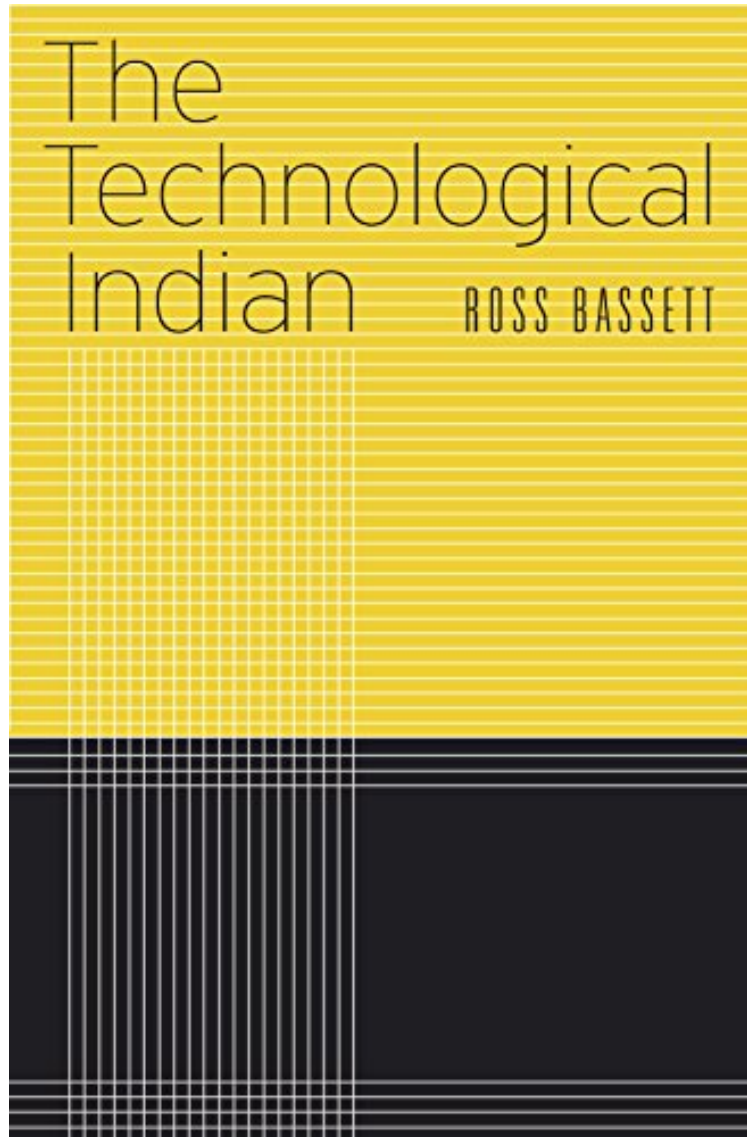


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The Technological Indian

Ross Bassett

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Ross Bassett : The Technological Indian before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Technological Indian:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. ... this as soon as it was published and thoroughly enjoyed it. The book is a fascinating look at ...By Jeffrey R. YostBought this as soon as it was published and thoroughly enjoyed it. The book is a fascinating look at both the longer term and more recent dialogue Indians have had with technology. The extensive research on Indian MIT graduates demonstrates the profound influence these individuals have had on Indian educational institutions (particular the Indian Institute of Technology at Kanpar and other IITs) and industrial enterprise. It details how the opportunities and funding of MIT's Project MAC inspired many MIT Indian students to

enter the computing field (with their studies/career), some of whom contributed substantially to the founding and growth of Tata Consultancy and other Indian IT services industry giants (Infosys). This book is both a wonderful read and an important contribution to many scholarly literatures (history of technology, history of educational institutions, business history....). Highly recommended! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The reader comes away with a good understanding of how technology and industry has developed in ...By Jay Butler India has produced so many technologically savvy engineers, software developers, and IT specialists that Indian technological sophistication is seen as commonplace. At the beginning of the twentieth century, however, India was an agricultural backwater colonized by Britain and bypassed by the Industrial Revolution. The story of how Indians moved from this backwater to a byword for technological know-how surprisingly passes through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Ross Bassett, associate professor of technological history at North Carolina State University, tells this remarkable story through the lives of Indians who reached beyond the confines of their home shores to gather knowledge from the industrialized world. Bassett explores the experiences of a "cross-sectional slice" of the 850 Indian engineering students who answered the call for Indians to obtain a high level technical education by studying at MIT. He weaves these stories into the political and technological history of India as well as the history of how MIT trained Indian engineers advanced American technology. This technique of exploring the history of technology in India and America through mini-biographies that are all connected by their relationship to MIT works well. The reader comes away with a good general understanding of how technology and industry has developed in India over the last 100 years and how Indians have been a part of American technological development. At the same time, readers get an interesting glimpse into the lives of technological pioneers. Bassett also addresses the tension between Mahatma Gandhi's vision of community oriented development and the vision of MIT trained engineers who advocated industrial development following the American model. Given the continuing level of poverty among hundreds of millions of Indians, the book raises the question of who had the better approach. Well worth reading. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Important addition to the global history of technology By BBA compelling read and a great addition to the global history of technology. Bassett shows how Indians made important impacts both at home and abroad, and how they were part of the international intellectual and technological networks that have come to define our present era.

In the late 1800s India seemed to be left behind by the Industrial Revolution. Today there are many technological Indians around the world but relatively few focus on Indians' problems. Ross Bassett—drawing on a database of every Indian to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology through 2000—explains the role of MIT in this outcome.

[Bassett's] work traces the rise of India in the technological sphere in modern times, and here it offers fresh and interesting perspective... The book is a perfect read for someone who has interest in today's technological world and tries to understand it in historical perspective. (Rishi Raj Financial Express 2016-05-29) A rich and fascinating story that interweaves the histories of modern India and the United States. Bassett elegantly combines social history with the history of technology, and the private lives of individuals with national desire and state policy. (David Arnold, University of Warwick) In just fifty years, the technological emblem of India went from the hand-operated spinning wheel to the computer. Bassett explains how this happened with historical and human insight. This fascinating book is not just about India, but about the role of technology in social, economic, and political progress. (Rosalind Williams, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Bassett has written an excellent account of the development of India through technology during the last 50 years. (R. N. Sharma Choice 2016-10-01) About the Author Ross Bassett is Associate Professor of History at North Carolina State University.