Tuesdays
12:00-1:45 pm

July 22 *through*
September 16

Highland City Club
885 Arapahoe Ave
Boulder, CO

$600
Lunch included

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Register

Technology and Statecraft: the Perennial Problems

Western Civilization has enjoyed ascendance in part because of its dynamic harnessing of technological power. This was as true for the ancient Athenians and Romans as it was for the Venetians, the Dutch, the English and now the Americans.

But the various traditions that comprise our civilizational legacy do not speak in one voice on technology. The myths of ancient Greece warn of technological and intellectual hubris in the figures of Daedalus, Prometheus, and Oedipus. The book of Genesis, similarly, warns of the false promise of empire and technology. Greek philosophy, especially the work of Plato and Aristotle, explores the positive and negative effects of *techne* (craft intelligence) within the horizon of the city state. Even later thinkers like Francis Bacon and Adam Smith, both proponents of a new vision of science and politics, see the dangers entailed by unrestrained technological power.

We stand now, with one foot planted in the age of AI, both hopeful and concerned about our technological future. Having barely understood the lessons of the Industrial Revolution, we find ourselves needing to grasp new layers of "tech" forming around labor, industry, art, politics, warfare, and commerce.

How should states prepare for the age of AI? How should our leaders form their plans and strategies for our new digital era?

Thinking seriously about our technological future requires us to recover the wisdom of the past. Parnassus House's series on technology and statecraft proposes such a recovery. Together, over nine seminars, we will explore the perennial problems identified by some of the greatest minds in our tradition as they illustrate how to best come to terms with the promise and problems of technological dependence:

1. Innovation vs. Stability (Plato, Aristotle, Plutarch)

2. Enhancement vs. Dependence (Plato, Rousseau, Neil Postman)

3. Industry vs. Decadence (Plato, Locke)

4. Adaptation vs. Domestication (Darwin, Matt Ridley, Christopher Ryan)

5. Spontaneous Order vs. Centralized Control (Hobbes, Hayek)

6. Social Technology and Civilizational Collapse (Samo Burja)

7. Exploration of Core Themes in *The New Atlantis* (Francis Bacon)

8. Exploration of Core Themes in *The New Atlantis* (cont.)

9. The Future of Western Civilization: Progress or Return? (Douthat, Andreessen)