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Lewes Topical Seminar – The Power of the Idea

Innovation

For the past 300,000 years, humans have developed the mental ability to think hypothetically. Using their creative imaginations, humans began to think about inventions and discoveries. This thinking fostered an innovative evolution that has prompted humans to harness agriculture, build machines, establish trade networks, split the atom and walk on the moon. Human ingenuity has also led to the creation of monetary, political, economic and religious systems. At the core of this progress is the inventor, the one who envisions an idea, determines how it will be put into practice. Inventors can work with a team for designing improvements.

The inventor might have accidentally discovered a better way to do something. For example, an archaic human might have emerged from the cave and accidentally dropped seeds. The human might then discover that seeds could be harnessed for growth. Human ingenuity expanded with the ability to communicate. With communication and surplus food, commerce and trade routes developed. People shared goods and ideas. Eventually language was developed. Combined with a stylus and tablet, communication gave humans the ability to record and improve innovations. Until AI, the agricultural revolution was probably the greatest revolution in human history and brought enormous advantages. Yet, while agriculture led to population growth and the development of cities, large-scale cooperation in production and trade, it also brought hard labor, increased diseases and a less nutritious diet (Harari).

Eventually, shared innovations provided greater opportunities for the development of social structures and government as well as the ability to dominate other species, humans and the environment. Despite the unprecedented technological progress of the scientific and technological revolutions, such as the study of anatomy, evolution, microbiology, human inventions have not been used to sufficiently develop stronger social relationships, human well-being and satisfaction in life. Innovative technologies have the ability to create an equitable,

shows detail about how to start with nothing but the idea of inventing.

Works Cited

Harari, Yuval Noah, *Sapiens, A Brief History of Humankind*. 2011. Random House. New York.