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Since early humans first tended fires and sharpened spears, we’ve sought to apply our knowledge to shape the natural world to suit our needs. Here we chronicle the promise and pitfalls of this basic human drive in all its present day manifestations – from robots and AI to nanotechnology and materials to devices, transportation, engineering and manmade disasters. Acoustical Society of America American Physical Society American Meteorological Society The Biophysical Society AVS: Science & Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing Inside Science is an editorially independent news service of the American Institute of Physics © 2022 American Institute of Physics About Inside Science | Contact Us | Privacy Policy | Reprint Rights