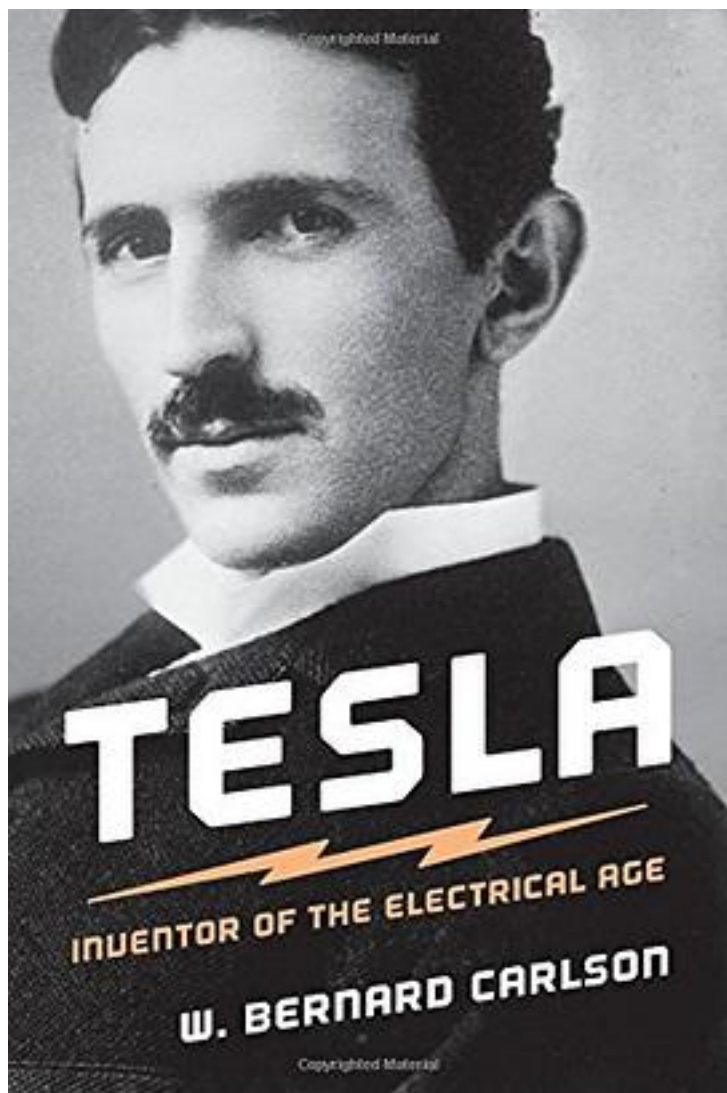


Tesla



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著者:W. Bernard Carlson

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"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*

Review

"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

作者介绍:

W. Bernard Carlson is professor of science, technology, and society in the School of Engineering and Applied Science and professor of history at the University of Virginia. His books include "Technology in World History" and "Innovation as a Social Process: Elihu Thomson and the Rise of General Electric, 1870-1900".

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评论

又囫圇吞了一本。作者相信讲述一个人最好的方式就是讲述他的工作，尤其是Tesla这样的大神。内容和资料非常翔实，述议结合。其中大量描述科学仪器和实验原理，请原谅我没有办法读懂。也分析了为什么Tesla没有进入主流历史记录，却成为一种文化现象和符号。Dark, tall, handsome, mysterious，伟大的发明家和梦想家，预言未来的人。于是在手机上通过overdrive读他的传记，真是再合适不过了。以及再了不起的人，没有钱也是不行啊。这本书也告诉我曾经有一个历史时期，发明家是一种常见的职业。现在已经不是这样了。

Godlike

喜歡作者不但從性格、經歷，且由技術、當時的科學技術發展以及如何將發明市場化，吸引投資等角度來介紹Tesla一生與成敗教訓。

听书。怪不得伊隆马斯克要以特斯拉命名他的汽车品牌，向伟大发明家致敬。

Most people are boring, not including Tesla and Musk.

普林斯顿工程学院图书馆里摆着这本书，和作者自传不同的地方是，这个版本加了很多作者在分隔几十年之后的更加客观的对于特斯拉性格的解读和对于他的贡献的评价。

本来以为会歌功颂德，结果发现评价得很是中肯。终于明白为什么教科书里没有多少Tesla的成就，他却成为如今American culture里不可或缺的一部分，还会有那么多崇拜者。现今的innovation需要balance创造力，现实和理论可行性，不容易呀。

看来大神Geek的成长都离不开这些元素：自闭与冥想、钻进书海衣带渐宽、被Bully调戏、中二与放浪、浪子回头、被基友治愈、被人赏识、直面社会的现实、学会与世界交流。这本书一方面从常人角度诠释了特斯拉的奋斗之路，也在学术层面客观地去掉了那些本应属于其他无名英雄的荣誉。

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书评

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