

The Scientific Background To Modern Philosophy Selected Readings

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The Scientific Background to Modern Philosophy

John von Neumann was a Jewish refugee from Hungary — considered a “genius” like fellow Hungarians Leo Szilard, Eugene Wigner and Edward Teller — who played key roles developing the A-bomb at Los Alamos during World War II. As a mathematician at Princeton’s Institute for Advanced Study (where Einstein was also a professor), von Neumann was a leader in the development of early computers. Later, he developed the new field of game theory in economics and became a top nuclear arms policy adviser to the Truman and Eisenhower administrations. “I always thought [von Neumann’s] brain indicated that he belonged to a new species, an evolution beyond man. Macrae shows us in a lively way how this brain was nurtured and then left its great imprint on the world.” — Hans A. Bethe, Cornell University “The book makes for utterly captivating reading. Von Neumann was, of course, one of this century’s geniuses, and it is surprising that we have had to wait so long for a fully fleshed and sympathetic biography of the man. But now, happily, we have one. Macrae nicely delineates the cultural, familial, and educational environment from which von Neumann sprang and sketches the mathematical and scientific environment in which he flourished. It’s no small task to render a genius like von Neumann in ordinary language, yet Macrae manages the trick, providing more than a glimpse of what von Neumann accomplished intellectually without expecting the reader to have a Ph.D. in mathematics. Beyond that, he captures von Neumann’s qualities of temperament, mind, and personality, including his effortless wit and humor. And [Macrae] frames and accounts for von Neumann’s politics in ways that even critics of them, among whom I include myself, will find provocative and illuminating.” — Daniel J. Kevles, California Institute of Technology “A lively portrait of the hugely consequential nonmathematician-physicist-et al., whose genius has left an enduring impress on our thought, technology, society, and culture. A double salute to Steve White, who started this grand book designed for us avid, nonmathematical readers, and to Norman Macrae, who brought it to a triumphant conclusion.” — Robert K. Merton, Columbia University “The first full-scale biography of this polymath, who was born Jewish in Hungary in 1903 and died Roman Catholic in the United States at the age of 53. And Mr. Macrae has some great stories to tell Mr. Macrae’s biography has rescued a lot of good science gossip from probable extinction, and has introduced many of us to the life story of a man we ought to know better.” — Ed Regis, The New York Times “A nice and fascinating picture of a genius who was active in so many domains.” — Zentralblatt MATH “Biographer Macrae takes a ‘viewpaperman’ approach which stresses the context and personalities associated with von Neumann’s remarkable life, rather than attempting to give a detailed scholarly analysis of von Neumann’s papers. The resulting book is

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a highly entertaining account that is difficult to put down. ” — Journal of Mathematical Psychology “ A full and intimate biography of ‘ the man who consciously and deliberately set mankind moving along the road that led us into the Age of Computers. ’ ” — Freeman Dyson, Princeton, NJ “ It is good to have a biography of one of the most important mathematicians of the twentieth century, even if it is a biography that focuses much more on the man than on the mathematics. ” — Fernando Q. Gouvêa, Mathematical Association of America “ Based on much research, his own and that of others (especially of Stephen White), Macrae has written a valuable biography of this remarkable genius of our century, without the opacity of technical (mathematical) dimensions that are part of the hero ’ s intellectual contributions to humanity. Interesting, informative, illuminating, and insightful. ” — Choice Review “ Macrae paints a highly readable, humanizing portrait of a man whose legacy still influences and shapes modern science and knowledge. ” — Resonance, Journal of Science Education “ In this affectionate, humanizing biography, former Economist editor Macrae limns a prescient pragmatist who actively fought against fascism and who advocated a policy of nuclear deterrence because he foresaw that Stalin ’ s Soviet Union would rapidly acquire the bomb and develop rocketry Macrae makes [von Neumann ’ s] contributions accessible to the lay reader, and also discusses von Neumann ’ s relationships with two long-suffering wives, his political differences with Einstein and the cancer that killed him. ” — Publishers Weekly “ Macrae ’ s life of the great mathematician shows dramatically what proper care and feeding can do for an unusually capacious mind. ” — John Wilkes, Los Angeles Times

The Scientific Revolution and the Origins of Modern Science

This book introduces students to the best recent writings on the Scientific Revolution of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Introduces students to the best recent writings on the Scientific Revolution of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Covers a wide range of topics including astronomy, science and religion, natural philosophy, technology, medicine and alchemy. Represents a broad range of approaches from the seminal to the innovative. Presents work by scholars who have been at the forefront of reinterpreting the Scientific Revolution.

