

# The Role of the Greek Term *Techné* in the Area of Today's Government of Information Technology and Technological Progress

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**Abstract:** *This paper will show the significance of the Greek term *techné*, in today's world of technique and technology. In this direction, it is necessary to understand the meaning of the mentioned term as a fundamental term that gives meaning to today's term technique. In addition, the term *techné*, shows the meaning of the terms originally associated with it, namely knowledge, technique and intelligence. The main goal of the research here is to show that the concept of, *techné*, in addition to being one of the fundamental concepts of philosophy, is a concept whose meaning we must understand if we want to successfully approach understanding the phenomenon of today, i.e., the rule of information technology and technological progress. All of the above means returning to the source of the term *techné*, and Martin Heidegger's idea of the technique, which is the question that preoccupies everyone on the planet today.*

**Keywords:** intelligence, knowledge, phenomenology, *techné*, technique

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## INTRODUCTION

Whenever such specific topics are dealt with, we must take into account the fact that it is a very broad field of research when researching and wanting to achieve an understanding of the Greek term *techné*, then it must be taken into account in the context of today's reign of technological progress and information technology, as well as a wide spectrum the meanings of the Greek term *techné* from the time of Plato and Aristotle, through Heidegger's critique of technique to the present day. Parallel to this is the fact that philosophy's interest in the questions and problems of technology did not arise when the philosophy of technology itself, but much earlier in the period of ancient Greece, using the term *techné*, the one that gives meaning to today's term technique.

*It cannot be denied that technology has not been considered at least relevant and sometimes even central to these issues. Therefore, our current blindness to this fact is a strange thing. It is strange and interesting because philosophy deals with man and the world as well as the relationship between them, and today's world is, by all accounts, technological, or, to put it best possible, that the concept of*

*technology permeates modern thinking and that technology is simply an applied science and that is as such covered by the philosophy of science, at least in an implicit way. (Casey, (1986).*

Technology, technical achievements and technological development, which challenge us again and again and transform our world, form an integral part of our reality, our possibilities and responses to modern technical challenges, success in performing work tasks, but also daily communication and monitoring of the process of technical achievements. The foundation of modern technology and the understanding of the meaning of knowledge and reality has a metaphysical foundation that we need to think about, and that is the meaning of the term *techne* as it was understood and used by the Greeks, because this understanding of *techne* is the horizon for understanding the phenomenon of technology. The result of such an understanding is the necessary distinction between the terms *techne*, which determines the question of knowledge and truth but also of our entire reality, and the term *technique*, which is an integral part of the reality of modern man and society in terms of use, all with the aim of understanding the new age and man's position in the modern world. Therefore, *technique*, which itself is not production, but only the use of what is produced, cannot determine or understand man's fundamental characteristic, which is in the possibility of production, as well as human reality that is shown through action and production, which are the basic determinants of the meaning of the term *techne*.

**Important questions about the phenomenon of technology in the modern world were raised at the time of Plato's and Aristotle's teachings on the term *techne*?**

The term whose meaning and understanding must be brought closer to today's world, the world of technology, is the Greek term *techne*, given that the term *techne* is the one to which the term today's *technique* owes its meaning. Understanding both the meaning and significance of *techne* (τέχνη) primarily means returning to the originality of the word itself, that is, to the Greek meaning of the word *techne*. To understand here then means to go back, but at the same time to build the determinants of distinguishing the meaning of the word *techne*, from what this word meant to what it means today. Any other option of using the term *techne* in such a way that it is used synonymously with the term *technique* is wrong and also inadmissible. "Without participant observation, a philosopher could never deal with the development phases of technologies, which I claim are equally, if not more, important than the response phases that deal with already existing technologies and their effects." (I. Don (2004). To understand the meaning of *techne* is to understand how Greek people understood art, and this understanding is reflected in the resourcefulness and ability to produce. Thus, the Greeks understood art as a skill, as knowing, as an ability or set of abilities that enable creation and production. Such an understanding of art, the understanding of what the Greeks meant by the term *techne*, refers to man's ability, that is, to man's ability to produce. In this way, *techne* does not mean exactly the same thing as art today. *Techne* implies production skills, knowledge for making an object. Thus, in understanding *techne* (a way to know, to know), a necessary understanding of the concepts of *episteme* and *phronesis* (as a type of knowledge) is required. The answer to the question of what knowledge is not in listing individual knowledge. "But it was not a question of what the knowledge refers to or how much knowledge there is. Because I did not ask with the desire that you list them for me, but to find out what the essence of knowledge is: (Plato, 1979). Therefore, the essential determinant is precisely the reference to the originality of the term *techne*, because originality can only be interpreted by returning to the source of the term. "When you have bound the representations, they become knowledge, and

after that they remain constant. That's why knowledge is valued more than a correct performance". (Plato, 1970).

