

Technocracy 101 Videos Transcribed – In Sections

1. About Technocracy

Technocracy was founded in 1933 as a membership organization. It was principally founded based on research and education. The organization is not a religious organization and it is not opposed to religion. The organization is non-political; the only real restriction on membership is that active members of political parties, i.e. people who hold office or are in the public forum, are not allowed to belong to the organization. Technocracy chose as its symbol the Monad, and that was intended to symbolize the balance between man and his environment. The words ecology and sustainability were not around at the inception of Technocracy, and Technocracy referred to these ideas as the Dynamic Equilibrium. [0.53](#)

2. Ages of the Earth

The human race has not been on the earth for a very long time. The universe itself, according to Hubble's measurements, has been around for about 13.7 billion years. The Earth has been around for about one-third of that time, around 4.5 billion years. There has been life on Earth for at least 3.5 billion years, of course, initially, most of that in the oceans. The Earth itself has had an oxygen atmosphere for about 1.7 billion years, and once it had oxygen in its atmosphere, that permitted an ozone level to form, which permitted life on the land to begin. The longest and most successful form of life on earth were the dinosaurs which were here for about 165 million years. The human race, or more accurately, the hominids have been around for about 4 million years or so. The most successful form of hominids was Homo erectus which was around for about 2 million years. Homo sapiens have been around for about 200,000 years, and all of recorded human history is within the last 7, 000 years. [2.07](#)

3. World Population

World Population growth is indicative of major social change. From 1650 to 1980 world population has increased 8 times. And those at the upper end of that curve are living far better than those at the beginning. [0.21](#)

4. Energy Growth

Technocracy has found that the growth in human population has been parallel to the growth in energy consumption. The first major increase in energy consumption by humans occurred with the invention of agriculture about 10-12 thousand years ago. The second increase began about 7, 000 years ago with the development of urban civilizations and the forms of social organization that now exist. What we are seeing now is a new explosion of growth in energy consumption signaling a new stage of human social organization. Technocracy has called this level a High-Energy civilization. [0.47](#)

5. Matter and Energy

There are basically only two things in the universe, matter and energy. Thermal energy is simply heat, mechanical energy is the force that propels a car or anything that moves, kinetic energy is energy contained in anything in motion, potential energy is the stored capacity to do work, electrical energy is what is used to power everything in a house or office, magnetic energy is used to store information on a computer disc, chemical energy is what powers a battery, nuclear energy is useful for a variety of purposes, not all of them good. A good, although not complete definition of energy, is simply: the capacity to do work. The end result of all energy queue transformation

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is waste heat that is dissipated into the environment. It is not possible to convert all energy into useful work. A percentage will always end up as waste heat. Technocracy defined extraneous energy as energy other than human or animal. It is extraneous energy that has dramatically increase in the last 200 years or so. This really took off with the invention of Watts's steam engine in 1763. James Watts did not invent the first steam engine, but he made them workable. Today, the installed electrical energy on North America is equal to approximately 40 servants for every person at the flip of a switch. The electric power system on North America is the largest integrated system ever constructed by man. [1.55](#)

6. Extraneous Energy

Technocracy has found that the conversion of extraneous energy into work is directly related to the rate of social change. What this really means is that people's labor is being replaced with extraneous energy. Production increases as more extraneous energy is applied to the productive process. Man-hours per unit of whatever it is that is being produced declines making the product cheaper. As the cost of the product declines more man-hours are needed even though the per unit amount declines until demand begins to level off, at which point the total man-hours begins to decline. Production becomes increasingly automated and fewer people are needed. In 1850 the agriculture field employed 60% of U.S workers, today that rate is under 2%.

