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American technological sublime

American Technology Sublime continues the study of the social construction technology that David Nye has launched in his award-winning book *Electrification of America*. Here, Nye examines the constant attractiveness of technology majestic (a term coined by Perry Miller) as the key to the nation's history, using examples of natural objects, architectural forms and technological achievements that ordinary people have valued intensely. Technology has long played a key role in shaping Americans' sense of self. From the first channel systems during the moon landing, Americans, for better or worse, derived a sense of unity from a common sense of fear inspired by the large-scale application of technological prowess. American Technology Sublime continues the study of the social construction technology that David Nye has launched in his award-winning book *Electrification of America*. Here, Nye examines the constant attractiveness of technology majestic (a term coined by Perry Miller) as the key to the nation's history, using examples of natural objects, architectural forms and technological achievements that ordinary people have valued intensely. American Technology Sublime is a study of perception politics in industrial society. Arranged chronologically, it shows that the majestic itself has a history – that the magnificent experience is the emotional configurations that emerge from new social and technological conditions, and that each new configuration to some extent undermines and displaces older versions. Having given a brief history of sublime history as an aesthetic category, Nye describes the revival and democratization of concept as an expression of the sense of American specialty at the beginning of the 19th century. What filled American society with wonder, fear, even terror? David Nye chooses grand canyon, Niagara Falls, Mt St. Helens eruption, Erie Canal, first transcontinental railroad, Eads Bridge, Brooklyn Bridge, major international expositions, Hudson-Fulton Festival in 1909, Empire State Building, and Boulder Dam. He then sees atom bomb tests and the Apollo mission as examples of the increasing technological grandeur of the post-war world. The celebrations surrounding the rededication of the Statue of Liberty in 1986 became a touchstone reflecting the transformation of the American experience magnificently over two centuries. Nye completes with modern consumers a magnificent vision of how the fantasy world in Las Vegas manifests itself. Contents: America's magnificent magnificent railway: dynamic majestic bridges and skyscrapers: geometric magnificent factory: from pastoral mill to industrial grandeur Electric majestic: technology double electric urban landscape: unforeseen magnificent fusion: 1939 New York World'd Atomic Bomb and Apollo XI: A new form of dynamic majestic Rededicating statue of Liberty user magnificent. Close drawer David Nye always has something interesting and ambiguous to say about the role of technology in American culture and society. American Technology Sublime is ... a book that can be profitable and enjoyable to read by professionals and general readers. This is an appreciable work of historical interpretation and writing and deserves a wide range of readers. David NasawBoston Globe Mouseover online Attention Data American Technological Sublime continues the study of social construction technology that David Nye has launched in his award-winning book *Electrifying America*. Here, Nye examines the constant appeal of technology to the great (a term coined by Perry Miller) as the key to the nation's history, using as examples of natural objects, architectural forms and technological achievements that ordinary people have valued intensely. Technology has long played a key role in shaping Americans' sense of self. From the first channel systems during the moon landing, Americans, for better or worse, derived a sense of unity from a common sense of fear inspired by the large-scale application of technological prowess. American Technology Sublime continues the study of the social construction technology that David Nye has launched in his award-winning book *Electrification of America*. Here, Nye examines the constant appeal of technology to the great (a term coined by Perry Miller) as the key to the nation's history, using as examples of natural objects, architectural forms and technological achievements that ordinary people have valued intensely. American Technology Sublime is a study of perception politics in industrial society. Arranged chronologically, it shows that the majestic itself has a history – that the magnificent experience is the emotional configurations that emerge from new social and technological conditions, and that each new configuration to some extent undermines and displaces older versions. Having given a brief history of sublime history as an aesthetic category, Nye describes the revival and democratization of concept as an expression of the sense of American specialty at the beginning of the 19th century. What filled American society with wonder, fear, even terror? David Nye chooses grand canyon, Niagara Falls, Mt St. Helens eruption, Erie Canal, first transcontinental railroad, Eads Bridge, Brooklyn Bridge, major international expositions, Hudson-Fulton Festival in 1909, Empire State Building, and Boulder Dam. He then sees atom bomb tests and the Apollo mission as examples of the increasing technological grandeur of the post-war world. The celebrations surrounding the rededuction of the Statue of Liberty in 1986 reflecting the great transformation of the American experience over two centuries. Nye completes with modern consumer's lofty vision of how the fantasy world in Las Vegas manifests itself. From print ISBN: 9780262140560 384 pp. | 6 x 9 October 1994 \$40.00 X ISBN: 9780262640343 384 pp. | 6 x 9 In February 1996, David E. Nye is a senior fellow at the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota and emeritus professor of American studies at the University of Southern Denmark. His other books, published by MIT Press, include *American technological sublime* and *American lighting*. In 