

The Invention Of Air Steven Johnson

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In The Invention of Air, national bestselling author Steven Johnson tells the fascinating story of Joseph Priestley—scientist and theologian, protégé of Benjamin Franklin, friend of Thomas Jefferson—an eighteenth-century radical thinker who played pivotal roles in the invention of ecosystem science, the discovery of oxygen, the uses of oxygen, scientific experimentation, the founding of the Unitarian Church, and the intellectual development of the United States.

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The Invention of Air: A Story of Science, Faith ...

Johnson, Steven, date. The invention of air : a story of science, faith, revolution, and the birth of America / Steven Johnson. p. cm. Includes bibliographical references and index. eISBN : 978-1-440-68531-6. 1. Priestley, Joseph, 1733-1804. 2. Chemists—Great Britain—Biography. 3. Scientists—Great Britain—Biography. I. Title. QD22.P8J 540.92—dc22 [B]

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The Invention of Air by Steven Johnson Robin McKie salutes a masterly biography of Joseph Priestley, the groundbreaking 18th-century chemist Robin McKie.

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The Invention of Air : A Story of Science, Faith ...

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The Invention of Air en Apple Books

Steven Johnson talked about The Invention of Air: A Story of Science, Faith, Revolution, and the Birth of America (Riverhead; December 26, 2008). The book recounts the life of Joseph Priestly ...

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The Invention of Air succeeds as both popular history and popular science, interweaving a compelling story about a sadly obscured figure with a thought-provoking meditation of humanity's never ...

A portrait of scientist and theologian Joseph Priestly evaluates his friendships with such founding fathers as Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson while citing Priestly's role in the nation's intellectual development, the pursuit of key scientific agendas and the founding of the Unitarian Church. Reprint. A best-selling book.

From the bestselling author of How We Got To Now, The Ghost Map and Farsighted, a new national bestseller: the “ exhilarating ” (Los Angeles Times) story of Joseph Priestley, “ a founding father long forgotten ” (Newsweek) and a brilliant man who embodied the relationship between science, religion, and politics for America's Founding Fathers. In The Invention of Air, national bestselling author Steven Johnson tells the fascinating story of Joseph Priestley—scientist and theologian, protégé of Benjamin Franklin, friend of Thomas Jefferson—an eighteenth-century radical thinker who played pivotal roles in the invention of ecosystem science, the discovery of oxygen, the uses of oxygen, scientific experimentation, the founding of the Unitarian Church, and the intellectual development of the United States. As he did so masterfully in The Ghost Map, Steven Johnson uses a dramatic historical story to explore themes that have long engaged him: innovative strategies, intellectual models, and the way new ideas emerge and spread, and the environments that foster these breakthroughs.

In 1794, Joseph Priestley - amateur scientist, ordained minister and radical thinker - set sail for America to escape persecution. Stephen Johnson tells his incredible story: the discovery of oxygen, the

invention of a science, the founding of a church, and, with the great minds of his time, the development of the United States itself. But Priestley's revolutionary ideas put him in terrible danger. Johnson uses the progress of Priestley and his colleagues not merely to describe the wonder of discovery, but to show us how we have come to understand the world, how far we have travelled with the power of human enquiry - and how one man's curiosity can help build an entire country.

From the bestselling author of *Everything Bad is Good for You*, Steven Johnson's *The Invention of Air* tells the incredible story of scientist and radical Joseph Priestley, who invented soda water, discovered oxygen, and incited rioting with his political views. In 1794, Joseph Priestley - amateur scientist, ordained minister and radical thinker - set sail for America to escape persecution. Steven Johnson tells his incredible story: the discovery of oxygen, the invention of a science, the founding of a church, and, with the great minds of his time, the development of the United States itself. But Priestley's revolutionary ideas put him in terrible danger. Johnson uses the progress of Priestley and his colleagues not merely to describe the wonder of discovery, but to show us how we have come to understand the world, how far we have travelled with the power of human enquiry - and how one man's curiosity can help build an entire country. 'A shot of the purest oxygen' *Simon Winchester* 'Packed with excellent stuff' *Russell Davies* 'Entertaining ... clear-sighted and intelligent' *New Yorker* 'As full of ingenuity and as delightful as its subject' *Financial Times* 'Brilliant' *The New York Times* 'Johnson paints Priestley not as a man of the past but precisely the sort of figure the world needs more than ever' *New York Post* Steven Johnson is the author of the acclaimed books *Everything Bad is Good for You*, *Mind Wide Open*, *Where Good Ideas Come From*, *The Ghost Map*, *Emergence* and *Interface Culture*. His writing appeared in the *Guardian*, the *New Yorker*, *Nation* and *Harper's*, as well as the op-ed pages of *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. He is a Distinguished Writer In Residence at NYU's School Of Journalism, and a Contributing Editor to *Wired*.

