If the 19th century celebrated the power of science to invent, and the 20th century feared the power of science to destroy, what will mark the 21st century? One possibility is fear of the power of science to create, and specifically, to create new forms of life. From the 1980s advent of IVF to recent developments in genome editing, there has been a steady path toward what some might view as blasphemous research that usurps the proper role of a deity or of nature. What is the role of public and political opinion in regulating or even prohibiting such research and development?

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