

REGIONALNI CENTAR ZA TALENTE VRANJE

WONDERS OF THE MODERN WORLD

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ABSTRACT

This essay is about something we are surrounded by, which makes our life easier. It is the proof how far people can go and what great minds can do. It is really fascinating to look back and see what the men have left behind: great architectural structures, which are pinnacle of human creativity and ingenuity. It is inscrutable how people have done all of that with less advanced technology than today. But it is also unpredictable what the man might do in the future. People in the past could not even imagine all the achievements that we have today, which are getting more sophisticated day by day. We have witnessed amazing technological and scientific achievements, which are surely our modern wonders.

Key words: great architectural structures, human creativity and ingenuity, amazing technological and scientific achievements, modern wonders

REZIME

Ovaj esej je o nečemu čime smo okruženi, što čini naš život lakšim. To je dokaz koliko daleko ljudi mogu otići i šta veliki umovi mogu uraditi. Zaista je fascinantno osvrnuti se unazad i videti šta su ljudi ostavili za sobom: velike arhitektonske gradjevine, koje su vrhunac ljudske kreativnosti i dovitljivosti. Nedokučivo je kako su ljudi uradili sve to sa manje naprednom tehnologijom nego danas. Ali, takođe je nepredvidivo šta čovek može uraditi u budućnosti. Ljudi u prošlosti nisu mogli čak ni da zamisle sva dostignuća koja imamo danas, koja iz dana u dan postaju sve složenija. Svedoci smo neverovatnih tehnoloških i naučnih dostignuća, koja su sigurno naša moderna čuda.

Ključne reči: velike arhitektonske strukture, ljudska kreativnost i dovitljivost, neverovatna tehnološka i naučna dostignuća, moderna čuda

1. Introduction

Wonders of the ancient world

The **Seven Wonders of the World** (or the **Seven Wonders of the Ancient World**) refers to remarkable constructions of classical antiquity, which includes only the sculptural and architectural monuments of the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern regions. Five of the seven entries are a celebration of Greek accomplishments in the arts and architecture (except the Pyramids of Giza and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon). Namely, the seven wonders of the world were:

- Great Pyramid of Giza
- Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- Statue of Zeus at Olympia
- Temple of Artemis at Ephesus
- Mausoleum at Halicarnassus
- Colossus of Rhodes
- Lighthouse of Alexandria

Today, the only ancient world wonder that still exists is the Great Pyramid of Giza.



Great Pyramid of Giza



Hanging Gardens of Babylon



Statue of Zeus at Olympia



Temple of Artemis at Ephesus



Mausoleum at Halicarnassus



Colossus of Rhodes



Lighthouse of Alexandria

The Seven Wonders of the modern world

Today, people attempt to achieve the unachievable, reach unreachable heights, and scorn the notion of "it can't be done." Our modern wonders are totally different from the ancient wonders. If we take a look at the past, we will see something that is now very common. But, if our forebears had looked into the future, they would have seen something that they did not expect. The human society is very advanced and it still progresses. The evidences of what they have done are here in front of our eyes and they are available to each of us. Namely, the seven wonders of the modern world are the following:

- The Internet
- Space travel
- Medical science
- International travel
- The Olympic games
- Agriculture
- **WE ARE STILL HERE!**

The Internet

The Internet has revolutionized the way we live and work. But it is just a beginning.

The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks to serve billions of users worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of millions of other networks, of local to global scope, that are mutually linked. The Internet began to grow in the 1960s. It has no owner. Today there are billions of web pages, and they increase every day, just like their users.

The Internet can be accessed almost anywhere by numerous means. It has never been easier for people to access educational information at any level from anywhere. For instance, an accountant sitting at home can audit the books of a company based in another country.

The prevalent language for communication on the Internet has been English. According to some surveys women use the Internet more than men. Norway and the Netherlands have the highest internet penetration by the number of users, with more than 90% of the population with access.



Space travel

The space is all around us, without the beginning or the end. People have lived for a long time without knowing anything about their environment. However, now it is different.

First, we were able to launch the first artificial satellite. Then we sent the first animal into space – a dog named Laika in 1957. The first human spaceflight took place on April 12, 1961, when a cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin made one orbit around the Earth aboard the Vostok 1 spacecraft. Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space aboard Vostok 6 on June 16, 1963.

The farthest destination for a human spaceflight mission has been the Moon. The only manned missions to the Moon have been those conducted by NASA as part of the Apollo program. The first Moon landing mission was Apollo 11, during which on July 20, 1969 Neil

Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first people to set foot on the Moon. When Neil Armstrong stepped out of his space capsule onto the surface of the moon he made his famous statement: 'That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind' and he had right. Since then everything is possible. Moreover, today there is even space tourism.