2005, he was awarded the Leonardo da Vinci Medal and was knighted by the Queen of Denmark in 2013. David Nye always has something interesting and ambiguous to say about the role of technology in American culture and society. American Technology Sublime is ... a book that can be profitable and enjoyable to read by professionals and general readers. This is an appreciable work of historical interpretation and writing and deserves a wide range of readers. David NasawBoston Globe Get Access Rights & Permissions[Opens in a new window] Summary for this content is not available and a review has been submitted. For information about how to access this content, use the Get Access link above. Copyright © President and Friends of Harvard College in 1995 get access to all versions of this content using one of the access options below. Start your review of American technology sublime If Leo Marx or Perry Miller can be credited for the first time by inventing Technology Sublime as a field of study, then David Nye can be credited masterfully for his most definitive (if not compelling) manifesto. He addresses the topic in the eyes of historians for events, philosopher terminology and sociologist's sense of the wider impact of his chosen examples on the American people. It is based on sources such as Kant and Durkheim, Emerson and Niagara Falls Electric Guide (If Leo Marx or Perry Miller can be credited with the first invention of technology sublime as a field of study, then David Nye can be credited masterfully in his most definitive (if not compelling) manifesto. He addresses the topic in the eyes of historians for events, philosopher terminology and sociologist's sense of the wider impact of his chosen examples on the American people. It is based on sources such as Kant and Durkheim, Emerson and the Niagara Falls Electric Guide (released in 1904). The list goes on: Norman Mailer, Henry James, Edmund Burke, Peter Conrad, and many (many) others appear in Nye's bibliography. It even references David McCullough, who penned such popular works as *John Adams*, *Truman*, and *The Great Bridge*. In the savory diligence of this book, Nye has done things no one else has before: he demonstrated, far beyond my ability to object, to change the business experience of the technologically majestic individual's experience of religious as an American tradition. While I probably don't go as far as Nye does and remove other nations from this trend, there is something about the energy of the American crowd on the Fourth of July or the opening of a new skyscraper (especially in the 20's and 30's)--or 1939. The New York World Fair, or the dedication of Brooklyn and the Golden Gate Bridges , not to mention all the dams and railways and other technological wonders of the last two centuries, which lead to some religious experience that would have previously been reserved for the world's great natural wonders. Nye prose is dry. It's a fact. The closest he ever comes to revealing his personal voice is when he tells how visitors to the Grand Canyon often assume that people dug canyons or that they could improve it so that they could view it quickly and easily (p289), and how a few people fall into the Grand Canyon and die every year-people whose relatives then sue the Park Service because there were no fences or guard rails-like frightening immensity that people should have hand rails and warning signs (p. 290). Perhaps Nye's general constraint is actually the strength of reading this book as a guide to technological greatness, but dry prose tends to make it difficult for me to connect to the text. There are some questions that Nye never addresses- such as why he decided to focus on the collective experience of a sublime rather than personal one. Perhaps he thought that, wearing a socio-historian's hat, he should explore the dynamics of the group of technological greatness. Perhaps he would argue that sublime is not a feeling (as I do, and several of my classmates probably claim), but rather a term defining american society's religious worship of technological wonders. Either way, Nye is so specific to his attention that he forgets his readers may not have the same definition of sublime as he is. Still, if you're looking for a comprehensive job on the importance of technology in America, you can't forget Nye's *American Technological Sublime*. Give him some time percolate. ... more it was a fairly comprehensive study of America's admiration for technological innovation. Covering structures such as bridges and skyscrapers, and power forms, including steam, electricity and nuclear reactions, the author makes a consistent case and to some extent makes observations about America's character. It's a pity that the book was published as the next wave of technology (internet) became popular because it would have been interesting to see how or wheth It was a pretty detailed survey admiration for technological innovation. Covering structures such as bridges and skyscrapers, and power forms, including steam, electricity and nuclear reactions, the author makes a consistent case and to some extent makes observations about America's character. It's a pity that the book was published as the next wave of technology (the Internet) became popular because it would have been interesting to see how and whether something so relatively abstract, how information and data would meet a lofty definition, or maybe be, in some way, the ultimate example of technology majestic (transcends the individual.) ... more this book was ridiculously useful to me. Explains America's magnificent transition from Kantian, natural sublime to technological and then consumer sublime. I also really like his descriptions of the community, the community confirming the magnificent experience (rather than the lonely moment Kant talks about kind of). I don't know, I agree with his conclusions about Las Vegas, but his stuff about atom bombs and atomic energy as a kind of self-destruction rather than self-government was particularly compelling. I'm so glad I read this one. ... more perfectly written, but obviously biased toward American exceptionalism and leaves significant examples of technology magnificent around the world. World.

