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Mechanization Takes Command: A Contribution To Anonymous History



Synopsis

First published in 1948, *Mechanization Takes Command* is an examination of mechanization and its effects on everyday life. A monumental figure in the field of architectural history, Sigfried Giedion traces the evolution and resulting philosophical implications of such disparate innovations as the slaughterhouse, the Yale lock, the assembly line, tractors, ovens, and "comfort" as defined by advancements in furniture design. A groundbreaking text when originally published, Giedion's pioneering work remains an important contribution to architecture, philosophy, and technology studies.

Book Information

Paperback: 608 pages

Publisher: Univ Of Minnesota Press (March 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 081669043X

ISBN-13: 978-0816690435

Product Dimensions: 7 x 2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

"It is a provocative, enlightening, sometimes frightening story." —Thomas Sugrue, *New York Times*
"Many people have wondered what mechanization is doing to man; nobody yet has investigated, documented, and illustrated the question to the extent of this enormous and fascinating book."
—*Time*
"Giedion reveled in the splendor of such humble things, the stuff of ordinary life. He studied them lovingly and sought to convey to his readers a sense of their inner beauty, mystery, and wonder."
—*Technology and Culture*

Sigfried Giedion (1888–1968) taught at the Federal Institute of Technology and was Mellon Lecturer at the Washington National Gallery and the Charles Elliot Norton Lecturer at Harvard University. His other works include *Space, Time, and Architecture* and *The Eternal Present*.

This is to replace a book I used in college and have regularly referred students to. Apparently I lent it out once too often. The ideas still intrigue me and are still relevant, even if the writing isn't quite scintillating.

(Mechanization Takes Command isn't a "product"...Dear , please remember your origins.) That said, Mechanization Takes Command is one of those rare books written by someone who understands technology over the centuries and also understands civilization. This book should be re-printed. Giedion's other great book, Space, Time & Architecture, is still in print and assigned at architectural schools.

A Very well written insightful book. Giedion is some kind of genius. This work is more important now than ever.

A good classic book on furniture design and history - though I found several parts very Western minded. There was section about how people in the East sat on their legs with proper positioning in mind, while people in the West sat with comfort in mind. I'm sure they are speaking of those that practice yoga, but I'm also sure India and China had proper chairs to sit on.

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