To Explain the World

From Atoms to Galaxies

The ideas of Charles Darwin and his fellow Victorian scientists have had an abiding effect on the modern world. But at the time *The Origin of Species* was published in 1859, the British public looked not to practicing scientists but to a growing group of professional writers and journalists to interpret the larger meaning of scientific theories in terms they could understand and in ways they could appreciate. *Victorian Popularizers of Science* focuses on this important group of men and women who wrote about science for a general audience in the second half of the nineteenth century. Bernard Lightman examines more than thirty of the most prolific, influential, and interesting popularizers of the day, investigating the dramatic lecturing techniques, vivid illustrations, and accessible literary styles they used to communicate with their audience. By focusing on a forgotten coterie of science writers, their publishers, and their public, Lightman offers new insights into the role of women in scientific inquiry, the market for scientific knowledge, tensions between religion and science, and the complexities of scientific authority in nineteenth-century Britain.

The Lagoon

The Scientific Revolution and the Origins of Modern Science

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This is a concise but wide-ranging account of all aspects of the Scientific Revolution from astronomy to zoology. The third edition has been thoroughly updated, and some sections revised and extended, to take into account the latest scholarship and research and new developments in historiography.

The Scientific Revolution

A companion to such acclaimed works as *The Age of Wonder*, *A Clockwork Universe*, and *Darwin's Ghosts*—a groundbreaking examination of the greatest event in history, the Scientific Revolution, and how it came to change the way we understand ourselves and our world. We live in a world transformed by scientific discovery. Yet today, science and its practitioners have come under political attack. In this fascinating history spanning continents and centuries, historian David Wootton offers a lively defense of science, revealing why the Scientific Revolution was truly the greatest event in our history. *The Invention of Science* goes back five hundred years in time to chronicle this crucial transformation, exploring the factors that led to its birth and the people who made it happen. Wootton argues that the Scientific Revolution was actually five separate yet concurrent events that developed independently, but came to intersect and create a new worldview. Here are the brilliant iconoclasts—Galileo, Copernicus, Brahe, Newton, and many more curious minds from across Europe—whose studies of the natural world challenged centuries of religious orthodoxy and ingrained superstition. From gunpowder technology, the discovery of the new world, movable type printing, perspective painting, and the telescope to the practice of conducting experiments, the laws of nature, and the concept of the fact, Wootton shows how these discoveries codified into a social construct and a system of knowledge. Ultimately, he makes clear the link between scientific discovery and the rise of industrialization—and the birth of the modern world we know.

Made Modern

Modern Scientific Thought

An accessible history of alchemy by a leading world authority explores its development and relationship with myriad disciplines and pursuits, tracing its heyday in early modern Europe while profiling some of history's most colorful alchemists and describing the author's recreation of famous alchemy recipes.

The Structure of Scientific Revolutions

A large sophisticated telescope complex sits atop a dormant volcano in one of Earth's most remote locations. Some incredibly bright but fiercely independent folks operate it much of the time. They detect, map, and perform threat analysis of near-Earth objects. Shortly after the world narrowly escapes an extinction event, they start collecting pieces of a related cosmic puzzle. When they've connected enough of them, an intriguing and disturbing picture emerges. Yet the most revealing pieces don't reveal themselves until after all life on Earth already has begun marching in lockstep toward possible oblivion.

