Prompt: Please reflect on the relationship between Progress, Technological Determinism, and Winner's "Do Artifacts Have Politics?" What tensions do you see? How do they resolve? Which do you believe?

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There are many types of technologies that exist and are continuously developed and to try and fit all those technologies into one extreme box will never result in a satisfactory answer. Slack and Wise argued against the numeric measurement of progress due to its tendency to only focus on quantitative forms of progress and overlook the qualitative nature of progress and thus resulting in a faulty progress measuring system. In much the same way I think that shoving all forms of technologies into one box and judging it in one way will result in an impossible task as there will always be some examples that are either overlooked and simplified or that go against the initial judgment. I believe that each different kind of technology has different kinds of political and social power and may or may not require different kinds of social structures to exist.

Weapons have immense power as they can end lives or save lives, sow fear and assert control or make people feel safe and maintain order. This is the kind of technology that requires strict and careful use by a centralized form of government or responsible people with safeguards in order to protect people and have them feel safe. However, how the use of weapons is perceived is subjective and differs from one person to another. Some will feel safe thanks to it while others will be fearful of it. But at its core weapons need to be regulated in some regard and kept away from bad actors who will use them in destructive manners. For example, nuclear weapons always need to be strictly regulated and can never be accessible to the entire population simply due to how it takes one person using it incorrectly for millions if not billions of lives perishing or severely altered. So in this cas weapons do need specific social structures to be in place to coexist with us.

On the other hand we have gadgets and machinery that do not necessitate a certain type of social structure to exist. The tomato harvester and farming equipment are one example of this. These machines of technology improve the work conditions and output of those that utilize them. However, they also come with other effects such as changing the types of crop being harvested to better match the machinery's harvesting ability and they increase output so that not as much land or man power is needed. These effects can be either positive or negative depending on who you ask which is a testament to its social and political power. On one hand some people might be put out of jobs, but on the other hand that land and workforce can now be utilized in potentially better ways. But in the end this form of technology can exist with multiple kinds of social structures, unlike weaponry.

Overall, technology is a vast field with many subtypes that fall in different places on the social political spectrum. Weapons need certain structures in place to exist and may force these structures to be built to accommodate it. Others like farming equipment do influence social structures but they can vary in effect depending on the community and how reliant they are on farming, its produce, and on the equipment. These variations make it extremely difficult to generalize anything about technology.