

The Machines Stops—an opening paragraph

“The Machine Stops” depicts a dystopian society facilitated by technological advancements. By examining parallels between Forster’s world and our society, either argue how the author gives a prescient warning or explain why his foreboding tale does not apply to the present day.

Since the beginning of time, people have been interested in the idea of continued progress. But with progress things also can become lost. Forster offers a cautionary tale of what can go wrong when technology perverts the human nature. Although the specifics of Forster's "machine" are laughable in this day and age, we can imagine many of the social problems he describes as being believable in today's society, with analogues of his "machine", and the attendant social ills, in the smartphones and other gadgets we all use today. As Vashti complains, "beds were of the same dimension all over the world".