

Know how & cultural context: From ideas to facts & from facts to ideas

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Abstract

Based on the know-how, technology is not only *culture but a powerful cultural engine*. A central element in some cultural revolutions, technology cannot be considered in isolation. Terms like utopia, progress, innovation, frontiers, and revolutions are briefly considered. The exposure will mainly be from an engineering perspective. We record certain facts. Because not so well known, several of them are taken from the engineering history of Spain. Moreover, some questions are raised as food for thought. Certainly, we are living in times of (r)evolutions, and new objectives for the humankind and the “blue planet” should be designed and implemented.

Keywords: Technological progress, technological predictions, engineering, cultural inertia, limits, revolutions.