Laika, the first dog in space Yuri Gagarin, the first person in space Valentina Tereshkova, the first Woman cosmonaut

Medical science

In the past, there was no medicine in the modern sense of the word. Prehistoric medicine was related to plants, animal parts and minerals. In many cases these materials were used ritually as magical substances by priests, shamans, or people who had been healed. The first information related to medicine we get from the ancient Egyptians, from classical Chinese medicine, as well as ancient Greek and Roman medicine. There were no surgical procedures or effective medical methods to today's understanding, except for hygienic measures, but the understanding of disease and treatment approach would be much more comprehensive than today.

Greek physician Hippocrates is considered the father of Western medicine. He introduced the Hippocratic Oath for physicians, which is still in use today. As the science and technology developed, medicine is increasingly relying on medication. The modern era began with the discovery of smallpox vaccine in the late 18th century and the discovery of antibiotics. **Surely nothing has done more for the comfort and happiness of the human race than the advances in health care!**



International travel

Looking at birds, Man has always been impressed by their flight, so the man himself for ages had been trying to fly. Flying began to grow after the first legendary flight of Icarus and Daedalus. Then it continued to evolve through a variety of balloons and the first aircrafts until today when we have a well-developed airline, and the ability to fly wherever we want, from travelling within our own country to travelling to the most remote parts of the world.

The first countries in Europe to embrace air transport were Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Many countries have national airlines that the government owns and operates.

Today, we are world on the move, thanks to the great minds, who have invented and developed the air traffic.



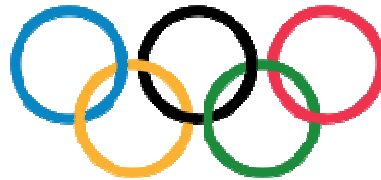
The Olympic Games

The Olympic Games were a series of athletic competitions among representatives of city-states of Ancient Greece. They were held in honour of Zeus, and the Greeks gave them a mythological origin. The Olympic Games had fallen into place when the Greeks were under the rule of Emperor Theodosius I, who suppressed them as part of the campaign to impose Christianity as the state religion of Rome. The games were usually held every four years, or Olympiad, which became a unit of time in historical chronologies. During the celebration of the games, an Olympic Truce was enacted so that athletes could travel from their countries to the games in safety. The prizes for the victors were wreaths of laurel leaves. The ancient Olympics had fewer events than the modern games, and only freeborn Greeks were allowed to participate, although a woman Bilistiche is also mentioned as a winning chariot owner.

However, it is different today. The modern Olympic Games are the leading international sporting event in which thousands of athletes participate in a variety of competitions. The Olympic Games are considered to be the world's foremost sports competition with more than 200 nations participating, and that is why the Olympic Games are one of our modern wonders. The Olympic Games are held quadrennially, (every four years). Their creation was inspired by the ancient Olympic Games, which were held in Olympia, Greece, from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. The evolution of the Olympic Movement during the 20th and 21st centuries has resulted in several changes to the Olympic Games.

There are several Olympic rituals and symbols, such as the Olympic flag and torch, as well as the opening and closing ceremonies. Over 13,000 athletes compete at the Summer Olympic Games and Winter Games in 33 different sports and nearly 400 events. The first, second and third place finishers in each event receive Olympic medals: gold, silver, and bronze, respectively.

The Games have grown in scale to the point that nearly every nation is represented. The Olympics and its media exposure, provide unknown athletes with the chance to attain national, and sometimes international fame. The Games also constitute an opportunity for the host city and country to showcase themselves to the world.



* The five colors of the Olympic rings and the white background have at least one color of every nation's flag in them.

Agriculture

The world is increasingly differentiated in the rich north and the poor south and the well-developed and undeveloped areas. In these underdeveloped areas the population is mostly engaged in agriculture. However, the manner in which they are engaged in agriculture is very primitive, and therefore the yields are very small, almost insufficient for the habitants. So, famine is the common phenomenon. As opposed to these areas, in high-income countries people produce more food than they can eat. And that is the reason why the agriculture is the modern wonder.



WE ARE STILL HERE!

However, not all inventions are good for mankind. Everything has its good and bad sides. Yet we should choose the good and appreciate someone's effort because it is the only way we can carry on improving. The last wonder of the modern world is simply that we are still here. People have survived many things during their history. Among other things, we have had nuclear weapons for over 50 years that could destroy the world, but we have not used them to do it. This is surely the greatest wonder of all. We should always expect a good future, but at the same time we must not forget what our ancestors did to make our life the way it is today.