Victorian Popularizers of Science

The post-WWI crisis of statelessness induced creative legal thinking, as officials and jurists debated cosmopolitan citizenship beyond the borders of sovereigns. But by midcentury the state won out as the lone site of citizenship. Mira Siegelberg uncovers the ideological roots of this transformation and its impact on the international order.

DE EVOLUTION

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Based on the new and much acclaimed two-volume Cambridge edition of *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes* by Cottingham, Stoothoff and Murdoch, this anthology of essential texts contains the most important and widely studied of those writings, including the *Discourse and Meditations* and substantial extracts from the *Regulae*, *Optics*, *Principles*, *Objectives and Replies*, *Comments on a Broadsheet*, and *Passions of the Soul*. In clear, readable, modern English, with a full text and running references to the standard Franco-Latin edition of Descartes, this book is planned as the definitive one-volume reader for all English-speaking students of Descartes.

A History of Modern Psychology

Science and technology have shaped not only economic empires and industrial landscapes, but also the identities, anxieties, and understandings of people living in modern times. *Made Modern* draws together leading scholars from a wide range of fields who write on topics ranging from exploration and infrastructure to the occult sciences and communications. The contributors use histories of science and technology to enrich our understanding of Canadian history and of Canada's place in a transnational modern world. The first major collection of its kind in thirty years, this book explores the place of science and technology in shaping Canadians' experience of themselves and their place in the modern world.

The Scientific Background to Modern Philosophy

One of the world's most beloved and bestselling writers takes his ultimate journey -- into the most intriguing and intractable questions that science seeks to answer. In *A Walk in the Woods*, Bill Bryson trekked the Appalachian Trail -- well, most of it. In *In A Sunburned Country*, he confronted some of the most lethal wildlife Australia has to offer. Now, in his biggest book, he confronts his greatest challenge: to understand -- and, if possible, answer -- the oldest, biggest questions we have posed about the universe and ourselves. Taking as territory everything from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization, Bryson seeks to understand how we got from there being nothing at all to there being us. To that end, he has attached himself to a host of the world's most advanced (and often obsessed) archaeologists, anthropologists, and mathematicians, travelling to their offices, laboratories, and field camps. He has read (or tried to read) their books, pestered them with questions, apprenticed himself to their powerful minds. *A Short History of Nearly Everything* is the record of this quest, and it is a sometimes profound, sometimes funny, and always supremely clear and entertaining adventure in the realms of human knowledge, as only Bill Bryson can render it. Science has never been more involving or entertaining. From the Hardcover edition.

The Rise of Scientific Philosophy

The History of Modern Science

The Ptolemaic system of the universe, with the earth at the center, had held sway since antiquity as authoritative in philosophy, science, and church teaching. Following his observations of the heavenly bodies, Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543) abandoned the geocentric system for a heliocentric model, with the sun at the center. His remarkable work, *On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres*, stands as one of the greatest intellectual revolutions of all time, and profoundly influenced, among others, Galileo and Sir Isaac Newton.

The Scientific Background to Modern Philosophy

Darkness has a history and a uniquely modern form. Distinct from night, shadows, and artificial light, "artificial darkness" has been overlooked—until now. In fact, controlled darkness was essential to the rise

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of photography and cinema, science and spectacle, and a century of advanced art and film. *Artificial Darkness* is the first book to historicize and theorize this phenomenon and map its applications across a range of media and art forms. In exploring how artificial darkness shaped modern art, film, and media, Noam M. Elcott addresses seminal and obscure works alongside their sites of production—such as photography darkrooms, film studios, and laboratories—and their sites of reception, including theaters, cinemas, and exhibitions. He argues that artists, scientists, and entertainers like Étienne-Jules Marey, Richard Wagner, Georges Méliès, and Oskar Schlemmer revolutionized not only images but also everything surrounding them: the screen, the darkness, and the experience of bodies and space. At the heart of the book is “the black screen,” a technology of darkness that spawned today’s blue and green screens and has undergirded numerous advanced art and film practices to this day. Turning familiar art and film narratives on their heads, *Artificial Darkness* is a revolutionary treatment of an elusive, yet fundamental, aspect of art and media history.

