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What role do science and education play in social and industrial development of society?

It would be correct to say, that since Rebnascence the influence of science and education on the social and the industial development of society has been only positive. Today, however, the very fact of asking this question itself presupposes that the role of science and education might be different and not necessarily positive. It means that current scientific investigations give us knowledge, the application of which might be save for life on the Earth provided society has appropriate level of education. Can this condition be achieved?