2. Methods

I have conducted a survey in the High school "Stevan Jakovljevic". The questionnaire is presented in Appendix A.

I surveyed 81 people. The age range was:

15 year-olds – 6 people (chart 1)

16 year-olds – 34 people (chart 2)

17 year-olds – 41 people (chart 3)

3. Aim

I have conducted this survey in order to see whether young people know what the wonders of the ancient world are, which in their opinion are the best and which still exist today. I also wanted to find out what they think could be the wonders of the modern world and which are the best. And finally, I wanted to know how many of them are familiar with the wonders in our country. The results are as follows.

4. Results

Data gathered through survey are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Results of the survey about Wonders of the Modern World conducted on adolescents (81 interviewees, grouped per age and sex)

Question/Age	15 year (n=6: 1 M, 5 F)	16 year (n=34: 14 M, 20 F)	17 year (n=41: 13 M, 28 F)
1) What are the Wonders of the World in your opinion?	M: building F: monuments, Eiffel Tower, Dubai, nature, different cultures, people	M: I don't know, everything, nature, Devil's Town, Deep Purple, the Internet F: monuments, buildings, Maths, something that exists in only one place in the world, something that is unique and it represents something different, soap, the Internet, mobile phones, computer, electricity...	M: different types of buildings at different places in the world, God Hands, Statue of Zeus, Pyramids in Giza, all things before and after Christ, the Internet, phone, weapons, robot technology, Space shuttle, a man, plane, penicillin F: Wonders of the world are some old places in the world which still exist and

			they are very famous today, pyramids, wonders of the world are really special and rare things that attract people, computer, mobile phone, the Internet, electricity, medicine, buildings, sculptures, technology, space travelling, something that makes life easier, agriculture, drugs, rocket
2) Do you know any of The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World? If you do, could you name it?	M: Yes: Hanging Gardens of Babylon, pyramids, Stonehenge F: Yes: Lighthouse of Alexandria, Pyramids of Giza, Colossus of Rhodes, Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Statue of Zeus No: 3	M: I don't know, Pyramids of Giza, Colossus of Rhodes, Statue of Zeus, Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, Lighthouse of Alexandria, Hanging Gardens of Babylon, The Great Wall of China... F: Yes: Yes, I do (5), pyramids (12), statue of Zeus (2) No: 1	M: Yes: The Great Wall of China, pyramids, Colosseum in Rome, Statue of Zeus, Colossus of Rhodes, Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Sydney Opera House, the Eiffel Tower, Lighthouse in Alexandria, Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, Leaning Tower of Pisa No: 5 F: Yes: pyramids, Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, Colossus of Rhodes, wheel No: 20
3) What is the very best Wonder of the Ancient World in your opinion?	M: Pyramids F: Pyramids of Giza	M: Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Pyramids of Giza, Colossus of Rhodes, the Internet, The great Wall of China, Statue of Zeus F: Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Pyramids, Niagara Falls, the Internet, Statue of Zeus,	M: The Great Wall of China, pyramids, Colosseum, Devil's Town, wheel, Lighthouse in Alexandria F: Yes: the Internet, electricity, wheel No: 25

		I don't know (7)										
4) Do you know the only ancient world wonder that still exists? If you do, could you name it?	M: Stonehenge, Pyramids F:Pyramids in Giza				M: Pyramids in Egypt, Deep purple, Iron Maiden, I don't know (3) F: Yes: (16) Pyramids No: 4				M: Colosseum in Roma, pyramids, The Great Wall of China, Statue of Zeus, Leaning Tower of Pisa F: Yes: pyramids (14), letter, wheel No: 14			
5) In your opinion the oldest Wonder of the World is; a) Pyramid of Gyza b) Hanging gardens of Babylon c) Statue of Zeus at Olympia d) Mausoleum at Halicarnassus	a)0	b)0	c)1	d)0	a)8	b)2	c)3	d)1	a)8	b)1	c)3	d)1
	a)1	b)4	c)0	d)0	a)16	b)3	c)0	d)1	a)16	b)1	c)3	d)8
6) What are the Wonders of the World in your opinion?	M: / F: Eiffel Tower, Dubai, electricity, the Internet, spacecrafts, buildings, monuments				M: mobile phone, airplane, the Internet, computer, dishwasher F:Yes: monuments, buildings, TV, mobile phone, the Internet No: 3				M: Eiffel Tower, Obelisk, airplane, the Internet, phone, nuclear power, electricity, The Olympic games, Space travelling, modern medicine, mobile phone, atomic bomb, TV F: the Internet, computer, electricity, the Eiffel Tower, medicine, the Olympic games, space travelling, international travelling, mobile phone, aspirin, buildings, I don't know (9)			
7) Do you know what the	M: Yes F: Yes: Eiffel Tower				M: Yes: Space travel, the Internet, the				M: Yes: The Great Wall of China, Eiffel			