Modern Maintenance Management

College students in the United States are becoming increasingly incapable of differentiating between proven facts delivered by scientific inquiry and the speculations of pseudoscience. In an effort to help stem this disturbing trend, *From Atoms to Galaxies: A Conceptual Physics Approach to Scientific Awareness* teaches heightened scientific acuity as it educates students about the physical world and gives them answers to questions large and small. Written by Sadri Hassani, the author of several mathematical physics textbooks, this work covers the essentials of modern physics, in a way that is as thorough as it is compelling and accessible. Some of you might want to know . . . How did Galileo come to think about the first law of motion? . . . Did Newton actually discover gravity by way of an apple and an accident? Or maybe you have mulled over . . . Is it possible for Santa Claus to deliver all his toys? . . . Is it possible to prove that Elvis does not visit Graceland every midnight? Or perhaps you’ve even wondered . . . If ancient Taoism really parallels modern physics? . . . If psychoanalysis can actually be called a science? . . . How it is that some philosophies of science may imply that a 650-year-old woman can give birth to a child? No Advanced Mathematics Required A primary textbook for undergraduate students not majoring in physics, *From Atoms to Galaxies* examines physical laws and their consequences from a conceptual perspective that requires no advanced mathematics. It explains quantum physics, relativity, nuclear and particle physics, gauge theory, quantum field theory, quarks and leptons, and cosmology. Encouraging students to subscribe to proven causation rather than dramatic speculation, the book: Defines the often obscured difference between science and technology, discussing how this confusion taints both common culture and academic rigor Explores the various philosophies of science, demonstrating how errors in our understanding of scientific principles can adversely impact scientific awareness Exposes how pseudoscience and New Age mysticism advance unproven conjectures as dangerous alternatives to proven science Based on courses taught by the author for over 15 years, this textbook has been developed to raise the scientific awareness of the untrained reader who lacks a technical or mathematical background. To accomplish this, the book lays the foundation of the laws that govern our universe in a nontechnical way, emphasizing topics that excite the mind, namely those taken from modern physics, and exposing the abuses made of them by the New Age gurus and other mystagogues. It outlines the methods developed by physicists for the scientific investigation of nature, and contrasts them with those developed by the outsiders who claim to be the owners of scientific methodology. Each chapter includes essays, which use the material developed in that chapter to debunk misconceptions, clarify the nature of science, and explore the history of physics as it relates to the development of ideas. Noting the damage incurred by confusing science and technology, the book strives to help the reader to emphatically demarcate the two, while clearly demonstrating that science is the only element capable of advancing technology.

John von Neumann: The Scientific Genius Who Pioneered the Modern Computer, Game

Theory, Nuclear Deterrence, and Much More

This book represents a new approach to philosophy. It treats philosophy as not a collection of systems, but as a study of problems. It recognizes in traditional philosophical systems the historical function of having asked questions rather than having given solutions. Professor Reichenbach traces the failures of the systems to psychological causes. Speculative philosophers offered answers at a time when science had not yet provided the means to give true answers. Their search for certainty and for moral directives led them to accept pseudo-solutions. Plato, Descartes, Spinoza, Kant, and many others are cited to illustrate the rationalist fallacy: reason, unaided by observation, was regarded as a source of knowledge, revealing the physical world and "moral truth." The empiricists could not disprove this thesis, for they could not give a valid account of mathematical knowledge. Mathematical discoveries in the early nineteenth century cleared the way for modern scientific philosophy. Its advance was furthered by discoveries in modern physics, chemistry, biology, and psychology. These findings have made possible a new conception of the universe and of the atom. The work of scientists thus altered philosophy completely and brought into being a philosopher with a new attitude and training. Instead of dictating so-called laws of reason to the scientist, this modern philosopher proceeds by analyzing scientific methods and results. He finds answers to the age-old questions of space, time, causality, and life; of the human observer and the external world. He tells us how to find our way through this world without resorting to unjustifiable beliefs or assuming a supernatural origin for moral standards. Philosophy thus is no longer a battleground of contradictory opinions, but a science discovering truth step by step. Professor Reichenbach, known for his many contributions to logic and the philosophy of science, addresses this book to a wider audience. He writes for those who do not have the leisure or preparation to read in the fields of mathematics, symbolic logic, or physics. Besides showing the principal foundations of the new philosophy, he has been careful to provide the necessary factual background. He has written a philosophical study, not a mere popularization. It contains within its chapters all the necessary scientific material in an understandable form—and, therefore, conveys all the information indispensable to a modern world-view. The late Hans Reichenbach was Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Los Angeles. His previous books include

