

## THE DECLINE OF SCIENCE

I went to school in London in the 30s when there were no jobs for scientists except school teachers. so I got a brilliant inspiring team, that were so good I not only won a scholarship to Cambridge University, I found I already knew most of the first year's lectures when I got there.

Science was discovered during the war by Churchill who had foolishly persuaded his reluctant Cabinet colleagues to keep fighting against Hitler even when they stood no chance. The only person with some knowledge of science in the entire British Civil Service was R V Jones, A Scientific Officer in the Air Ministry who had been involved with experiments on Radar. His experiences are in his book "Most Secret War". Churchill had a close friend Lord Cherwell who kept him in touch, and Jones suddenly found himself Scientific Advisor to the Government and the interpreter of the decoding activities of Bletchley park gang of chess players and crossword puzzle compilers

I got my PhD on war work, improving incendiary bomb fuel. At first I was a respected scientist with reasonable pay, assistants, and promotion but it slowly went into decline with the decline of science and of the reputation, status and salary of scientists. Today it is a profession slightly above that of used car salesmen.or politicians

Jones describes how quickly it happened, Just after the war ended he sent a memo recommending a new method of aircraft construction which would save the life of pilots. It was turned down. There was no longer a need to save lives.They put him out to grass in academia.

Innovation and technical advance slowed down. . A scientist's job was to justify the decisions of the advertisers and sales staff, or the policies of the Government. Academics began to find themselves in the same boat, for their sponsors were either Commercial or Government.

The quality of science teaching took a dive, both in the schools and in the colleges. Yet scientific publication escalated, as the quality. The scrutiny of peer review, and the scientific integrity of editors of learned journals declined.

The wartime discoveries, like nuclear power and weapons, pesticides, antibiotics, rocket propulsion, continued for a while culminating in the great achievement of the genetic code. The computer revolution, begun at Bletchley, was sparked by hackers, some of whom were jailbirds. The rockets went to the moon and launched satellites

The absence of science led to promotion of all kinds of pseudo science, alternative medicine, and the development of a pseudo scientific religion, environmentalism, which repudiates the main principles of evolution developed by Darwin. It made it possible to employ scientists who would be prepared, for a fee, to abandon science to feed religious fervour.

The earlier discoveries are still paying off, but more slowly. We live longer, are healthier, and more prosperous, some of us. Our communications and transport facilities are admirable but afflicted by congestion. Our ability to kill one another is unprecedented.

We are passing on a sorry heritage to our descendents at a time when we claim to worry about them.

Cheers

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"To kill an error is as good a service  
as, and sometimes better than, the  
establishing of a new truth or fact"

Charles Darwin"