

*Luddite:*

(1) a member of any of various bands of workmen in England (1811-16) organised to destroy manufacturing machinery

(2) a person who opposes the introduction of new technology

based on entry in *Macquarie Dictionary*, 2nd edn

After Richard Arkwright invented the spinning frame in 1769, hostile workmen tried to destroy the machines as rapidly as he could build them. There are literally thousands of such anecdotes; virtually every novelty carries with it its own tale of resistance. The ironworkers at Wyandotte burning down the first industrial laboratory in [the USA]; the men in the vertical chain gangs that passed the buckets of water up the mine shafts in the coal fields of England who destroyed the Newcomen engines that ran the new water pumps; and so forth. Even when the new devices displaced dreadful working conditions, as in these mine shafts, the incidence and persistence of opposition are very great.

– Morrison (1966)

It is easy to become emotionally involved in a new invention and so resent criticism of it even when that criticism, if heeded, would turn a failure into a success.

– Glegg (1969)

A recurring theme in the symbolism associated with technology seems to be the idea of human invention as mirroring and even rivalling nature's (and God's) creative energy. While automata, achieved an uncanny imitation of living forms, a bridge, a cathedral, or a pyramid represents inanimate cosmic structure.

– Pacey (1992)

In manufacture and in handicrafts, the worker uses a tool; in the factory, he serves a machine. In the former case, the movements of the instrument of labour proceed from the worker; but in the latter, the movements of the worker are subordinate to those of the machine. In manufacture, the workers are parts of a living mechanism. In the factory, there exists a lifeless mechanism independent of them, and they are incorporated into that mechanism as its living appendages.

– Karl Marx (1818-1883)