Artificial Darkness

This edition of *Science and Creationism* summarizes key aspects of several of the most important lines of evidence supporting evolution. It describes some of the positions taken by advocates of creation science and presents an analysis of these claims. This document lays out for a broader audience the case against presenting religious concepts in science classes. The document covers the origin of the universe, Earth, and life; evidence supporting biological evolution; and human evolution. (Contains 31 references.) (CCM)

Essays and Papers in the History of Modern Science

A masterful commentary on the history of science from the Greeks to modern times, by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Weinberg—a thought-provoking and important book by one of the most distinguished scientists and intellectuals of our time. In this rich, irreverent, and compelling history, Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Weinberg takes us across centuries from ancient Miletus to medieval Baghdad and Oxford, from Plato's Academy and the Museum of Alexandria to the cathedral school of Chartres and the Royal Society of London. He shows that the scientists of ancient and medieval times not only did not understand what we understand about the world—they did not understand what there is to understand, or how to understand it. Yet over the centuries, through the struggle to solve such mysteries as the curious backward movement of the planets and the rise and fall of the tides, the modern discipline of science eventually emerged. Along the way, Weinberg examines historic clashes and collaborations between science and the competing spheres of religion, technology, poetry, mathematics, and philosophy. An illuminating

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exploration of the way we consider and analyze the world around us, *To Explain the World* is a sweeping, ambitious account of how difficult it was to discover the goals and methods of modern science, and the impact of this discovery on human knowledge and development.

Descartes: Selected Philosophical Writings

Introducing Modern Japan

A brilliant study of Aristotle as biologist The philosophical classics of Aristotle loom large over the history of Western thought, but the subject he most loved was biology. He wrote vast volumes about animals. He described them, classified them, told us where and how they live and how they develop in the womb or in the egg. He founded a science. It can even be said that he founded science itself. In *The Lagoon*, acclaimed biologist Armand Marie Leroi recovers Aristotle's science. He revisits Aristotle's writings and the places where he worked. He goes to the eastern Aegean island of Lesbos to see the creatures that Aristotle saw, where he saw them. He explores Aristotle's observations, his deep ideas, his inspired guesses—and the things he got wildly wrong. He shows how Aristotle's science is deeply intertwined with his philosophical system and reveals that he was not only the first biologist, but also one of the greatest. *The Lagoon* is both a travelogue and a study of the origins of science. And it shows how a philosopher who lived almost two millennia ago still has so much to teach us today. From the Hardcover edition.

Modern Hospital

A History of Modern Psychology, 3rd Edition discusses the development and decline of schools of thought in modern psychology. The book presents the continuing refinement of the tools, techniques, and methods of psychology in order to achieve increased precision and objectivity. Chapters focus on relevant topics such as the role of history in understanding the diversity and divisiveness of contemporary psychology; the impact of physics on the cognitive revolution and humanistic psychology; the influence of mechanism on Descartes's thinking; and the evolution of the third force, humanistic psychology. Undergraduate students of psychology and related fields will find the book invaluable in their pursuit of knowledge.

History of Science: The beginnings of modern science, from 1450 to 1800

Contains transcripts of lectures given at the Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan, Washington D.C

Statelessness

Many scientists and engineers consider themselves poor writers or find the writing process difficult. The good news is that you do not have to be a talented writer to produce a good scientific paper, but you do have to be a careful writer. In particular, writing for a peer-reviewed scientific or engineering journal requires learning and executing a specific formula for presenting scientific work. This book is all about teaching the style and conventions of writing for a peer-reviewed scientific journal. From structure to style, titles to tables, abstracts to author lists, this book gives practical advice about the process of writing a paper and getting it published.

