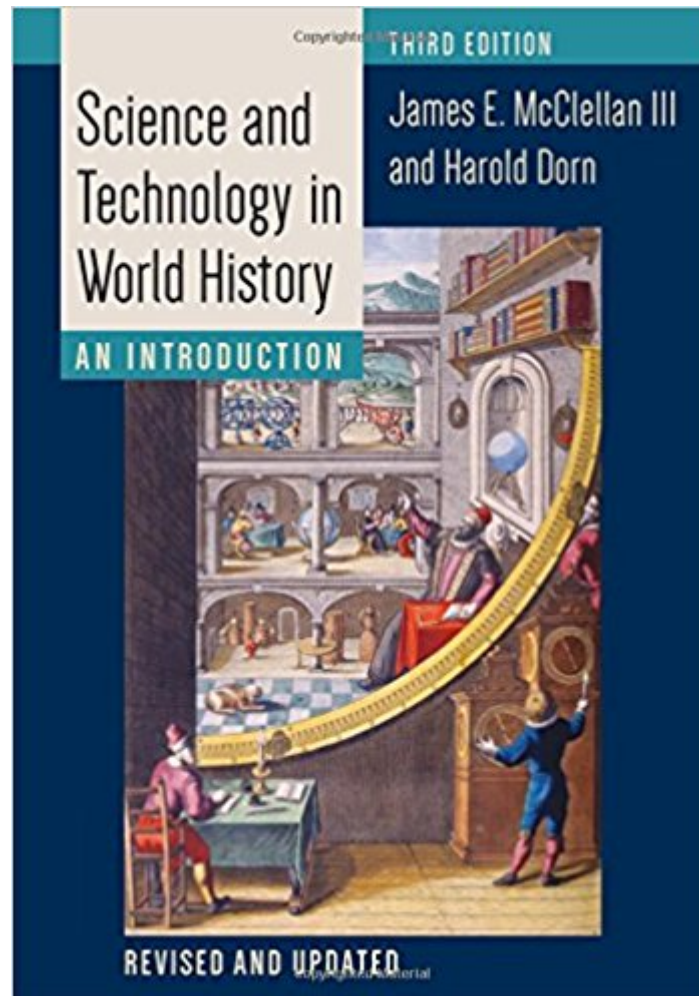




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# Science And Technology In World History: An Introduction



## 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

Paperback: 552 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press; third edition edition (October 16, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1421417758

ISBN-13: 978-1421417752

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.7 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #28,826 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Engineering &

Transportation > Engineering > Reference > History #54 in Books > Science & Math >

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## Customer Reviews

"The book provides an excellent overview of world science and technology for readers at any level...highly recommended." (Choice)

"If I could attach bells and whistles and flashing lights to this review I would do so because McClellan and Dorn's book deserves to be brought to the attention of all professional historians and indeed the general reading public by any means necessary." (Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d'histoire)"This historical account achieves its basic aim of demonstrating that, with the exception of quite recent history, technology has always influenced science, not the other way round." (Nature)

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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