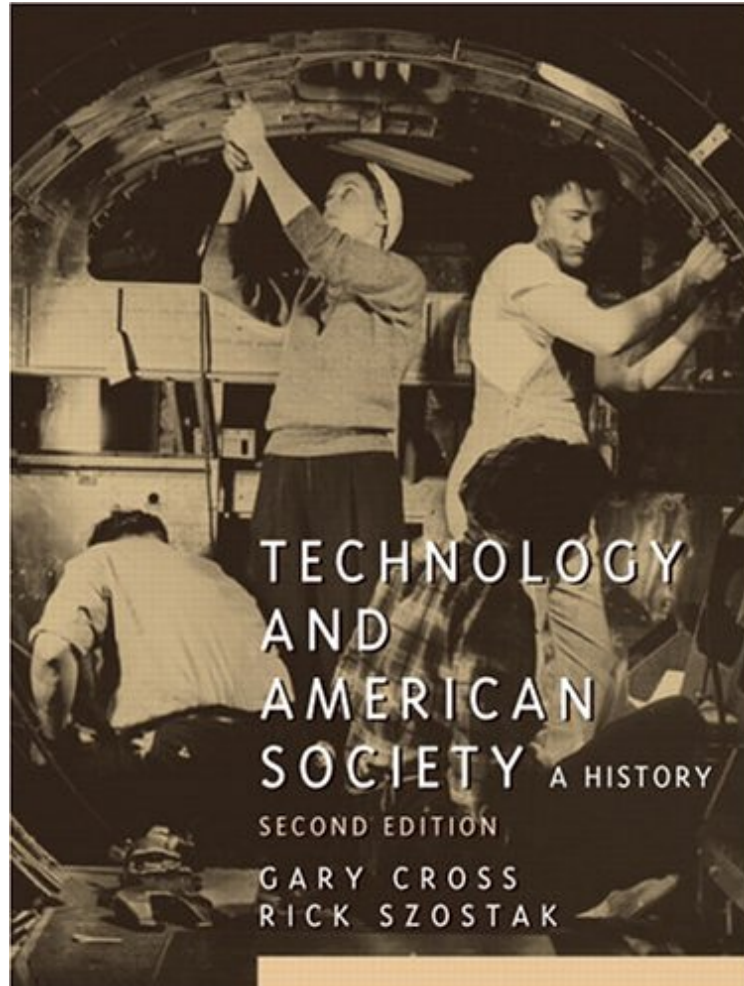


Technology and American Society (2nd Edition)

Gary Cross, Rick Szostak

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#294921 in Books Cross, Gary S./ Szostak, Rick 2004-10-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.90l, 1.19 #File Name: 0131896431384 pages | File size: 38.Mb

Gary Cross, Rick Szostak : Technology and American Society (2nd Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Technology and American Society (2nd Edition):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Acceptable First Survey and Introduction to the FactsBy David MilliernThis book gets the job done. There are many ways in which this book bothers me, but I simply don't think there is, currently, a better, more appropriately written introductory book on the history of technology in America. Let me briefly say what is wrong or lacking in the book, and then I will discuss its merits.The first thing that agitates me to the core is that this book is written like a middle school or high school history book, and the formatting reflects this, too. I think most readers will open the book and instantly see what I mean. Now, I must mitigate that statement by saying that some people might find this quality attractive, because those books (exempli gratia, middle school and high school textbooks) are written to maximize organization and to induce comfort through familiarity. My more substantive agitation with the text is that it is not sufficiently philosophical and lacks some amount of depth in

