

Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age

By W. Bernard Carlson

Download now

Read Online

Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson

Nikola Tesla was a major contributor to the electrical revolution that transformed daily life at the turn of the twentieth century. His inventions, patents, and theoretical work formed the basis of modern AC electricity, and contributed to the development of radio and television. Like his competitor Thomas Edison, Tesla was one of America's first celebrity scientists, enjoying the company of New York high society and dazzling the likes of Mark Twain with his electrical demonstrations. An astute self-promoter and gifted showman, he cultivated a public image of the eccentric genius. Even at the end of his life when he was living in poverty, Tesla still attracted reporters to his annual birthday interview, regaling them with claims that he had invented a particle-beam weapon capable of bringing down enemy aircraft.

Plenty of biographies glamorize Tesla and his eccentricities, but until now none has carefully examined what, how, and why he invented. In this groundbreaking book, W. Bernard Carlson demystifies the legendary inventor, placing him within the cultural and technological context of his time, and focusing on his inventions themselves as well as the creation and maintenance of his celebrity. Drawing on original documents from Tesla's private and public life, Carlson shows how he was an "idealist" inventor who sought the perfect experimental realization of a great idea or principle, and who skillfully sold his inventions to the public through mythmaking and illusion.

This major biography sheds new light on Tesla's visionary approach to invention and the business strategies behind his most important technological breakthroughs.

Download Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age ...pdf

Read Online Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age ...pdf

Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age

By W. Bernard Carlson

Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson

Nikola Tesla was a major contributor to the electrical revolution that transformed daily life at the turn of the twentieth century. His inventions, patents, and theoretical work formed the basis of modern AC electricity, and contributed to the development of radio and television. Like his competitor Thomas Edison, Tesla was one of America's first celebrity scientists, enjoying the company of New York high society and dazzling the likes of Mark Twain with his electrical demonstrations. An astute self-promoter and gifted showman, he cultivated a public image of the eccentric genius. Even at the end of his life when he was living in poverty, Tesla still attracted reporters to his annual birthday interview, regaling them with claims that he had invented a particle-beam weapon capable of bringing down enemy aircraft.

Plenty of biographies glamorize Tesla and his eccentricities, but until now none has carefully examined what, how, and why he invented. In this groundbreaking book, W. Bernard Carlson demystifies the legendary inventor, placing him within the cultural and technological context of his time, and focusing on his inventions themselves as well as the creation and maintenance of his celebrity. Drawing on original documents from Tesla's private and public life, Carlson shows how he was an "idealist" inventor who sought the perfect experimental realization of a great idea or principle, and who skillfully sold his inventions to the public through mythmaking and illusion.

This major biography sheds new light on Tesla's visionary approach to invention and the business strategies behind his most important technological breakthroughs.

Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #28999 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2015-04-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 1.30" w x 5.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 520 pages

Download Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age ...pdf

Read Online Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson

Editorial Review

From Booklist
Starred Review Nikola Tesla once noted that the men who worked for him sometimes “thought I was some kind of magician or hypnotizer.” Like Tesla’s assistants, biographer Carlson sees the magician and hypnotizer in the astonishing inventor. Readers, too, will perceive the magic-working wizard in the Serbian-born genius as he translates intensely conceived imaginative ideals into world-changing technologies—such as the alternating-current motor and the radio-controlled boat. And they will recognize something of the hypnotizer in the flamboyant showman who dazzles lecture-hall audiences and potential backers with electric flames passing through his body. Carlson even has something to teach readers familiar with Seifer’s dissection of Tesla’s tortured psyche in Wizard (1996) and O’Neill’s much earlier chronicle of Tesla’s childhood and early career in Prodigal Genius (1944). Carlson provides not only a more detailed explanation of Tesla’s science but also a more focused psychological account of Tesla’s inventive process than do his predecessors. Carlson also surpasses his predecessors in showing how Tesla promoted his inventions by creating luminous illusions of progress, prosperity, and peace, illusions so strong that they finally unhinge their creator. An exceptional fusion of technical analysis of revolutionary devices and imaginative sympathy for a lacerated ego. --Bryce Christensen

Review
Winner of the 2015 Sally Hacker Prize, Society for the History of Technology
Winner of the 2015 IEEE William and Joyce Middleton Electrical Engineering History Award, History Committee of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
One of Amazon.com's 2013 Best Science Books
One of Booklist Online's Top 10 Science & Health Books for 2013
One of *Choice*'s Outstanding Academic Titles for 2013
One of *The Guardian*'s Best Popular Physical Science Books of 2014, chosen by GrrlScientist
Honorable Mention for the 2013 PROSE Award in Biography & Autobiography, Association of American Publishers
Longlisted for the 2014 Royal Society Winton Prize for Science Books

"[An] assiduous, endlessly patient biography. . . . In Carlson's eyes, Tesla's relationship with modernity in all its forms--its fixation with progress and explanation, capital and connection, but also its fragmentation of narrative and self--is more complex and revealing than even the conspiracy nuts have imagined."**--Richard Barnett, *London Review of Books***

