
IS SCIENCE THE SOLUTION TO EVERYTHING?

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Is science the solution to everything? Where should the governments invest research funds and why? Well, these are three distinct questions. Since if the answer to the first one is a no, answering the second and third one would make no sense. Therefore, Let's take it from the floor.

The first one would make a solid research question. And I don't like it because, as a good scientist I aspire to be, a simple "yes, of course, science will solve every crisis humankind will ever face." seems like a natural response at first. But this is not how science works, is it?

So in a true Cartesian manner, **we should doubt that idea**. Translated in the language of modern social science, we should throw everything we have at it and see if it survives. But even if it failed, **what is the alternative?** Impulses? Intuitions? Ideologies?

Well, given the science's record of the previous crises, and that its inventions have kept the population well and alive, I think it's a reasonable choice to begin with. To conclude the answer to the first question - whether science is the solution to everything - one can never be 100 % sure. **But I believe we should act as if it was. Otherwise, we are betting on a chance.**

Following this stream of thought, what should governments focus on and invest in first then? In psychology, there's a theory called Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The idea is simple - there are more basic needs (e.g. physiological needs or need for safety) and higher needs (e.g. esteem needs or self-actualization). **If people don't have the basic needs fulfilled, they cannot strive for the higher ones.** What is the basic need of humankind then? To survive? In this logic, resources should be used to avoid unnecessary deaths. Science should focus on new technologies that will prevent starvation, or provide sewerage where is none to avoid deaths caused by infections.

As every theory has its critics, one of the main criticism of Maslow's hierarchy of needs was that **people can work on fulfilling more needs than one at a time**, so they can try to reach safety even if they are hungry or tired. The same goes for society. We cannot focus purely on survival, but also on innovations and progress. Only that way we can solve the most fundamental questions of the universe.

But... there's a catch. In order to solve any of the above-mentioned problems, **we need to be able to function as a society**. And we can only do so if we invest in social sciences and study how our minds work. If people will act irrationally instead, if they won't trust scientists and governments, but rather conspiracy theories and will vote for populists promising them anything they can think of, society won't solve a thing and won't progress. We can see that even today when **people are willing to risk their own health** and the lives of their loved ones by not getting vaccinated. Some of them are rather willing to believe that powerful men behind the curtain want to control them with microchips in the shots than simply listen to experts who devoted their whole lives to search for the truth (for very low wages, if you ask me).

That's why I believe more resources should be focused on social sciences. We need to study what drives our behaviors, what influences our decision-making and judgments, and why we often act irrationally. **Whatever times will come, whenever planet we will inhabit, whatever crisis we will face, we will always need to get along as human beings.**