I. Instrumental Theory of Technology

A. Neoliberal Theory: the world is in the process (globalization) of becoming a capitalist utopia. The major forces driving globalization are free market capitalism, technology, and consumerism.

B. The Instrumental theory of technology aka common sense theory is an important theoretical component of neoliberal theory.

C. Instrumental Theory of Technology

1. Thesis: Technological development, techniques and tools, are the material embodiment of human progress, and a primary social force in creating a better world for all.

2. technology is an instrument or tool developed through human imagination and creativity

a. human imagination is guided/motivated by the need to solve problems or simply make a better world

b. technologies: hammer, plow, radio, car, cell phone, plane, Fordism, standardized test, smart classroom, 3D television, algorithms, AI

c. techniques: teaching, psychological counseling

2. technology is neutral with regard to ends

3. technology is universally applicable

a. solves the same problem and meets the same needs in every culture.

b. hammers pound nails in any culture

4. technology transfer:

a. technology can be "exported" to all societies

b. as it is transferred all societies with progress

5. technology will solve all problems

a. hunger: GMOs, pesticides, fertilizers

b. disease: drugs, diagnostic techniques, surgical tools and techniques, genetic therapy

c. communications: satellites, computers, cell phones,

internet

d. need for labor

e. technology will solve problems technology creates

6. Resistance to technology is reactionary: irrational

a. "backward peoples"

b. powerful interests that fear change