Seven Wonders of the Modern World are? Could you name any?	No:3	Olympic games No: 13 F: Yes: the Internet No: 18	Tower, Pyramids in Giza, Colosseum in Roma, Obelisk, airplane, Machu Picchu, Stonehenge, the Internet, nuclear weapon, Olympic games, Penicilin, space travelling F: I don't know (28)
8) What is the very best Wonder of the Modern world in your opinion?	M: Internet, Computer F:Electricity, spacecrafts, the Internet, medicine, technology, mobile phones, Eiffel Tower	M: the Internet, electricity, mobile phone, airplane, A7X(Avenged Sevenfold) F: the Internet, nuclear bombs, electricity, space travelling, the Olympic games, mobile phones, The Great Wall of China	M: The Great Wall of China, Eiffel Tower, Burj-Al-Arab, Machu Picchu, nuclear weapon, plane, penicilin, the Internet F: I don't know (8), the Internet, the Olympic games, medicine, electricity, phone, satellite
9) Do you know what The Seven Wonders of Serbia are?	M: / F: Yes: Devil's Town, Obedska pond, Imperial Pond, Šar Mountains, Justiniana Prima	M: Yes: (3) Lepenski Vir (1) No: 10 F: Yes: (4) Devil's Town (7) No: (9)	M: Yes: Devil's Town (2) No: (11) F: Yes: Devil's Town (11), Resava cave (2), Lepenski Vir (1) , Iron Gates (1) No: (13)
10)Do you know what the only Serbian Wonder that was nominated for a World Wonder is?	M: / F: Devil's Town	M: Yes: Devil's Town (11) No: (3) F: Yes: Devil's Town (17) No: (3)	M: Yes: Devil's Town (12) No: (1) F: Yes: (24) Devil's Town No: (4)

When analyzing the results of the survey, I found out that most of the surveyed people expressed their opinion related to the question what the wonders of the world in their opinion were. Most of them said that the architectural wonders are the world wonders. When answering the second question, most listed at least one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. However, some of the listed are not the wonders, but they could be as they are impressive because of their special characteristics. According to the survey, the opinions about the best wonders of the world are divided: some of them think those were the Pyramids in Giza, the others said those were the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, and so on. Not all of the

surveyed people know for certain which wonders still exist. Beside The Great Pyramids in Giza, they said that it could be something that was not the wonder of the ancient world, such as some bands or other architectural structures. The surveyed people at the age of 15 think that the oldest wonder of the world is Statue of Zeus at Olympia or Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Most of the people at the age of 16 agree those are the Pyramids in Giza. And again most of the surveyed people at the age of 17 think those are The Pyramids in Giza. According to the answers of the interviewees Wonders of the Modern World are really important technological achievements, such as The Internet, a mobile phone, an airplane, a computer, electricity, nuclear weapons, modern medicine, space travelling, drugs that have saved the lives of billions of people, TV, and so on. The interviewees gave similar answers to the question what the very best Wonder of the Modern World is. Related to the question number 9, the interviewees did not know all the Seven Natural Wonders of Serbia. However, almost everyone knew the only Serbian Wonder that had been nominated for the Natural World Wonder.

5. Conclusion

After I had finished this essay, I realized that people today are aware of their achievements and proud of them. Many of them know to appreciate modern technological achievements and they are grateful to great minds that created them. Namely, everything has its good and bad sides, and we have to choose a good one. However, there are those people who use them for the wrong purposes.

We have witnessed amazing technological and scientific achievements, and who knows what else we will be witnessing. It is unpredictable what the man might do in the future. Who knows what the future holds?

Appendix A

Questionnaire:

- 1 What are Wonders of the World in your opinion?
- 2 Do you know any of The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World? If you do, could you name it?
- 3 What is the very best Wonder of the Ancient World in your opinion?
- 4 Do you know the only ancient world wonder that still exists? If you do, could you name it?
- 5 In your opinion the oldest wonder of the world is:
 - a) Pyramid of Giza
 - b) Hanging Gardens of Babylon
 - c) Statue of Zeus at Olympia
 - d) Mausoleum at Halicarnassus
- 6 What are the Wonders of the Modern World in your opinion?
- 7 Do you know what the Seven Wonders of the Modern World are? Could you name any?
- 8 What is the very best Wonder of the Modern world in your opinion?
- 9 Do you know what The Seven Wonders of Serbia are?
- 10 Do you know what the only Serbian Wonder that was nominated for a World Wonder is?

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