Abstract:
Since the end of the eighteenth century economic growth and scientific and technological development have been intimately associated. During the First Industrial Revolution (1780-1850/60), which originally covered Great Britain, France, Belgium and Holland, this association took place in a very fragmented way without any large-scale planned actions on the part of their economic and social agents. The Second Industrial Revolution, which begun in the second half of the nineteenth century and lasted until the Second World War, incorporated new countries such as the United States, Germany, Italy and Japan and transformed science and technology into fundamental productive elements for economic and industrial growth, with the latter becoming very dependent on new approaches and uses of the sciences, mainly in the application of results and discoveries to the needs of industry and the productive system. In industrialized countries, technology in the form of applied science became a strategic element for economic development and national security, forming part of the basic activities of large corporations, universities and research institutes. The Third Industrial Revolution, which began after 1945, and which coexisted with the disputes between the capitalist and communist blocks, intensified this tendency, especially through the use of nuclear power, the space race, robotics and information technology. It is now possible to state that the most important elements of economic differentiation between the most developed and less developed countries are related to the quality and magnitude of their scientific and technological production, indicating the emergence of a new paradigm of the Knowledge Economy which, according to many scholars, will direct economic and social development in the near future. According to this general perspective presented above, we would like to discuss the intimate relationship between economic growth, science and technology since the beginning of the industrial era until the present days, focusing the national or/and global economic and social contexts. On the other hand, we cannot help wondering about the process of innovation and, particularly, the role of the State in this process with its ever greater intervention in the relations between economic growth, science and technology as far as we are closer to a more contemporary period.

Keywords: Economic Growth – Science – Technology – National Context – Global Context.
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