

Chapter 19: Technological Advances and Economics in the Global Age: 19-1 Advances in Technology and Exchange After 1900
Book Title: The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History 7th Edition Update, AP® Edition
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19-1 Advances in Technology and Exchange After 1900

Technological innovation powered the economic expansion, especially after World War II. Some people viewed the sciences with mixed feelings, but new technologies aroused almost universal excitement. In North America even working-class people could afford some of the new products of inventors' ingenuity. Mass consumption in Europe lagged behind the United States, particularly after World War II, but science and technology were just as advanced, and public fascination with the latest inventions—the cult of the modern—was just as strong.

New technologies increased productivity and disseminated human creativity. They also altered the way people lived, worked, and played. Because most of the economic benefits were initially concentrated in the advanced industrialized nations, technology increased the power of those nations relative to the developing world. This has changed in the last decade with globalization and the rising industrial role of China. Even within developed nations, postwar technological innovations did not benefit all classes, industries, and regions equally. There were losers as well as winners.

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