

The pillar of 20th Century

(summary)

What is the main inheritance of 20th Century and which technological inventions are the most important for civilization changes? I give my contribution to widespread analyses of information scientists, anthropologists and other social researchers.

Four important aspects are thoroughly discussed:

- 1) The nature of 20th Century technologies and their tripartite classification: *communication; destruction; manipulation...*
- 2) Key role of computers in cultural changes... Critical approach to current conclusions and ranking of computers *among* the most important technologies of last century...
- 3) History of *computing* and modern communication tools with strong emphasis on:
 - a) Concept of computer as calculating machine belongs to much earlier centuries and, especially, to the first half of 20th Century. In that sense it is neither revolutionary nor deserves high ranking place in our civilization...
 - b) But computer is not one amongst big inventions of our times – it is *The* most important, representing the real pillar of the 20th Century? What is the root of this apparent contradiction?
 - c) The truth is that computer underwent such radical transformation that we finally have completely new “instrument” – communicational *commuter* – i.e. the device which *substitutes* almost every known communicational invention of our culture (linguistic and other approaches are demonstrated...)
- 4) The final conclusion is: the Man, the product of Nature, is now its producer. Apart from natural reality (lat. *res*, thing) we more and more live in *CREALITY*, human, interactive, *noetic*, reality... *Commuters*, Internet etc... are signs of such radically changed, new human conditions...