### **Interpretation of the original works leads us to the original meaning**

The research of the meaning of the term *techne* is possible exclusively by analysing the works of Plato and Aristotle, but also the works of M. Heidegger, in which he returns to the definition and meaning of the Greek term *techne*. *Techne* is a word that means both art and craft to the Greeks. Here *techne* should be understood as a way of knowledge, and in this sense *techne* is closest to the Greek term *episteme*.

Contrary to Plato's definition, Aristotle defines rhetoric as a skill and thus provides an unavoidable definition of persuasion methods: "Of the methods of persuasion, some are asthenic, others are technical. I call those that we didn't find ourselves, but already existed before, such as witnesses, statements, forced by torture, written contracts and the like, Athenian. I call technical those that we can construct with a method and our efforts, and the former should be used, the latter researched". (Aristotle, 1997). When it comes to research that contributes to the meaning of the term *techne*, you should always keep in mind that it is the term that gives meaning to today's term technique. In the ancient understanding of art or skill, there was no place for such a possibility that "fine arts" could constitute a special group of arts, unlike crafts. Likewise, art, as defined by Aristotle in *Physics*, speaks of the purposefulness of things. Thus, for Aristotle, art is the ability to create, to produce something with an accurate understanding. Thus, defining the art of production includes both knowledge and craft, which is not utility and the ability to do something, because utility is not equated with knowledge but with *techne*, i.e., skill. "On the whole, art partly completes what nature cannot complete, and partly imitates it". (Aristotle, 1987).

As *techne* means managing something according to certain rules and regulations, it can be used as a word that refers to our practical ability. In ancient times, *techne* was understood as *episteme*, that is, both words, *techne* and *episteme*, are names for knowledge. *Techne* is the kind of knowledge by which we know how to produce something according to certain production rules. For the Greeks, *techne* therefore means having knowledge and that kind of knowledge that enables us to navigate something according to certain rules, and this understanding, or the way the Greeks understood *techne*, refers to our overall practical ability, to all that what we can do on real things. "Let there be five ways by which the soul attains the truth, and these are: art, science, prudence, wisdom, intelligence". (Aristotle, 1958). Therefore, this production, in addition to being in accordance with the rules and regulations, is also in accordance with proper reasoning. The necessity of interpreting these words to understand the meaning of *techne* is shown in the definition of what *techne* is, which is skill, knowledge, art which is based on knowledge of rules and thus is knowledge and is action in creation which (action) deals with *phronesis*. Therefore, the essential determinant is precisely the reference to the originality of the term *techne*, because originality can only be interpreted by returning to the source of the term. "When you have bound the representations, they become knowledge, and after that they remain constant. That's why knowledge is valued more than a correct performance". (Plato, 1970).

(Martin Heidegger also returns to this term *techne* because he wants to show the essence through differentiation. Art, mastery, knowledge, production is the basic definitions of the term *techne*, which

gives meaning to today's term technique, i.e., distinguishes it from everything that is use and what is already produced, which reigns in technology.)

### **The possibility of implication of the meaning of the term *techne* in concrete human reality**

Technique and technology, the fact is, preoccupy man and society today, where the Greek term *techne* is unjustifiably used synonymously with the term technique and technology. Philosophical schools of the 20th century provided frameworks and contributed to defining the content of the philosophy of technique and technology. Different philosophical approaches based on different views on the philosophy of technology, with an accent on certain aspects of the philosophy of M. Heidegger, should serve to understand the process and orientation in the field of the philosophy of technology and man's relationship with technology, with the application and clarification of the philosophical vocabulary, where in the first place one thinks on defining the term *techne* (Details in: Rahimić Ramić (2024).

From the realm of reality, there is an open question about man's position both in the construction and participation in reality and in his relationship to the world of technology and the galloping progress and development of new technology. The demands of the technical world and the challenges of new technologies are increasingly entering our daily lives and the performance of work and work tasks. The production and understanding of reality and our relationship to it is based on a concept whose basic meaning refers to the skill of production, it is a practical human skill and the application of principles involved in the production of objects and the achievement of goals, which is the possession of knowledge but also the method of knowledge by which we know how to produce. The understanding of the sphere of reality always seems to be determined at most by finitude; "And she (the soul) thinks best when nothing confuses her, neither hearing, nor sight, nor pain, nor any kind of pleasure, but limits herself to the greatest extent... When death comes to a man, he will die, it seems to me, that which is mortal in him, and that which is immortal will remain whole and unspoiled and go away having escaped death". (Plato, 1970).

