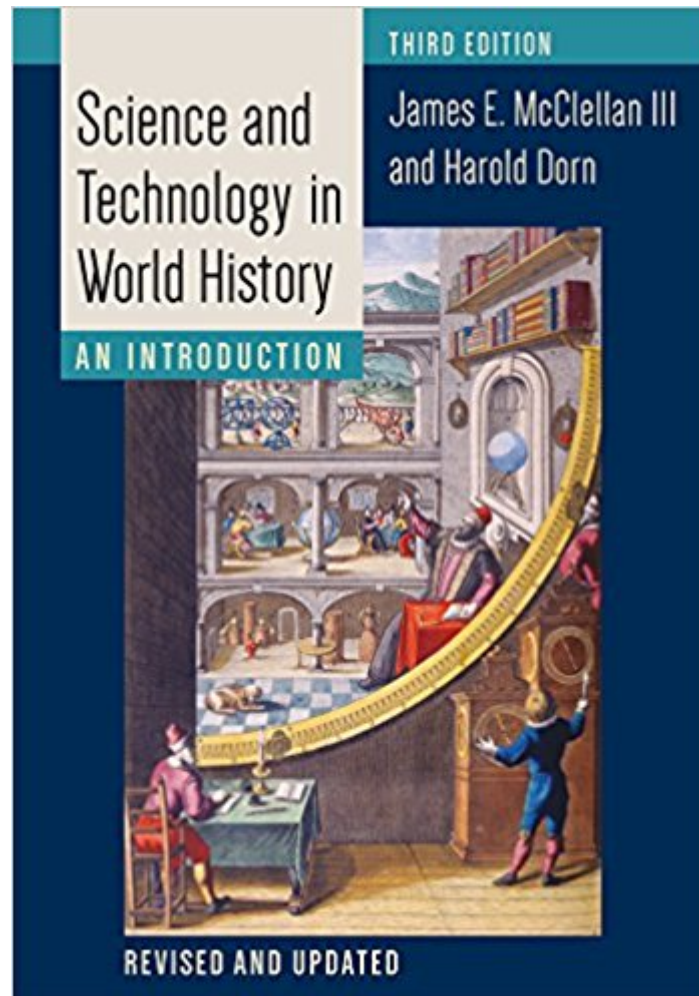




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Science And Technology In World History



Synopsis

Tracing the relationship between science and technology from the dawn of civilization to the early twenty-first century, James E. McClellan III and Harold Dorn's bestselling book argues that technology as "applied science" emerged relatively recently, as industry and governments began funding scientific research that would lead directly to new or improved technologies. McClellan and Dorn identify two great scientific traditions: the useful sciences, which societies patronized from time immemorial, and the exploration of questions about nature itself, which the ancient Greeks originated. The authors examine scientific traditions that took root in China, India, and Central and South America, as well as in a series of Near Eastern empires in late antiquity and the Middle Ages. From this comparative perspective, McClellan and Dorn survey the rise of the West, the Scientific Revolution of the seventeenth century, the Industrial Revolution, and the modern marriage of science and technology. They trace the development of world science and technology today while raising provocative questions about the sustainability of industrial civilization. This new edition of *Science and Technology in World History* offers an enlarged thematic introduction and significantly extends its treatment of industrial civilization and the technological supersystem built on the modern electrical grid. The Internet and social media receive increased attention. Facts and figures have been thoroughly updated and the work includes a comprehensive Guide to Resources, incorporating the major published literature along with a vetted list of websites and Internet resources for students and lay readers.

Book Information

File Size: 23423 KB

Print Length: 549 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press; third edition edition (November 26, 2015)

Publication Date: November 26, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B019WRKG14

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray for Textbooks: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #85,230 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #115

inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > History & Philosophy #121

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book thinking I was getting what it was labeled as a "new" book. Yet I find damage to the front, rear, and spine covers, the front cover had been bent and ripped as well as dented. The pages were bent and scuffed on the bottom. And the book jacket was missing.

I like its contents but there is too much empty space that makes the book heavy.

A must have for anyone wanting to add to their collection of great books!

This book gives an accessible introduction to the intellectual, biographical, and social history of the Scientific Revolution, focusing on figures like Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Descartes, and Newton. Darwin and his theory of evolution is illustrated. Chapter 18 and 19 include a nice overview of social and cultural aspects modern science and technology. However, this book has several noticeable shortcomings. First and foremost, there are numerous topics that deserve more pages. Despite the phrase 'world history' in its title, diffusion and exchange of scientific ideas, methods, technology etc. within and between civilizations do not receive enough attention. For example, Jesuit activities in China is summarized within a single paragraph, and comparable event in Japan is not mentioned at all. The processes and consequences of introduction of modern Western science to the rest of the world are not asked. Only limited number of scientific and engineering fields appear in this book. Outside a few-pages-long outline of works of some classic figures such as Priestley, Lavoisier, and Dalton, almost all of the history of chemistry is neglected, and the rest is scattered among passing comments. Even when the field gets to be covered, the description is unevenly spread across time periods and subfields. Later developments in classical mechanics and thermodynamics, and the controversy over atom during 19th century is virtually absent. The early history of modern physics is hastily summarized within ten or so pages, which is not nearly enough to convey its significance. These are only part of a much longer list. I admit that including all the events and details would probably double or triple the volume of this book, but if the authors were going to be selective, they

should provide justification of their selection. I find it hard to understand overall structure of the book. For instance, developments in technology, physics, and biology are merely put in parallel to each other in roughly chronological order. Passages near the end of the chapter, where the relationship between science and technology is illustrated, is largely independent of the earlier chapters. Comparable analysis on pre-modern science and technology could be much richer, especially if more fields of science and engineering are included.

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