The automotive industry is typical of most U.S. manufacturing industries. In 1993 GM announced the intention to eliminate 90,000 jobs, 1/3 of all of GM's jobs. During the decade coming on top of the elimination of 250,000 jobs since 1978. In the service industry, the telephone industry eliminated 179,000 jobs between 1981 and 1988. In the book "The End of Work" by Rifkin in 1949, only 6% of the cotton crop was harvested mechanically. By, 1964, it was 78%, eight years later, 100% of the cotton crop was picked by machine. This generated a huge wave of poor people leaving the South for anyplace with jobs. The insurance industry overall employed about 2.3 million people in 2008. The Health insurance industry in particular does not provide health care; hospitals, doctors, and nurses provide that. The function of insurance is to spread risk among a large group of people.

Often, people who believe they are covered, find that when it is needed, they are not covered. The insurance industry creates more risk than existed in the first place. The only service the industry provides is collecting money and employing people. Rather than being a service industry, it is more like an anti-service industry.

The U.S. spends nearly as much on defense as the rest of the world put together. It maintains no fewer than 720 bases in other countries. It also has 11 aircraft carrier groups. Each carrier group is a fleet in itself. The closest nation to the U.S. is England which has 2 carrier groups. Is the U.S. defending itself, or is it defending its Price System? [3.26](#)

7. Meaning

Well, what does all this really mean? The fundamental premise of Technocracy is that the application of energy and technology to our social system will ultimately destroy the Price System. All of this is what is driving our standard of living. For the first time in history average people can live very well without having to work hard for it. [0.26](#)

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8. Price System

The problem is that we are trying to operate a Price System. A Price System is any system that distributes goods by commodity evaluation. A price system distributes goods and services by Price through wages. [0.21](#)

9. Scarcity

A Price System needs scarcity to function. A thing really only has value if it is scarce. Without jobs a Price System cannot function. Technocracy has stated that all forms of the Price System will collapse due to the pressure of applied technology. All forms of a Price System will collapse. Fascism, Capitalism, Socialism, Communism, any system that uses money in any form will no longer be able to function. Technocracy has done no more than state the obvious. If a Price System is going to collapse, we will have to find a way to organize and operate a society without one. It seems rather doubtful that the people of North America are willing to starve to death amidst one of the world's greatest supermarkets. Technocracy is the only design for a functional advanced civilization in North America. [1.09](#)

10. Requirements

What are some of the requirements for the operation of a society such as a Technocracy? You want a balanced load operation. What that really means is that you calculate over a period of time, how much of a particular product is going to be used. And then you simply even out your production so that you are producing what it is that people need. There are sometimes when they don't want things and that way you can run the absolute minimum number of plants that you need to produce any particular type of product. Also you want an optimum quality of goods and services. We want an efficient use of equipment and personnel. We want a maximum conservation of resources. We need an excellent educational system. We need a high degree of public health. [0.58](#)

11. Energy Certificate

An energy accounting system would replace the feedback function of money. Energy is the most fundamental constituent of anything physical. Feedback function needs to be provided for. The various components of a system have to be able to accurately record, what is required by them as well as recording what they have done in commonly recognizable measurements. Every citizen would be provided with an Energy Certificate as a right of citizenship. The purchasing power, would be large, but not unlimited. You would not be able to purchase an airplane. [0.54](#)

12. Motivation

This implies that people, in what terms of what we think of today. There are two major motivations for human behavior. Incentive and Initiative. Incentive is an extrinsic motivation. No one was born needing someone else to motivate them. Rewards actually cause people to dislike what they need to do to get the reward. There is much evidence of that¹. Initiative is an intrinsic motivation. Something you do because you like to do it. A price system is organized around Incentive and Competition. A non-price system will have to be organized around Initiative and Cooperation. Where would we get all of these people willing to work for nothing? When you don't have a price system you will no longer have banks, insurance companies, brokerage firms, tax collectors, or any of the trappings that go with money. Technocracy proposes that people

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should work a 4 hours work day, 4 days a week, on a staggered schedule, with 78 days of continuous vacation days a year. Technocracy also proposes that people should begin work at 25 and retire at 40. A question was asked in a classroom – “who would take out the garbage? Who would do the dirty jobs?” I was trying to formulate an answer, when someone in the classroom answered – “If it a job that has to be done; If everyone took a turn at a job, no one could complain?” The answer is indicative of real solutions, to real problems provided by those implementing the new system. The establishment of a non-price social system would immediately produce a much simpler society. Financial Institutions and manipulations consume large amounts of what is currently involved in social operations. With all of that gone, far fewer people would be needed to operate society. [2.31](#)