Background to Modern Science

This book is a compendium of essays on various science related topics which are at the cutting edge of modern science and technology. Sixteen different science topics are discussed in the book, which include

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origin and evolution of the universe, the microscopic world of the atom, unification of the forces of nature, our planet earth and its neighbors, modern developments in synthetic biology, global warming, artificial intelligence and the explosive growth of information technology. The book exposes its readers having a modest science background to some of the most exciting developments in modern science. Keeping this in view the discussion is kept at a simple level without excessive use of mathematics and abstract concepts. While aiming at simplicity and coherence every effort is made not to compromise on accuracy. We are living in an era where scientists specializing in a particular area are hardly aware of the happenings in related disciplines. This book aims at bridging this gap. Finally there are sizable sections of science educated lay public who are curious to understand the how and the why of modern scientific developments at a very basic level. It is hoped that this book will be helpful in satisfying their curiosity.

The Invention of Science

The Scientific Revolution

The Secrets of Alchemy

This study provides a brief survey and accessible guide to the most important aspects of the Scientific Revolution. As well as considering the development of the mathematical and experimental approaches to an understanding of the natural world, it looks at the crucial role of magical traditions in the origins of modern science and the importance of the Christian world-view in the shaping of the scientific endeavour. Written with the non-scientist in mind, it does not dwell on technical details but seeks to show the social, cultural, and intellectual factors which shaped the development of science in its formative stage and prepared the way for the predominance of science in modern Western culture. Taking account of the latest developments in our understanding of this vital aspect of European history, it is also a useful guide to more detailed literature for students and other interested readers.

A Short History of Nearly Everything

How to Write a Good Scientific Paper

Originally published in 1938, this book contains ten lectures on subjects such as parasitology, radioactivity, astronomy and evolution theory.

The Sceptical Chymist

On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres

The Central Methodological and Philosophical Texts of the Scientific Revolution. Aristotle, Copernicus, Bacon, Galileo, Descartes, Boyle, Huygens, Newton. The texts display the interaction between science and philosophy in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, out of which both modern science and modern philosophy emerged.

Spiritism, the Modern Satanism

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The Central Methodological and Philosophical Texts of the Scientific Revolution. Aristotle, Copernicus, Bacon, Galileo, Descartes, Boyle, Huygens, Newton. The texts display the interaction between science and philosophy in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, out of which both modern science and modern philosophy emerged.

The Scientific Revolution and the Foundations of Modern Science

Presents a history of science during the Renaissance, introducing the key figures of the period such as Galileo, Kepler, Descartes, and Newton, and discussing how their discoveries led to the emergence of modern science.

History of Science, Technology and Medicine in India: Science in modern India

“ There was no such thing as the Scientific Revolution, and this is a book about it. ” With this provocative and apparently paradoxical claim, Steven Shapin begins his bold, vibrant exploration of the origins of the modern scientific worldview, now updated with a new bibliographic essay featuring the latest scholarship.

“ An excellent book. ” —Anthony Gottlieb, *New York Times Book Review* “ Timely and highly readable. . . A book which every scientist curious about our predecessors should read. ” —Trevor Pinch, *New Scientist* “ Shapin's account is informed, nuanced, and articulated with clarity. . . . This is not to attack or devalue science but to reveal its richness as the human endeavor that it most surely is. . . . Shapin's book is an impressive achievement. ” —David C. Lindberg, *Science* “ It's hard to believe that there could be a more accessible, informed or concise account. . . . The Scientific Revolution should be a set text in all the disciplines. And in all the indisdisciplines, too. ” —Adam Phillips, *London Review of Books*

Modern Business

Science and Creationism

Reproduction of the original: *The Sceptical Chymist* by Robert Boyle

Higher Education Act of 1965

A supplementary text for courses in the history of modern philosophy, helping to link developments in modern science and modern philosophy.

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