Making Modern Science A Historical Survey

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containing 609 encyclopedic articles written by more than 200 prominent scholars the oxford companion to the history of modern science presents an unparalleled history of the field invaluable to anyone with an interest in the technology ideas discoveries and learned institutions that have shaped our world over the past five centuries focusing on the period from the renaissance to the

early twenty first century the articles cover all disciplines biology alchemy behaviorism historical periods the scientific revolution world war ii the cold war concepts hypothesis space and time ether and methodologies and philosophies observation and experiment darwinism coverage is international tracing the spread of science from its traditional centers and explaining how the prevailing knowledge of non western societies has modified or contributed to the dominant global science as it is currently understood revealing the interplay between science and the wider culture the companion includes entries on topics such as minority groups art religion and science s practical applications one hundred biographies of the most iconic historic figures chosen for their contributions to science and the interest of their lives are also included above all the oxford companion to the history of modern science is a companion to world history modern in coverage generous in breadth and cosmopolitan in scope the volume s utility is enhanced by a thematic outline of the entire contents a thorough system of cross referencing and a detailed index that enables the reader to follow a specific line of inquiry along various threads from multiple starting points each essay has numerous suggestions for further reading all of which favor literature that is accessible to the general reader and a bibliographical essay provides a general overview of the scholarship in the field lastly as a contribution to the visual appeal of the companion over 100 black and white illustrations and an eight page color section capture the eye and spark the imagination

this history of the birth of modern science shatters the illusion that science is dry and divorced from culture by exploring the powerful clashes between traditions and value systems that gave rise to it the author shows how many of the characteristics that distinguish science today emerged in the midst of the wars and plagues of the seventeenth century and defines what was new about this form of knowledge

of him in like measure within myself that is my highest wish this noble individual was not conscious of the fact that at that very moment the divine within him and the divine of the universe were most intimately united so for goethe the resonance with a natural rationality seems part of the genius of modern science einstein s cosmic religion which reflects spinoza also echoes goethe s remark ibid item 575 from 1829 man must cling to the belief that the incomprehensible is comprehensible else he would give up investigating but how far will goethe share the devotion of these cosmic rationalists to the beautiful harmonies of mathematics so distant from any pure and direct observation kepler spinoza einstein need not and would not rest with discovery of a pattern within behind as a source of the phenomenal world and they would not let even the most profound of descriptive generalities satisfy scientific curiosity for his part goethe sought fundamental archetypes as in his intuition of a urpjlanze basic to all plants infinitely plastic when such would be found goethe would be content for as he said to eckermann feb 18 1829 to seek something behind the urphaenomenon is futile here is the limit but as a rule men are not satisfied to behold an urphaenomenon they think there must be something beyond they are like children who having looked into a mirror turn it around to see what is on the other side

although scientists have effectively employed the concepts of probability to address the complex problem of prediction modern science still falls short in establishing true predictions with meaningful lead times of zero probability major disasters the recent earthquakes in haiti chile and china are tragic reminders of the critical need for

the zoetrope was a toy familiar to children it was sometimes called the wheel of life it was a contrivance consisting of a cylinder some ten inches wide open at the top around the lower and interior rim of which a series of related pictures were placed the cylinder was then rapidly rotated and the spectator looking through the vertical narrow slits on its outer surface could fancy that the pictures inside were moving

including case studies this collection of engaging and stimulating essays written by a diverse group of scholars scientists and writers examines the phenomenon of pseudoarchaeology from a variety of perspectives

drawing upon a wealth of previously unpublished archival material leo strauss on science brings to light the thoughts of leo strauss on the problem of science introducing us to strauss s reflections on the meaning and perplexities of the scientific adventure svetozar y minkov explores questions such as is there a human wisdom independent of science what is the relation between poetry and mathematics or between self knowledge and theoretical physics and how necessary is it for the human species to exist immutably in order for the classical analysis of human life to be correct in pursuing these questions minkov aims to change the conversation about strauss one of the great thinkers of the past century

excerpt from the realities of modern science an introduction for the general reader the present volume is intended for the general reader interested in modern science who finds few clews to recent advances in his memories of the formal instruction of school or college days during the last twenty years physical research has penetrated the mysteries of the chemical elements and has demonstrated that their atoms are granular in structure and electrical in nature transmutation the dream of the alchemists is to day recognized as a natural process in the case of radioactive substances an element common to all matter has been found in the electron which has been isolated and studied it is a reality of modern science and in terms of it scientists are rapidly explaining the phenomena of all physical science the essential unity of which its discovery has emphasized the existence of electrons and their determining effect in the composition of the chemical elements are easily demonstrable facts compared to which the indestructibility of matter is a speculative assertion and the independence of mass and speed an exploded theory nevertheless our education is so constrained by established curricula and text books adapted thereto that a knowledge of these facts is usually acquired only by college students who elect the more advanced courses about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks com this book is a reproduction of an

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