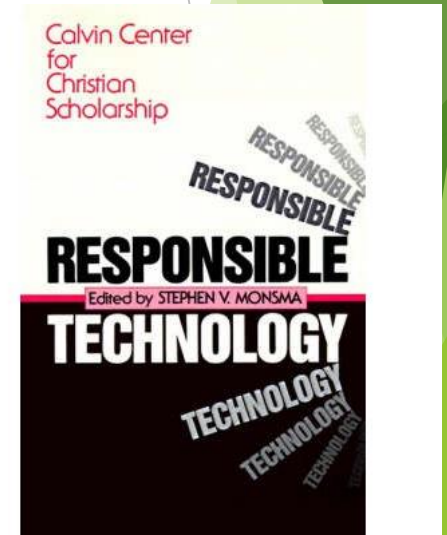
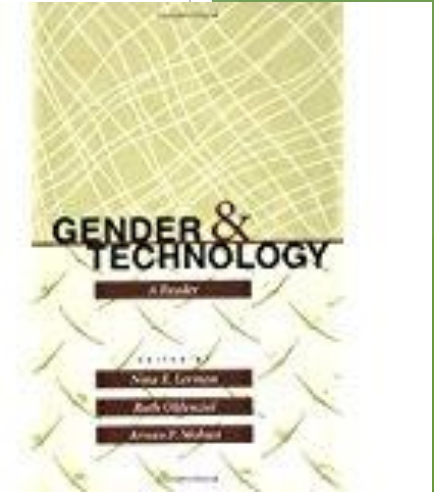
Is ‘What Can Be Done’ what should be done?

- ▶ Where to draw the line?
- ▶ Playing God? (Parker Palmer & Jeremy Rifkin)
- ▶ Human genes cracking
- ▶ Human cloning
- ▶ Transgenic species
- ▶ Eugenics
- ▶ Euthanasia
- ▶ Technology and human dignity (John Kilner in bioethics)



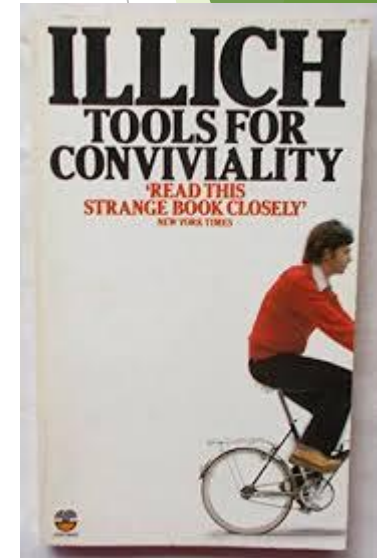
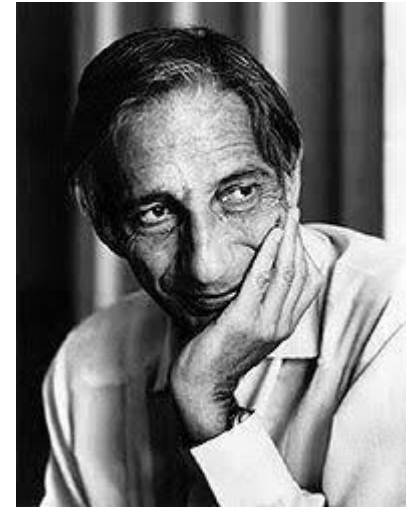
Any Gender Bias in Technology

- ▶ Male technology
- ▶ Female technology
- ▶ Characteristics of each: to conquer or to nurture, destroy or build community
- ▶ Responsible technology (Stephen Monsma)



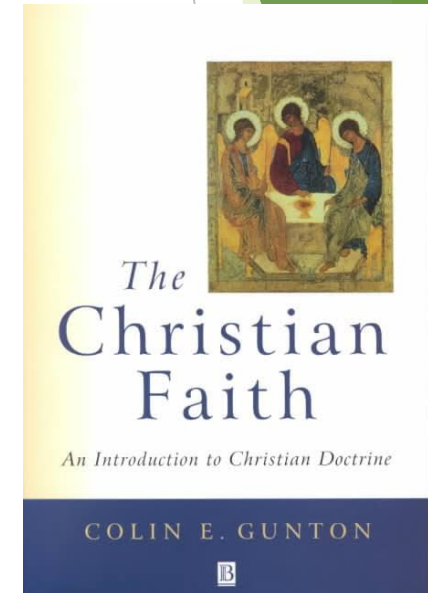
Convivial Tools

- ▶ What are the features of convivial technology?
- ▶ Why convivial tools are important? (Ivan Illich)



Biblical and Theological Views of Technology

- ▶ God co-create with media (Colin Gunton)
- ▶ Gardening Eden
- ▶ Tower of Babel
- ▶ Bazeliel and Temple
- ▶ Created order of God (Genesis 1-2, Psalm 19)
- ▶ Cultural mandate: Co-creation as ongoing process; all beings becoming toward fulfillment
- ▶ Redeeming culture (Romans 8; Matt 28)



Utopian and Dystopian Visions of Technology

- ▶ Ridley Scott's *Alien Series* and *Blade Runner*
- ▶ Stanley Kubrick's *2001: Space Odyssey*
- ▶ Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*
- ▶ *Terminator*
- ▶ *Ghost in the Shell*
- ▶ *Brazil*
- ▶ *Her*
- ▶ *Inception*



How to Redeem Technology?

- ▶ What is at stake here: Sovereignty of God and dignity of human (Walter Bruggemann)
- ▶ Invention: Design purpose and priority
- ▶ Regulation: Foresight
- ▶ Utilization and social impact
- ▶ Questioning technology (Martin Heidegger)
- ▶ Small is beautiful (E. F. Schumacher): Appropriate technology, intermediate technology
- ▶ Systematic abstinence
- ▶ Respect for folk tradition and cultural heritage

