

# Technology in the classical era

Technology



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The classical Era. The Hans and Romans had varying attitudes upon technology like centralization and use of tools and the view of whether or not people of an educated stature should even be using them, the necessity and purpose of Infrastructure, and other advancements that either helped by increasing production levels or rates, or, they hindered by decreasing production or efficiency.

The documents below help splay the views and attitudes on public projects in the works of infrastructure. Document one, written by a Han government official in the early second century B. C. E. , provides a strong need for public infrastructure in the way of the necessity for flood prevention construction. This view is only one of many other possible views we could have heard from, ranging from: the common wealth, all the way to royalty.

Though the point of view of this document was clearly that there was an obvious necessity for a flood prevention plane, some of the other views we could have heard from like say the royalty for instance, may have not really noticed that there was a need for a flood prevention plane because they had to live with the destruction that the floods caused.

The Han official may have put up a request that flood planes be built because a lot of soldiers are not well housed and so they are on the lower grounds with the common wealth people and have experienced the floods first hand, so he would be looking out for his soldiers, keeping their moral up, and over all just keeping as many alive as he could.

He could have also been trying to pep their moral up in the sense that if there was a flood prevention plan, there would be no need for the soldiers to

worry about their family and their loved ones, seeing that all the foot soldiers were not wealthy people nor did they come from wealthy families, compared to the majority of the generals and officers. Document six, written by Plutarch, a Greek-born Roman citizen and high official, describes the construction of roads in the second-century B. C. E. Under the rule of political leader Gallus Gracius as he anxiously built roads not only for utility but also for beauty.

It explains the importance of building the roads to Callus and how well mapped out it was, as the saying goes, "All roads lead to Rome." It displays how the dedication of one aspect of an empire can impact society so greatly, it shows how much of a necessity order is. Plutarch may have described the road construction in extensive detail because it was something tremendous back then, something that was thought of as high quality. Document eight describes the process of turning stream water into drinking water and the enormous stretch of the many uses it has.

The governor of Britain, Frontinus, also a Roman general, may have spoken of the aqueducts and viewed them as some of the few monumental structures that were actually useful, or at least had a use, unlike the pyramids and such. For the attitudes towards tools and men being in workshops, the views were accumulating towards the view that workshops were not for the clever nor for the gentlemen. Page Break In document five, Cicero. An upper-class Roman politician leader in the first century workshops don't have, and never will have anything enlightening about them.

This displays the fact that the attitudes are very much original and from a direct source. Cicero may have said that it was a vulgar and non-enlightening choice to work in a workshop because those sort of jobs are never clean, are all hands on, attract the common folk, and because gentlemen are not supposed to do those sorts of hands on things, it brings them lower, they should have someone do it for them. Document seven describes what the speaker speculates about who invented tools, seeing them as nimble and sharp but neither great nor elevated.

The whole point of this comment is the fact that it revolves around the idea of an opinionated and varied attitude of the speaker. Seneca, an upper-class Roman philosopher and adviser to Emperor Nero in the first century C. E. may have said that the person was neither great nor elevated because a great or elevated person would just have someone else do it for them, it's not the fact that he made tools that made the work more efficient than by hand, it's the fact that he was even doing that work in the first place.

Most advancements are done in the best interests of both parties, though a couple advancements could hinder one side but help the other. In document two, it is clear that the advancement only helped one side. The government replaced the worker's hand-crafted sturdy and long-lasting tools with cheaply made brittle tools made in prison camps. Ultimately, it hindered the government too because it took efficiency away from the workers in the same given amount of time.

This advancement decreased efficiency of the workers and productivity levels, but made it a lot cheaper for the government and therefore gained

them a bit more wiggle room with income, which in turn hindered the entire process, which ties into the two categories of advancements in the thesis. Human Guan, a Han government official, may have said that now the salt and iron is sold at high prices and that some of the poorest peasants now had no choice but to work there, because, it shows how great of an impact a government's choices can have on people.

Document three on the other hand, was a very beneficial advancement, employing nature to do man's work. It increased productivity and there for helped all parties. Human Tan may have spoken of this in such a supportive way because it not only helped productivity, but it also elevated the empire's stature. In document four, It Shih has created a water powered blowing engine. It definitely helped them on their way to establishing their name in the top empires.

The writer may have spoken of the new invention so well, because it was an enormous advancement back then. On the other hand, It might help to hear from the working class because those are the people that actually used the tools, They have first hand experience and they also know the efficiency of the new tools compared to the old tools or the times before the advancements compared to the time after the advancement.

It might also be helpful to hear from foreigners because if the tools are efficient, word will have reached the foreign countries about the advancements, and if they have heard of them, it proves that they really are good tools. It might help to hear from women because they will hear to complaints of their husbands who use the new tools or they will hear the

gossip from other wives and so it gives you almost a 3-D perspective instead of a 2-D one because now you see all the sides of the situation instead of just the black and white.