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Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology

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According to Postman society has given up its identity to technology. Technology has become an integral part of life, in many ways making it easier. It acts like a friend making life cleaner, easier, and longer. Postman states, "It is a kind of friend that asks for trust and obedience, which most people are inclined to give because its gifts are truly bountiful. But of course, there is a dark side to this friend" (page xii) We become a slaves to the friend/enemy relationship. On the friendship side we gain communication bringing the world closer, inventions that make our life easier, and information at the touch of a button. Unfortunately along with the good comes the negative side of the coin. Technology has opened Pandora's Box of possibilities. Without a check mechanism it is being used to decay morality. Examples of this would be the large number of porn and hate sites on the Internet. Technological advancements have streamlined the workplace causing many workers to lose their jobs.

A good question was posed on page 11, "to whom will the technology give greater power and freedom? And whose power and freedom will be reduced by it? For example, advancements where a machine can do the job

of a human is powerful to the company owner yet detrimental to the person who previously held the job. Technology has increased our methods of communications. People can buy, sell, pay bills, and much more online. This should be positive, yet the possibility of identity theft increases with Internet use.

Technology, like other shifts in paradigms alters the character of our lives and how we think and react. It is a good thing as long as we are able to use it as a tool for guiding not as the all powerful ruler. Other tools such as television have come along and changed our culture and how we view it. Change is inevitable and hopefully for the good. Good leaders help show the way to positive and continual change. They facilitate the smooth transition of changes to a culture. Without change we would still be living in caves and communicating with others through drawings on the cave walls.

In the final analysis, it all comes down to how we handle technology and its various uses in our lives. Technology will change a person's life but how it affects it can be tempered like steel. We shape our lives by choices. The positive and negative affects of technology can be tempered through understanding the power it has over our culture. We must allow new technologies to become part of our culture but do it with open eyes and

mind. We can't allow Postman's idea of Technopoly to exist instead we need to take control and make technology and its pros and cons a part of our culture without abdicating control of our own futures.