

The sixties: 1942-1972:

1942: Unites States emerges from the Great Depression (FDR: “Dr. New Deal has retired. He has been replaced by Dr. win the War”) / End of war: entire industrial plant of the United States had been rebuilt from the ground up to become the world’s only state-of –the-art technological establishment. / US had no economic rivals: it had emerged from the world as king of the industrial world (plans for reviving European and Japanese economies)

1972: Oil shortages / First awareness by the general public of any industrial society of a serious ecological constraint / An unsettling lesson was about to be learned: “Things deplete. You can’t have it all. The sky is not the limit: the earth is.”

Counterculture:

“What I call the counter culture took shape between the two points in time as a protest that was grounded paradoxically not in failure, but in the success of a high industrial economy. It arose not out of misery but out of plenty; its role was to explore a new range of issues raised by an unprecedented increase in the standard of living.” (Roszak: *The Counter Culture*)

Questions and issues raised:

- Purpose of life
- Experience and consciousness
- Rationality and permanence of industrial growth
- Long term relations with the natural environment

Participants:

Dropouts of privileged middle class, malcontents, the “new class” or members of college-educated generation.

Main ideas:

- -“Technocracy”: Roszak (p.133¶1). Also read Mario Savio’s closing words of memorable speech, before Free Speech Movement demonstrators at Berkeley University, December 3, 1964. (end of page2)
- -Mumford’s “technological compulsiveness”: How does Mumford’s view stands against the so called scientific or progressive world-view?
- -Bigness & complexity: the realm of experts: “Nothing is any longer small or simple or readily available to the non-technical man” (Roszak p.134¶1)
- -Goodman’s critique of technology: Stating the facts of the critique:
 - Misdirection and abuse of scientific technology: a religious crisis (p.137¶1); (ref. to Protestant Reformation/ Luther in Rome in 1510 (p.142¶2) / historical crisis (shift in the system of belief—science and technology have become the *new creed* in secular Western society (p.139 ¶3) / with the “critique of technology” there is a fall into discredit of the “wonderful adventure” of the progressive world view. (p.139 ¶4) / need for a deep, complete transformation (revolution) in the relationship of science, technology and social needs, mentally and factually (p.140 ¶1)

- The military emergency (World War II) has created irreversible tendencies in the giant states (political means confronted with military ends) (p.138 ¶2)
- Funding research: selling off the future (students “go where the action is”) / secrecy / nationalism / scandalous social priorities / “much of the research is morally repugnant” / cutting back on basic research / (p. 138¶3)
- Societal ills (ref. to Orwell’s *1984*) that ensued (p.139¶5)
- Discuss alternatives presented: prudence, ecology and decentralization:
- “Technology is a branch of moral philosophy, not of science” (p.140 ¶2) / “technologists must organize themselves...” (p.140 ¶3) But do they all share the same views? Can they be regarded as independent from their political and ideological pieties?
- “The ecological wisdom of cooperating with Nature rather than trying to master her” (p.140 ¶4) / “technological modesty, fittingness, is not negative.” (p.140 ¶4)
- “Decentralization: “We seemed to have forgotten that Western science majestically progressed with no central direction whatever yet with exquisite international coordination” (p.141¶3)