"Carlson sheds light on the man and plenty of his inventions. . . . [An] electric portrait."**--*Publishers Weekly***

"Superb. . . . Carlson brings to life Tesla's extravagant self-promotion, as well as his eccentricity and innate talents, revealing him as a celebrity-inventor of the 'second industrial revolution' to rival Thomas Alva Edison."**--W. Patrick McCray, *Nature***

"Soundly footnoted, yet eminently readable, it provides a balanced examination of the man and his work, focusing particularly on Tesla's distinctive style of invention."**--*Natural History***

"Carefully researched and thoughtfully written. . . . Clearly surpassing earlier accounts, [this] will be the gold standard for Tesla biography."**--Thomas J. Misa, *Science***

"A scholarly, critical, mostly illuminating study of the life and work of the great Serbian inventor."**--*Kirkus Reviews***

"Carlson even has something to teach readers familiar with Seifer's dissection of Tesla's tortured psyche in Wizard (2001) and O'Neill's much earlier chronicle of Tesla's childhood and early career in Prodigal Genius (1944). Carlson provides not only a more detailed explanation of Tesla's science but also a more focused psychological account of Tesla's inventive process than do his predecessors. Carlson also surpasses his predecessors in showing how Tesla promoted his inventions by creating luminous illusions of progress, prosperity, and peace, illusions so strong that they finally unhinge their creator. An exceptional fusion of technical analysis of revolutionary devices and imaginative sympathy for a lacerated ego."**--Bryce Christensen, *Booklist* starred review**

"This is a fascinating glimpse into the life of a monumental inventor whose impact on our contemporary world is all too unfamiliar to the general public. Carlson relates the science behind Tesla's inventions with a judicial balance that will engage both the novice and the academic alike. Highly recommended to serious biography buffs and to readers of scientific subjects."**--Brian Odom, *Library Journal***

"Carlson deftly weaves the many threads of Tesla's story."**--Nicola Davis, *Times***

"Splendid."**--Jon Turney, *Times Higher Education***

"Run, don't walk, to buy this book for the Nikola Tesla cultist in your life. . . . [Carlson] is the first trained academic historian of technology to approach this topic, and he snaps the intense, romantic Serb back into his proper context."**--Colby Cosh, *Maclean's Magazine***

"Carlson takes a historian's approach to piecing together Tesla's life. He resists the temptation to focus only on Tesla's persona as an eccentric genius with a flair for drama. . . . Instead, Carlson sets out to answer three questions: 'How did Tesla invent? How did his inventions work? And what happened as he introduced his inventions?'"**--Maggie Fazeli Fard, *Washington Post***

"Required reading for any would-be innovator."**--Christine Evans-Pughe, *Engineering and Technology***

"An impressive piece of scholarship."**--Graham Farmelo, *Daily Telegraph***

"Carlson has written an exhaustive biography of Tesla, remarkable for its breadth and thoroughness. He explores and details all his major inventions, providing illustrations and in some cases even reproductions of the patent applications. This is as fair and balanced a biography of Tesla as one could hope for, no mean feat for a man so full of contradictions."**--Gino Segre, *Physics in Perspective***

"Historian Carlson . . . has at last written a balanced and nuanced scholarly treatment of Tesla in the technical and social contexts of his time. . . . Carlson's easy-to-read style and almost flawless exposition of technical matters will make this book attractive for everyone from general readers to engineers and historians. It is well illustrated and indexed with extensive footnotes. This book is likely to become the standard scholarly biography of Tesla for decades to come."**--*Choice***

"Since the death of Nikola Tesla in 1943, his life has deserved a worthy biography. Bernard Carlson has delivered that in *Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age*, which portrays Tesla as intensely human. . . . Anyone, whether simply an interested reader or a professional historian, engineer, or physicist, will finish *Tesla* with a deepened understanding of his world, character, and accomplishments."**--Robert Rosenberg, *Physics Today***

"This major biography sheds new light on Tesla's visionary approach to invention and the business strategies behind his most important technological breakthroughs."**--*World Book Industry***

"The author Bernard Carlson has put a herculean effort in presenting a detailed biographical study of one of the greatest engineer-scientists of human history, Nikola Tesla. . . . The book may be treated as a benchmark by future biographers of inventors and scientists."**--Mainak Sengupta, *Current Science***

"It is a very readable work and presents the whole picture of Tesla both as an electrical wizard and as a human being with all the associated foibles. I particularly liked the way Carlson interspersed the narrative with commentary on the inventive process, the role of illusion, and the social implications of his technologies on bringing about positive changes in society as a whole. If you wish to read a factual book about Tesla, this is the one."**--Eric P. Wenaas, *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine***

"[Readers] will certainly see this volume as an indispensable guide to one of the most fascinating yet controversial and misunderstood innovators of the modern era."**--Graeme Gooday, *Metascience***

"[A] masterly study of the man and his work, explaining how business interests as well as scientific curiosity drove Tesla. Carlson shows how engineers, just as much as artists, benefit from creativity, imagination and idealism."**--Roger Backhouse, *Journal of the Society of Model & Experimental Engineers***

