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 a theory of freedom.

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

1. Technology is tied to capitalism

2. Free market creates environment for progressive technological development

a. freedom for imagination and creativity to flourish.

b. reward for the innovative entrepreneur

c. resources to experiment and produce new discoveries

d. power to predict and control

3. Technologies are instruments, tool and techniques, developed by human beings to solve social problems, meet social needs, and improve society

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

AI

b. techniques: teaching, psychological counseling, predictive analytics

4. Technologies are universally applicable

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

b. hammers pound nails in any culture

5. Technology transfer

a. because of universality technology can be transferred to any society

b. all societies will embrace technologies as they recognize their progressive nature

c. those societies will progress and are examples of the

inevitability of globalization

6. 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. leisure: automation, robotic butlers, movies, television, internet,

e. smart everything, the "nest"

f. defense: satellites, lasers, drones, hydrogen bombs

g. technology will solve problems technology creates

7. Technologies are neutral with regard to ends for which they are used.

8. Resistance to technology is reactionary: irrational, TINA

a. "backward peoples"

b. powerful interests that fear change