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The Influence Of 1939 Technology on Daily Life

The 1939 New York World's Fair introduced us to impressive technologies that are vividly present in our reality today. I believe that the fair greatly influenced our daily routine. Every day, we wake up and check our phones, and sometimes before exchanging our good mornings to our spouse. Parents hand over the tablet to distract their toddler so they can have a moment of peace for themselves. Day and night we facetime our loved ones who are far from us to ease the longingness in our hearts. Who would have thought that all these little things that we do routinely have been encouraged by the great minds of 1939. David Gelernter, the author of 1939: *The Lost World of the Fair*, believes that the fair played a great role advancing technology today. The author writes, "We cannot understand the fair unless we grasp the extent to which 1939 technology had changed plain, everyday life for the better" (Gelernter 129). Gelernter recognizes the exceptional contribution of 1939 in our lives. While it is true that we are constantly trying to build and invent things, it dawned on me that we are merely executing the ideas they had before. The fair planted its seeds and we began to pick its fruits. It's bewildering how in 1939 they had the most groundbreaking ideas, from highways across the mountains, refrigerators, the normalization of electronics in our kitchens and the prediction of video calls are just few of them. Their imagination knows no bounds. 1939 helped us live life efficiently and simply as can be through the power of technology. We may continue to explore and be limitless just like the fair taught us. I agree that as judged by the World's Fair of 1939-40, technology was more "revolutionary" for everyday people's lives in the 1930s than today's Internet age.

Works Cited

Gelernter, David. *1939: The Lost World of the Fair*. Avon, 1995

The influential computer expert convinces us that 1939 made the most groundbreaking technologies. The author argues that what they had from the past are far greater than we have today. Gelernter tells us the story of the fair through a character named Hattie Glassman.

Helfgott, Isadora Anderson. "New York World's Fair (1939–1940)." Encyclopedia of the Great

Depression, edited by Robert S. McElvaine, vol. 2, Macmillan Reference USA, 2004, pp.

716-718. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Accessed 1 Nov. 2020.

This source tells us how the New York World's fair started and how it also ended. It gives us an idea what was happening in 1939 when they opened the fair. As it turned out, the pavilions of Poland and Czechoslovakia in the fair were still open even during the Nazi's takeover. It also heightens the fair's setback.

"Two Men Talking On A Videophone 1939-40 New York World's Fair." *LaGuardia and Wagner*

Archives, Photograph no. 03.001.1178, 1939 - 1940,

www.laguardiawagnerarchive.lagcc.cuny.edu. Accessed 14 February 2021.

This photo shows how video calls came to life. Although in this picture they were both in a mini television with a telephone in their hand. It's amazing how they accurately predicted this.

"Detail Of Mountainside Highway In General Motor's Futurama Exhibit, 1939-40 New York

World's Fair." *La Guardia and Wagner Archives*, Photograph no. 03.001.1186, 1939 - 1940,

www.laguardiawagnerarchive.lagcc.cuny.edu. Accessed 14 February 2021.

The thrilling and scenic view of the mountainside highway. The highway that makes you enjoy the beauty of nature while driving. They made sure that the highway is both safe and enjoyable for vacationers.

