

are too glibly and too neatly compartmentalized. The inaccuracies of historical designation and interpretation notwithstanding, it is indisputable that science, at least in its assumptions and conclusions, if not in the details of its equations, reaches into and permeates our lives to a degree that pure reason never achieved in the 18th century, any more than the restless spirit of discovery inspired whole populations in the age of the first Elizabeth. In harmony with the social changes which have transformed our thinking since the ages to which I have referred, the spirit of our own era is a more broadly based one reflecting more accurately the consciousness, the concerns and the outlook of the majority of the people.

As seen in terms of our daily lives, the mass impact of science has given us a standard of living which would have been almost inconceivable not so many years ago, and which shows every sign of improving year by year. At the governmental level, however, it is not so easy to take such a melioristic or modified Leibnizian view of the possibilities which have been opened up by science. On the one hand, technological advances have made it possible for governments to undertake national development programmes which, fifty years ago, would have been dismissed as fantastic. Parenthetically, I might observe that one of the most remarkable concomitants of the rapid scientific advances over the past century has been in the speed with which the fantasies of one era have passed into the commonplace realities of a subsequent generation. Jules Verne, except in his most fanciful moments, is really old straw today, and what is more astonishing, Buck Rogers is fast becoming so, with every new press despatch datelined Cape Canaveral.

My reference to a launching site is not inadvertent; it is intended to illustrate the other side of the metaphorical coin that I referred to in observing that the development of science and the increasing involvement of government in scientific matters does not present a prospect which is entirely optimistic. It is tragically symptomatic of the paradoxical conditions to which we are becoming numbly accustomed that the first fruits of man's scientific achievements in the nuclear sphere should have been used for the obliteration of two populous cities. The orderly disorder of the natural world, which man at last, in large measure, has been able to apprehend, appears to have no counterpart in man's conduct of his international responsibilities. Indeed, it would be hardly exaggeration to declare that our enormous strides forward in scientific ventures and in technical skills have been more or less by-products of the progressively destructive savagery of nations and of national groups, one against another. The conquest of the air, greatly accelerated by the First World War, has been accompanied by the almost unbelievable achievements in technology in the two decades since the beginning of World War II. In consequence of forced-draft technology and following that example of man's chaotic conduct of his