These fundamental questions of human reality were undoubtedly raised in the definitions of the term *techne*, that is, in the philosophy primarily of Plato and Aristotle, i.e., already in the ancient period. We must stick to this meaning, if we want to successfully investigate the problem of technique and technology today, as well as its influence on man's complete reality. It is an understanding that shows that *techne* did not originate in the sphere of technique but in the sphere of knowledge and that the proximity of the term *techne* to the concepts of *episteme*, *aletheia* and *phronesis* results in an understanding of *techne* in the manner of craft and art. From the sphere of knowledge, in which it originated, *techne* can be transferred as a skill, while from the sphere of technique, i.e., use, it is not possible to transfer it as a skill.

"The first explicit title that uses the term philosophy of technology comes from Ernest Kapp's (1808-1896) book *Fundamentals of the Philosophy of Technology from 1877*". (Ihde, Don (2004). Today's transformations of scientific fields, which are realized by technique and technological development, should be analysed by an opinion that brings knowledge about how to deal with technique and technological advances, which increasingly influence the formation of our image of the world of reality.

### **Does modern technology hide the truth and production?**

Are we on the way to establishing a free relationship with technology in which we will produce ways to respond to technique and technological achievements, (with the important note that technique is the totality of the devices themselves?).

If we want to protect our human essence, production, we are directed to the necessary dealing with the origin and development of these questions, the metaphysical foundations, with which we will build the path of preservation and development of thinking, action and production threatened by the sphere that is the mere use of what has already been produced, which is shown by the relationship of techne and techniques.

How necessary and how important it is to think about the issue of modern technology and technical achievements in the modern age is shown by the fact that today's man can hardly imagine his life without technology, and how much the issue of technology and its achievements cannot be ignored or bypassed.

Such research enables us to talk about a possible answer to an important question: is the philosophy of technique and technology one of the major philosophical problems and do we necessarily deal with it today? In any case, techne has an important advantage, which is that it is based on what is episteme and what is true. The new age, as a new dimension, reveals the essential determination of technique in its setting, not in technical achievements. "The inevitable specialization of science decisively uses all technical aids more and more. Specialization is a consequence of technology, more precisely, the fact that new century science is research and that the characteristic of modern science is definitely based on the nature of modern technology that will prevail". (Heidegger, 2009).

### **Implication to Research and Practice**

One of the most topical topics today is the topic of technique and the progress of new technologies and their relationship with man and the world in which he builds life and reality. In this thematic framework, based on the philosophy of technique and technology, the text analyses and questions the meaning of the concept of technique, which originated in the sphere of the Greek term techne, and man's position in the new age.

Different philosophical approaches from different views on the philosophy of technique and technology (i.e. phenomenology, hermeneutics, ethics, existentialism, political philosophy, etc.) open, new, questions in the settings of which it is possible to recognize questions of technique and technology as questions that are originally and inextricably linked to philosophy itself, but also the possibility of a more integrated approach in the fields of informatics and philosophy, artificial intelligence and philosophy, medicine and philosophy, law and philosophy and similar terms that can be cited in the public space and education process.

### **CONCLUSION**

Taking into account all of the above, it is clear that future research in public space and education is, so to speak, doomed to the content and meaning of the term techne, a sphere from which it is only possible

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to analyse the significance and meaning of the topic of technology as the most prevalent topic today and the progress of new technologies.

In addition to examining the meaning of *techne*, the world, nature, truth, knowledge and science in understanding the meaning of human reality, and the related meaning of technology, it is necessary to rely on the metaphysical foundations of human essence and the new age as such. In this sense, the difference between producing and making is the difference in understanding the meaning of man's essence and reality.

In modern technology, making and presenting, as ways of being, are ways of exposing being. On the other hand, production is what leads from the hidden to the visible and unconcealed. Therefore, technical disclosure is not production, because what production brings is the openness of being in which there is truth. Therefore, science, as an essential determinant of the new century, is not the original occurrence of truth, but only one type of study of an already open field in which truth is. Science, therefore, can study, investigate and represent what the original truth is and what it means. "Why is it what happens and not even nothing? So, for us, by position, first, first as the widest, then as the deepest, and finally as the most original piranha". (Heidegger, 1997).

### Future Research

Questions of the philosophy of technique and technology are questions that represent one of the biggest philosophical problems through the fundamental concept of philosophy - *techne*. In the context of the application of the principles of the philosophy of technology to today's determinants of science and the world, we should put first the question of knowledge and scientific contributions in the field of education, improvement and development, by applying, here, the defined and clarified concept of the meaning of the Greek term *techne*. On the basis of the aforementioned determinants of the meaning of the term *techne*, it is possible to further develop interpretations of the point of view about technique, thereby ensuring a misunderstanding of both technique and the term *techne*, i.e., ensuring that today's term technique is not confused with the meaning of the term *techne*, which ultimately represents the possibility of researching the basic features of human reality. The research of reality is the research that is primarily related to man and his possibilities. In this respect, research into the meaning of the term *techne* is, today, an indispensable segment in research in the field of philosophy of technology and education, where the meaning of *teche* can refer to the research and application of the increasingly prevalent online education.

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