"[T]his is an enjoyable biography of Tesla, concentrating in detail on his engineering achievements and business arrangements, even though it could have been firmer on the unscientific nature of some of Tesla's ideas."**--Brian Clegg, *Popular Science***

"The most objective and balanced Tesla biography to date."**--Tibi Puiu, *ZME Science***

"*Tesla* is a tour de force of sound scholarship and cogent analysis that brings to life one of the most eccentric and enigmatic characters in the history of technology."**--Michael Brian Schiffer, *Register of The Kentucky Historical Society***

"An eminently readable history that, while avoiding hagiography, reconstructs the intellectual development of one of history's great electrical inventors and the social contexts in which he worked."**--Benjamin Gross, *Chemical Heritage***

"Carlson's book is likely the definitive biography of Tesla. It is a challenging read, but a rewarding one. It also contributes in the wider context to the reinvention of scientific biography as a prism of cultural history."**--Guillaume de Syon, *Canadian Journal of History***

"Carlson's book stands out compared with previous Tesla biographies. . . . The result is an eminently readable history that, while avoiding hagiography, reconstructs the intellectual development of one of history's great electrical inventors and the social contexts in which he worked."**--Benjamin Gross, *Chemical Heritage***

"Dr. Carlson has written an outstanding work, exhibiting a true understanding of the complex person who was Nikola Tesla. The book is alternatively uplifting--as it reveals how Tesla's mind worked, creating prototypes of inventions which have changed the world--and heartbreaking. . . . The book is much more than a biography, as Carlson examines the art of invention as it applied to Tesla. He skillfully weaves into the narrative insights as to why Tesla approached his work in the way he did."**--John Bowditch, *Technology and Culture***

"Only the bravest of historians elects to take on the challenge of writing a scholarly biography of Tesla that examines and critiques such fondly cherished myths. And Bernie Carlson is certainly up to this challenge. . . . [A]n indispensable guide to one of the most fascinating yet controversial and misunderstood innovators of the modern era."**--Graeme Gooday,** ***Metascience***

"[Carlson's] extensive notes on his sources are invaluable for Tesla researchers, and his book sheds light on many misconceptions perpetuated in some popular Tesla biographies."***--Nexus Magazine***

"The problem for any biographer is that there are really two distinctly different Nikola Teslas. One is the towering genius shunned by the ignorant establishment, whose greatest works are still suppressed; this is the Tesla adored by the alternative science community and the popular media. . . . The other Tesla is the miserable failed inventor whose great plans and endless boasts came to nothing. . . . Carlson manages the impressive feat of steering a middle course between these two."**--David Hambling,** ***Fortean Times***

From the Back Cover

"Carlson has written a serious, rigorous book grounded in the academic history of technology, but also a page-turner that any fan of Tesla will enjoy."**--Robert MacDougall, Western University**

"Nikola Tesla, like one of his oscillators, flickered between different states so quickly that they can easily blur. Carlson captures this extraordinary, contradictory life--inventor, futurist visionary, showman, and, at times, ranting narcissist. We get to see how Tesla scrambled like mad, built with ambition, and in his later efforts failed monumentally. Here is a book that guides us through this wild ride with empathy and without hagiography."**--Peter Galison, Harvard University**

"Combining archival research with the latest scholarship from the history of technology, Carlson has written the balanced, scholarly biography that Nikola Tesla has long deserved. This is the definitive study of his life and work."**--David E. Nye, University of Southern Denmark**

"Most biographies of Tesla lack technical background and are uncritical and adulatory in their approach. Carlson's perspective as a historian--particularly a historian of technology--is indispensable for understanding Tesla's place in the rapidly changing American society of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His style is engaging and accessible, and the book will clearly be of value to the historical community."**--Bernard S. Finn, curator emeritus, Smithsonian Institution**

"*Tesla* is a tour de force of scholarship and analysis. This is the definitive work on Tesla that brings to light much new information about his life, his inventions, and the changing socioeconomic context in which he worked. Carlson has mined the primary sources to an unprecedented depth and breadth. The book is nothing less than extraordinary."**--Michael Brian Schiffer, author of** ***Power Struggles: Scientific Authority and the Creation of Practical Electricity before Edison***

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roy Brown:

In other case, little individuals like to read book Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. So long as we know about how is important a new book Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age. You can add expertise and of course you can around the world by just a book.

Absolutely right, because from book you can understand everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple factor until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we can open a book or searching by internet device. It is called e-book. You should use it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's learn.

Joe Vizcarra:

Reading a book tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only situation that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the data about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some research before they write to the book. One of them is this Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age.

Randy Hunter:

The reason? Because this Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book possess such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Arthur Warnick:

You are able to spend your free time you just read this book this e-book. This Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age is simple to bring you can read it in the playground, in the beach, train along with soon. If you did not have got much space to bring the printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save the particular book in your smart phone. And so there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

Download and Read Online Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson #X4W8YA2S63T

Read Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson for online ebook

Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson books to read online.

Online Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson ebook PDF download

Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson Doc

Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson Mobipocket

Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age By W. Bernard Carlson EPub