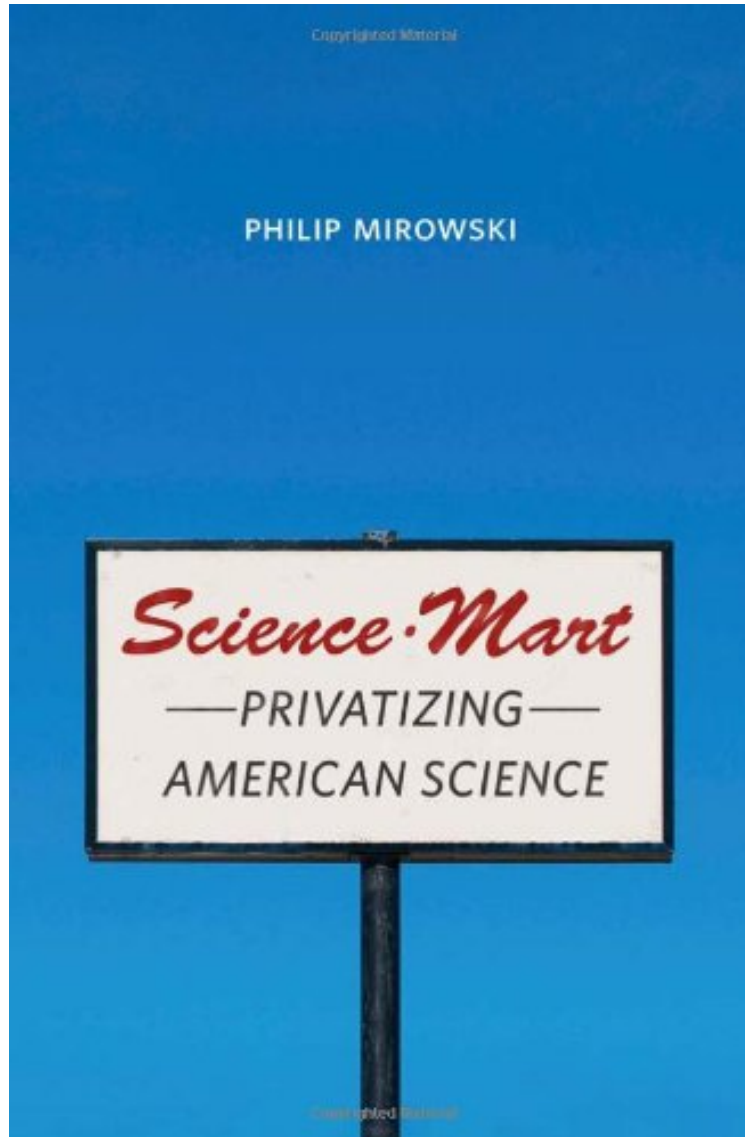


(Free pdf) Science-Mart: Privatizing American Science

Science-Mart: Privatizing American Science

Philip Mirowski

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Philip Mirowski : Science-Mart: Privatizing American Science before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Science-Mart: Privatizing American Science:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. more to come?By Stephen SmithDefinitely worth a read for any practising scientist or anyone interested in public science (academia, etc.). Given the trend in funding and privatization, I wonder whether this will be the first of many books to come on the subject. The book is up to date and the subject is highly relevant. Very readable if not a little colloquial (and opinionated) at times.1 of 1 people found the

following review helpful. Could be more succinct. By Stratosphere Discusses delicate topics that our scientific community needs to have transparent. Although he tends to rant at times, overall, it's worth the time to read.

This trenchant study analyzes the rise and decline in the quality and format of science in America since World War II. During the Cold War, the U.S. government amply funded basic research in science and medicine. Starting in the 1980s, however, this support began to decline and for-profit corporations became the largest funders of research. Philip Mirowski argues that a powerful neoliberal ideology promoted a radically different view of knowledge and discovery: the fruits of scientific investigation are not a public good that should be freely available to all, but are commodities that could be monetized. Consequently, patent and intellectual property laws were greatly strengthened, universities demanded patents on the discoveries of their faculty, information sharing among researchers was impeded, and the line between universities and corporations began to blur. At the same time, corporations shed their in-house research laboratories, contracting with independent firms both in the States and abroad to supply new products. Among such firms were ATT and IBM, whose outstanding research laboratories during much of the twentieth century produced Nobel Prizewinning work in chemistry and physics, ranging from the transistor to superconductivity. Science-Mart offers a provocative, learned, and timely critique, of interest to anyone concerned that American science once the envy of the world must be more than just another way to make money.

Eminently thought-provoking, this book places the contemporary economics of science in a context that combines political economy and intellectual history. A deeply impressive work that contributes to crucial debates. Mirowski never shies away from controversy and presents his case clearly and persuasively in an effective, engaging, and humorous style. (Donald MacKenzie, author of *An Engine, Not a Camera: How Financial Models Shape Markets*) Science-Mart is timely and important in a sense that goes beyond a specialist contribution. Mirowski's wide-ranging research addresses a dazzling array of topics, which he situates historically and fuses into a compelling critique that will fascinate any reader concerned with the economic and social dimensions of modern science and technology. (Theodore M. Porter, author of *Karl Pearson: The Scientific Life in a Statistical Age*) An important and intensely provocative book that explores fundamental questions about the political economy of science. Science-Mart challenges us to think more critically, more synthetically and more deeply about the growing commercialization of academic science by exploring the historical and ideological roots of that trend... Mirowski debunks the popular view that there is a linear, lockstep path leading from science and technology to economic growth, a claim that served as the mantra of those urging passage of the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980... Mirowski has shown that a political economist can bring significant new insights to the discussion of academic marketphilia. (Sheldon Krinsky *American Scientist* 2011-07-01) Historian and economist Mirowski presents a thoroughly researched and sure-to-be-controversial view of the economic and political influences on science policy in post-WW II America. The author traces the commoditization of science in the US--a shift from the Cold War funding by government and military entities to the present dominance of funding by for-profit corporations--making modern American science just another product in the mammoth economy. (T. Timmons *Choice* 2011-08-01) About the Author Philip Mirowski is Carl Koch Professor of Economics and the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Notre Dame.