

Are innovations a source of power?

(Axes: art and power; scientific innovations and responsibilities)

Today, many innovations are being developed. These innovations permit, the advancement of humanity both in the right and in the wrong way. Power is established in many ways: hierarchy, money, inventions, drugs. The one we are interested in is technological inventions, which can improve the lives of users but can also instil fear in people who are threatened by someone who has power. Fortunately, in this world not all inventions are at the service of power. Let us see if innovations are a source of power.

l) Innovations are a source of power

a) Types of innovations: military, medical, technological, social networks

Innovations are inventions that change the course of history. They can be useful in different areas, for example in the military, medical, technological or social networking sectors. There are different types of weapons in the world, such as nuclear weapons, firearms... These weapons are diverse and have been created by different nations. Medicines are also inventions that have been created by different countries. Vaccines are also inventions made by international manufacturers, e.g., most of the vaccines against Covid were innovated by Americans (AstraZeneca, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson), Pfizer on the other hand was made by Germans. In another field, technology is mostly created by English-speaking countries, particularly the Americans. For example, the Arpanet network is an American university project. Another example, Mark Zuckerberg is the creator of the social network Facebook, this creator is also American.

b) Power: how to have and keep power: Power through fear?

Power is a force exercised by a minority of people on the international world. This power can be exercised through the nation's politicians who enforce their principles around the world. China is a great power that is described as an authoritarian country and therefore its authority allows it to elevate its power on a global scale. Its military power is also abundant, since it has 2 million soldiers against 1.4 million in the United States, which is the largest world power, it may have more soldiers in its troops than China, but the distribution of its military bases is concentrated in all continents and its ships on all oceans. It also has 5,500 nuclear missiles and plenty of nuclear weapons.



To create this power, nations have appropriated territories and therefore a larger surface on the earth. To keep this power, one has to be strategic and place these soldiers, these assets, these protections on the right territories. The fact that a country has more or less territory increases its power and therefore creates fear in other nations.

c) The nuclear weapon is a threat to humanity; it is a weapon that scares people because it is destructive. Fear allows power, it is deterrence. Nuclear deterrence is a defensive doctrine based on a mutual fear of the consequences of using nuclear weapons first.

The United States is one of nine states that possess nuclear weapons at the beginning of the 21st century. It was the first country to develop nuclear weapons and the only one to use them in wartime in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



II) Innovations are not necessarily a source of power

a) Innovations that are useful but have no power

Innovations invented a long time ago are very rarely patented and therefore countries cannot use them as a power and take advantage of them because so many countries have them. Old inventions are still very useful, such as electricity, the bin or the sewer. The sewers put an end to many diseases by transporting the different wastewater underground, thus allowing a healthier life. Food can't be patented either because we don't know who invented what. Patented inventions are often superficial but still useful. Inventions that we use in our daily lives are often not subject to a patent. Innovations that in the past could serve a power because they were monopolised by a state, or a person are less and less monopolised because they are copied with a little change which reduces the power it gave to the person who had the monopoly. Like for example smartphones, everyone has different brands and shapes of smartphones.

b) Innovations that are only useful for everyday life

The whole goal of innovation is to innovate... with whatever is possible. Most inventions are invented to make someone's life easier. Sometimes they are ridiculous, like the hands-free burger set. They all have a definite purpose. Since the dawn of time a lot of inventions have been made for everyday life. The first computer for example for communication, or the X-ray for medicine without forgetting the internet which makes people's lives much easier. All our daily life is made of innovation, from the door of our house to our fridge. Everything was invented one day by someone who needed it.

As long as the innovation is not for one person and is useful for everyone, it can be considered relevant innovation: useful for the common good. If, on the other hand, the innovation is only useful for a minority of people, who can gain power, then the innovation is in the wrong hands.

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