

Re: Where would we be without these important patents?

# Re: Where would we be without these important patents?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.econ/2006-03/msg00241.html>

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- *From:* "Andy F." <[never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 19 Mar 2006 14:16:52 -0000
- 

<[roys@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:roys@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:441c40b1.20222611@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:441c40b1.20222611@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

On Sat, 18 Mar 2006 14:27:59 -0000, "Andy F." <[never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote:

<[roys@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:roys@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:441af311.19388493@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:441af311.19388493@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

On Fri, 17 Mar 2006 10:46:35 -0000, "Andy F."  
<[never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote:

On Thu, 16 Mar 2006  
14:09:30 -0000, "Andy F."  
<[never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote:

<[roys@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:roys@xxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote in  
message  
[news:4418e1af.7530316@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:4418e1af.7530316@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

On  
Thu,  
16  
Mar  
2006  
02:44:55  
-0000,  
"Andy  
F."  
<[never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:never.mind@xxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote:

Re: Where would we be without these important patents?

"nospam"

<nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote

in

message

[news:JKWdne-jtsfgYYjZnZ2dnUVZ\\_v2dnZ2d@xx](mailto:news:JKWdne-jtsfgYYjZnZ2dnUVZ_v2dnZ2d@xx)

Andy

F.

wrote:

That  
would  
mean  
a  
lot  
of  
inventors  
would  
be  
out  
of  
a  
job.

From

where

you

got

this

idea

?

The

scientists

and

engineers

are

employed

to

design

a

product.

The

company

will

have

the

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full  
right  
to  
use  
this  
designs.

But  
without  
exclusive  
use  
of  
the  
designs,  
the  
firm  
won't  
make  
enough  
profits  
to  
justify  
paying  
the  
inventors'  
wages.

Such  
claims  
are  
common,  
but  
false  
and  
ridiculous.  
Do  
you  
think  
no  
inventor  
was  
ever  
paid  
wages  
before  
there  
were  
patents?  
Give

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your  
head  
a  
shake.

Technological  
progress has  
been a lot  
faster since  
patents  
were  
introduced.

That is a blatant post hoc  
fallacy. So has population  
growth,  
literacy rates, democratic  
governance, life expectancy,  
etc. Do  
patents get all the credit for  
those, too?

I didn't use a post hoc fallacy.

Yes, of course you did.

You raised the question of what happened  
before there were patents.

And you couldn't answer it, because the only possible answer  
destroyed your argument. So you trotted out the post hac fallacy  
instead.

The fact is that before patents, technological  
progress was very slow for centuries.

Nope. In fact, technological progress was roughly proportional to  
total economic production and the level of scientific knowledge both  
before and after patents. The publication of Newton's Principia had  
far more impact on technological progress than patent privileges.

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A fact which destroys the argument you  
were trying to make.

No, of course it doesn't, because in the first place it is not true,  
and in the second place even if it were true, it would be nothing but  
a post hoc fallacy.

So the Middle Ages were a period of rapid technological growth. Right.