13. Structure

Along with a collapse of the price system would go the financial and political super structure that sits on top of society in a price system. On one side of the chart we might have the Industrial sequences, steel, autos, computers and so forth. On the other side we would have the service sequences, such as education, health and entertainment. A person from each sequence would sit on the Continental Control Board. The function of a Continental Control Board would be budgeting for each planning cycle, how much energy would be required to operate and maintain the social system. They would also have to decide how many new structures and new equipment would be needed, allowance would be made for new research and so forth. Technocracy Incorporated has no assumption of power theory for the simple reason that those that will be needed in the new system, will have to be the best qualified for the position that operates the systems that keep us all alive. [1.03](#)

14. Position

How would people be chosen to fill positions in such a system? If a vacancy appears within the hierarchy structure – those within the governed group would know who would be best prepared to fill the position. From among their group they would choose three, or several who they felt would fit that position. From those selected, the people that that position reports to would choose the person that they felt best qualified. How would decisions be made in such a society? An environmental impact statement, examines all the impacts of every type of surrounding a particular decision and outlines them in detail. A risk benefit analysis is then performed that quantifies all possible directions and options. This is a proactive process. Those who would be involved or affected would be actively sought out, not simply notified of what has happened. The process would be completely open. [1.10](#)

15. Time and the Human Brain

The two major difficulties are time and the way human brains work. Our complex society cannot stand the disruption caused by some sort of revolution. Once those operating systems have been scattered or dissipated in some way reconstituting the system would be very difficult. [0.26](#)

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16. Ingrained Price System

The operation of a Price system has become so ingrained into our thinking that we are incapable of imagining a society without it. Money was invented by humans. Now we have been completely captured by it. It controls us rather than being a tool to facilitate social functions. Our society is so completely dominated by it, that many people think that it is all that matters. We have become addicted and enslaved. [0.34](#)

17. Technology or Not?

There are those who feel, at least by what we propose to do, that if technology is causing our system to fail then we would be better off without the technology. With technology, North America is supporting over 300 million people. Without that technology the same area was supporting possibly 5-15 million at a stone-age level. It is clear that without the technology, North America would be facing a disaster greater than a nuclear war. To make things even worse, the skills the natives had prior to the technology introduced at the time of colonization no longer exist, except in miniscule capacities, among the population. [0.43](#)

18. Blind Spots

While human beings are very smart and inventive. They have blind spots that are serious. People have great difficulties seeing problems that accumulate slowly. Our senses are attuned to the sharp crack of a twig in a quiet dark forest. We would have been much better off if we had gotten rid of the Price System when Technocracy made its proposal in the 1930s. In the interim we have dissipated our resources to a very large extent. A price system wants profits, the way they get them is to consume as fast as possible with the maximum amount of waste. When we look at the proposals from activists we see all types of 'fixes' for the price system. This is exactly what Roosevelt did in the 1930s. What we have seen in the last few decades is the dismantling of these fixes by those making the most money, because they wanted more. Fixing the price system is similar to 'fixing' a shattered window by gluing the pieces back together. [1.19](#)

19. Conclusion

Humanity has a chance now to move to a whole new plane of social organization. No constitution would be needed because the means of controlling people, money, would no longer exist. The only way one could distinguish himself from his fellows is by becoming an outstanding contributing member of society. With the end of the Price System goes about 95% of any reason to do harm to another, but plenty of good reasons to do no harm [0.36](#)

¹Kohn, Alfie. *Punished by Rewards - The Trouble with Gold Stars, Incentive Plans, A's, Praise, and other Bribes*. New York: Mariner Books, 1999.

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Praising our Children: Manipulation or Celebration? by Jan Hunt