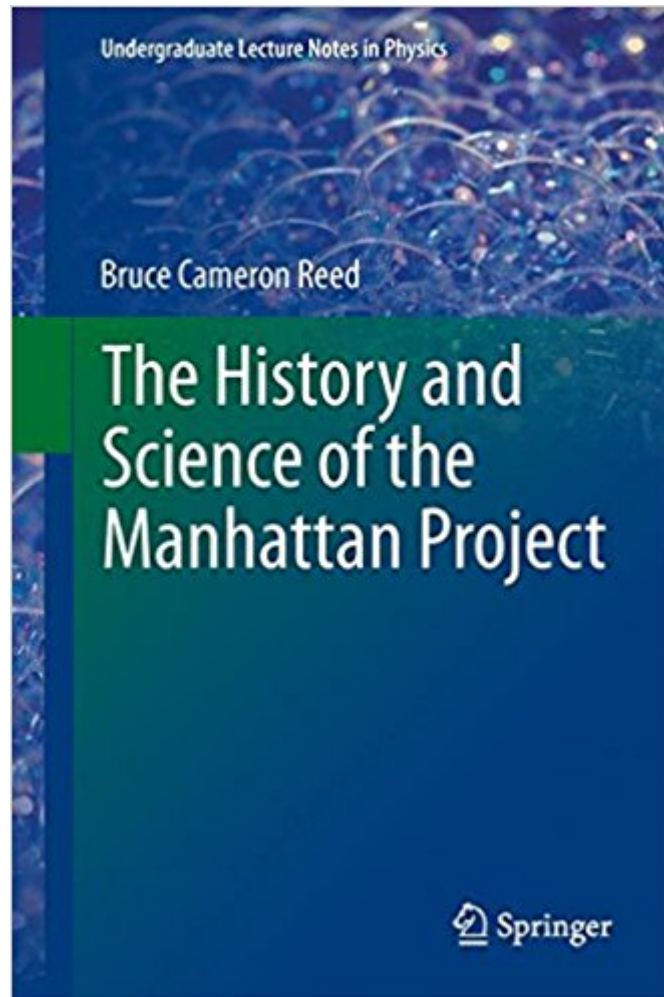


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The History And Science Of The Manhattan Project (Undergraduate Lecture Notes In Physics)



Synopsis

The development of atomic bombs under the auspices of the U. S. Army's Manhattan Project during World War II is considered to be the outstanding news story of the twentieth century. In this book, a physicist and expert on the history of the Project presents a comprehensive overview of this momentous achievement. The first three chapters cover the history of nuclear physics from the discovery of radioactivity to the discovery of fission, and would be ideal for instructors of a sophomore-level "Modern Physics" course. Student-level exercises at the ends of the chapters are accompanied by answers. Chapter 7 covers the physics of first-generation fission weapons at a similar level, again accompanied by exercises and answers. For the interested layman and for non-science students and instructors, the book includes extensive qualitative material on the history, organization, implementation, and results of the Manhattan Project and the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing missions. The reader also learns about the legacy of the Project as reflected in the current world stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Just about anything you'd ever want to know about the Manhattan Project is in this book. The technical material is accessible to anyone with solid high-school / college pre-calculus level mathematics background. Reed has another book along similar lines except it has all of the heavy-duty math. Junior-year undergrad students should have enough advanced calculus and

differential equations to handle this material.

The genre of historical technology is of interest to many. And there are an abundance of books on the subject. About just about everything. Each book delves into its subject matter in different levels; some superficially, some in great depth. This book, The History and Science of the Manhattan Project, is one that goes all the way. It is relatively expensive, and esoteric. Every aspect of the Manhattan Project is described in great detail. This can present a problem for some readers as nearly every page contains extremely detailed equations relating to the subject matter. If the reader is a physicist or mathematician, no problem. However, for the less sophisticated of us it could be frustrating. This need not be a problem; it is not necessary to study and understand each equation. The equations support the text and it is a simple matter to understand the concepts presented in the text and move on. Well, you've paid for the equations, so it is unfortunate to not take full advantage. But, if the history of the Manhattan Project is one of your passions and you've read most of the other books on the subject, then this will be the icing on the cake. If the subject is of interest, take the plunge and buy the thing.

Best combined account of this ultimate mega-project. The only place I have seen decent descriptions of Hanford and Oak Ridge production facilities. A good supplemental work to this is "Critical Assembly" if you are interested in more scientific and technical detail. No question but that this project dwarfs all others I am aware of, including Apollo, for its breadth and speed of discovery and adaptation.

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