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Dr. Hauser

Technology and Civilization II

Semester Themes

This semester has granted a great amount of knowledge and insight into history as of the beginning of the Industrial Era to the Commercial Era. Although half the semester has gone by in a flash, there is still have a good number of topics that have notes taken or excerpts read upon. Many of the teachers lecturing on Mondays have different ways of presenting information so the most important themes are show to be the most drawn out lectures. The themes will have a huge influence on the final project due to the fact of reference points and relation of topics. The two most important themes discussed so far in the semester are the Mass Media and the Automobile themes but the most important is the Mass Media because the scale of change the radio had on society was just astounding.

The emergence of Mass Media and Radio revolutionized how people could interpret sounds and information from over distances. A major part in globalization that practically annihilated space and time. Contributors like Joseph Henry and Reginald Fessenden who invented electromagnetic waves and the amplitude modulation (AM). Guglielmo Marconi was the brilliant mind that created the grounded antenna which could allow for low emission frequency waves to radiate in the area. In 1896, Marconi sent a message for over miles using his wireless telegraph. His radio was spread throughout the country and began to create broadcasting centers such as the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) and the National Broadcasting Company (NBC).

The Automobile Era is said to be the most consequential invention in the 20th Century due to the advancement that it made coming from trains. Railroads helped open minds about transportation and led to results such as the steam powered road carriage and the locomotive steamer. The high-wheel bicycle was the first iteration of transportation not inside of a system. Gottlieb Daimler built the world’s first four-wheel automobile in 1886 but it was too expensive for most Americans. Henry Ford began with his invention of his first car in 1896, a horseless carriage with one seat and a 4 horsepower, 2-cylinder engine; he named it the Quadricycle. After Daimler’s expensive automobile was created, Ford began pumping out his own models such as the Model A and Model T. These automobiles were perfect for imperfect roads and invited the production of General Motors.

The two eras both have put a step that has help humanity stride forward with inventions of the future.