

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DATA 420 — Spring 2024

Reading check #1

– Silver: Preface & Intro

Jan. 23, 2024

“We face danger whenever information growth outpaces our understanding of how to process it.” **Tru dat.**

“Silver agrees with Chris Anderson of *Wired* magazine, who wrote that the sheer volume of ‘Big Data’ will soon obviate the need for theory and even the scientific method.” **I wholeheartedly agree with Silver that this is absolutely false.**

“Silver believes that we can never make perfectly objective predictions. They will always be tainted by our subjective point of view.” **True.**

What 18th-century **historical period** does Silver emphasize, which was a tipping point in which civilization suddenly went from having made almost no scientific or economic progress for most of its existence to the exponential rates of growth and change that are familiar to us today?

**the industrial revolution**

What important **invention** was a spark for the historical period mentioned in the previous question?

**the printing press**

What do human beings have a strong need and desire to “find” – more so than other animals – so much so that we often think we see them when they aren’t actually there?

**patterns**

What play does the following quote come from:

*“...men may construe things after their fashion  
Clean from the purpose of the things themselves.”*

Shakespeare’s *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*