

Technocracy

I've run across these covers a few times over the last 20 years, but I never bothered to find out what 'Technocracy' was all about. Well, now I know!

The Technocracy movement is a social movement that started in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s and advocates a form of society where the welfare of human beings is optimized by means of scientific analysis and widespread use of technology. Today the movement exists as Technocracy Incorporated, whose members partake in discussion groups and publish quarterly magazines.

The technocracy movement has its origins back in the progressive engineers of the late 19th century and the works of Thorsten Veblen, especially "Engineers and the price system" as well as Scientific management. Early technocratic organizations formed after the First World War; these included Henry Gantt's "The New Machine" and Veblen's "Soviet of Technicians". These organizations folded after a short time. However, the "Soviet of Technicians" resulted in a series of lectures, which Howard Scott attended; he started the Technical Alliance in the winter of 1918-1919. William H. Smyth first used the word "technocracy" to describe a government made up of scientists and engineers in 1919, and in the 1920s, it was used to describe the works of Thorsten Veblen.

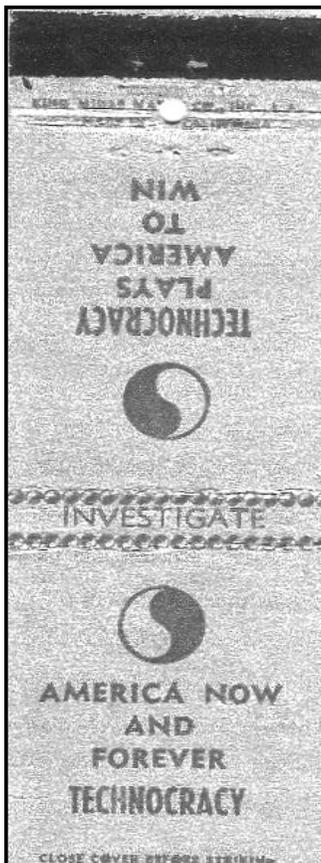
The Technical Alliance, composed of mostly scientists and engineers, started an energy survey of the North American continent near the beginning of the 20th century. Many of their conclusions gave a scientific background upon which they based their ideas for a new social structure. Thorstein Veblen, who wrote *Theory of the Leisure Class* (1899), was a member of the Technical Alliance. After the dissolution of the Technical Alliance, Howard Scott became the founder and leader of a new organization called *Technocracy Incorporated*, which sought to implement the findings of the Alliance and create a new kind of society. The group was incorporated in the state of New York in 1933 as a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian organization. Led by Scott, then director-in-chief, the organization promoted its goals of educating people about the Alliance's ideas via a North American lecture tour in 1934, gaining support throughout the depression years.[*citation needed*]

The main document of the Technocracy movement is the Technocracy Study Course.

The organization has published several magazines through out its history, including *The Technocrat*, *The Northwest Technocrat* and *Technocracy Digest*, it currently publishes the *North American Technocrat* and the movement still continues after more than 70 years of history. One of its notable members was M. King Hubbert, a geophysicist whose theory has become known as the Hubbert Peak .

The standard unit for the organization is the chartered Section, consisting of at least fifty members. At Technocracy's height in popularity, many cities contained more than one Section, sometimes as many as a dozen or more. These sections undertook the majority of Technocracy's work, including the research that continued after the Technical Alliance.

The organization receives its funds entirely from dues and donations from its members. Because of the goal of abolishing political controls, membership is open to any citizen of North America except politicians.



[<http://en.wikipedia.org>]