perspective of actual science. The former issue, I think, stems from the fact that there is a naiveté, when it comes overlooking the role of philosophy of science in understanding the history of science and technology. Of course, the book might be geared toward someone who has nil in the way of philosophy, so it is hard for me to critical press this point. On the second issue, that of lacking scientific perspective, again, the book's motivation is undoubtedly geared toward a crowd that lacks knowledge of science. What the book does well is supply the sociological contributing factors to the considerations of American history of science and technology. The insights regarding economic consideration, for instance, make the book valuable in ways that an history of science motivated by philosophy might not. All in all, the book is accessible to anyone, well organized, well written, and most ideas of stated as plainly as is possible. I would recommend this book to someone who doesn't need a survey of American history of science and technology to go into actualities as much as nicely package, approximately correct information. For those looking for a work of HPS (History and Philosophy of Science) scholarship should pass over this one, unless he or she is seeking additional sociological context and considerations, for which this book might serve such a purpose. The book doesn't exhaustively present things like social and political forces on the development of technology, but it does an okay job, especially for someone getting their first survey in the subject matter. Since this book doesn't yet have a see-inside function, I am including a table of contents:

Table of Contents:
 Chapter 1: Working the Land in Preindustrial Europe and America
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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good, but could be better
 By Lundr
 The book has a rather narrow definition of technology and while the focus is on American society, it should be put in a wider perspective with the rest of the world to increase student understanding. The lack of historical perspective on a lot of these technologies and absence of coverage for technologies of the mind and human development is a severe detriment (change in education systems, production and modification of universities, the rise of technical schools, the change in the military 'production' of soldiers...)
 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lol good book with useful information
 By BigT
 Got this for school so I guess it was used for its purpose ! Lol good book with useful information !! rental program was amazing !!

In a single volume, this book combines the history of invention and the interactions of technology with social, economic, cultural, and military change throughout the course of American history. It illustrates the gradual shift from the era of individual artisan inventors to emergence of science-based corporate technology, and links the origins and development of American innovation to the global transformation of industry, agriculture, and transportation. For professionals in any industry influenced by technology.

From the Publisher
 In a single volume, this text combines the history of invention and the interactions of technology with social, economic, cultural, and military change throughout the course of American history.
 From the Back Cover
 With a new final chapter covering recent electronic and technological advances, the second edition of *Technology and American Society* extends coverage of innovations in industry, home, office, agriculture, transport, constructions, and services into the twenty-first century. Offering a global perspective on the development of American technology, the text is structured around a historical narrative detailing major technological transformations over the last three centuries. With coverage devoted to both dramatic breakthroughs and incremental innovations, *Technology and American Society* analyzes the cause-and-effect relationship of change and its role in the constant drive for improvement and modernization. About the Author
 Gary Cross is Distinguished Professor of Modern History at Pennsylvania State University, and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin in 1977 (Ph.D.). He has published ten books and twenty-three scholarly articles concerning the modern history of social, economic, and technological change in America, Britain, and France. Among his books are *A Quest for Time: The Reduction of Work in Britain and France*; *Time and Money: The Making of Consumer Culture*; *Kids' Stuff: Toys and the Changing World of American Childhood*; *An All-Consuming Century: Why Commercialism Won in Modern America*; and *The Cute and The Cool: Wondrous Innocence and Modern American Children's Culture*. These books feature the social and cultural impact of technological and economic change. Since 1981, he has taught an undergraduate course on the history of technology in America. His wife, Maru, and two children, Elena and Alex, have more or less cheerfully accompanied him on trips to numerous museums and heritage sites that feature technology. Rick Szostak is Professor and Associate Dean of Arts at the University of Alberta, where he has taught since receiving his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1985. He is

the author of eight books and more than twenty scholarly articles in the fields of the history of technology, economics, and interdisciplinary theory and practice. His books include *The Role of Transportation in the Industrial Revolution*, which showed how eighteenth-century transport improvements encouraged both the rise of the factory and a dramatic increase in the rate of technological innovation, and *Technological Innovation and the Great Depression*, which argued that much of that calamity could be attributed to the lack of new product innovation in the decade after 1925, combined with an abundance of labor-saving technology. He has authored articles on technological subjects for the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History*, *Scribner's Dictionary of American History*, and the *Gale Encyclopedia of the Great Depression*. As associate dean, he spearheaded the development of a new major in Science, Technology, and Society at the University of Alberta in 2004. In recent research he explores how the linkages among human science disciplines can be strengthened. His inspiration comes from his wife, Anne-Marie, and their children, Mireille, Julien, and Theodore.