This book is a celebration of ideas: how they happen and their sometimes unintended results. Johnson shows how simple scientific breakthroughs have driven other discoveries through the network of ideas and innovations that made each finding possible. He traces important inventions through ancient and contemporary history, unlocking tales of unsung heroes and radical revolutions that changed the world and the way we live in it

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *How We Got To Now* and *Farsighted* Forget everything you 've ever read about the age of dumbed-down, instant-gratification culture. In this provocative, unfailingly intelligent, thoroughly researched, and surprisingly convincing big idea book, Steven Johnson draws from fields as diverse as neuroscience, economics, and media theory to argue that the pop culture we soak in every day—from *Lord of the Rings* to *Grand Theft Auto* to *The Simpsons*—has been growing more sophisticated with each passing year, and, far from rotting our brains, is actually posing new cognitive challenges that are actually making our minds measurably sharper. After reading *Everything Bad is Good for You*, you will never regard the glow of the video game or television screen the same way again. With a new afterword by the author.

A fascinating deep dive on innovation from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *How We Got To Now* and *Unexpected Life* The printing press, the pencil, the flush toilet, the battery--these are all great ideas. But where do they come from? What kind of environment breeds them? What sparks the flash of brilliance? How do we generate the breakthrough technologies that push forward our lives, our society, our culture? Steven Johnson's answers are revelatory as he identifies the seven key patterns behind genuine innovation, and traces them across time and disciplines. From Darwin and Freud to the halls of Google and Apple, Johnson investigates the innovation hubs throughout modern time and pulls out the approaches and commonalities that seem to appear at moments of originality.

“ A house of wonders itself. . . . Wonderland inspires grins and well-what-d'ya-knows ” —*The New York Times Book Review* From the *New York Times*–bestselling author of *How We Got to Now* and *Unexpected Life*, a look at the world-changing innovations we made while keeping ourselves entertained. This lushly illustrated history of popular entertainment takes a long-zoom approach, contending that the pursuit of novelty and wonder is a powerful driver of world-shaping technological change. Steven Johnson argues that, throughout history, the cutting edge of innovation lies wherever people are working the hardest to keep themselves and others amused. Johnson 's storytelling is just as delightful as the inventions he describes, full of surprising stops along the journey from simple concepts to complex modern systems. He introduces us to the colorful innovators of leisure: the explorers, proprietors, showmen, and artists who changed the trajectory of history with their luxurious wares, exotic meals, taverns, gambling tables, and magic shows. In *Wonderland*, Johnson compellingly argues that observers of technological and social trends should be looking for clues in novel amusements. You ' ll find the future wherever people are having the most fun.

Leviathan and the Air-Pump examines the conflicts over the value and propriety of experimental methods between two major seventeenth-century thinkers: Thomas Hobbes, author of the political treatise *Leviathan* and vehement critic of systematic experimentation in natural philosophy, and Robert Boyle, mechanical philosopher and owner of the newly invented air-pump. The issues at stake in their disputes ranged from the physical integrity of the air-pump to the intellectual integrity of the knowledge it might yield. Both Boyle and Hobbes were looking for ways of establishing knowledge that did not decay into ad hominem attacks and political division. Boyle proposed the experiment as cure. He argued that facts should be manufactured by machines like the air-pump so that gentlemen could witness the experiments and produce knowledge that everyone agreed on. Hobbes, by contrast, looked for natural law and viewed experiments as the artificial, unreliable products of an exclusive guild. The new approaches taken in *Leviathan and the Air-Pump* have been enormously influential on historical studies of science. Shapin and Schaffer found a moment of scientific revolution and showed how key scientific givens--facts, interpretations, experiment, truth--were fundamental to a new political order. Shapin and Schaffer were also innovative in their ethnographic approach. Attempting to understand the work habits, rituals, and social structures of a remote, unfamiliar group, they argued that politics were tied up in what scientists did, rather than what they said. Steven Shapin and Simon Schaffer use the confrontation between Hobbes and Boyle as a way of understanding what was at stake in the early history of scientific experimentation. They describe the protagonists' divergent views of natural knowledge, and situate the Hobbes-Boyle disputes within contemporary debates over the role of intellectuals in public life and the problems of social order and assent in Restoration England. In a new introduction, the authors describe how science and its social context were understood when this book was first published, and how the study of the history of science has changed since then.

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