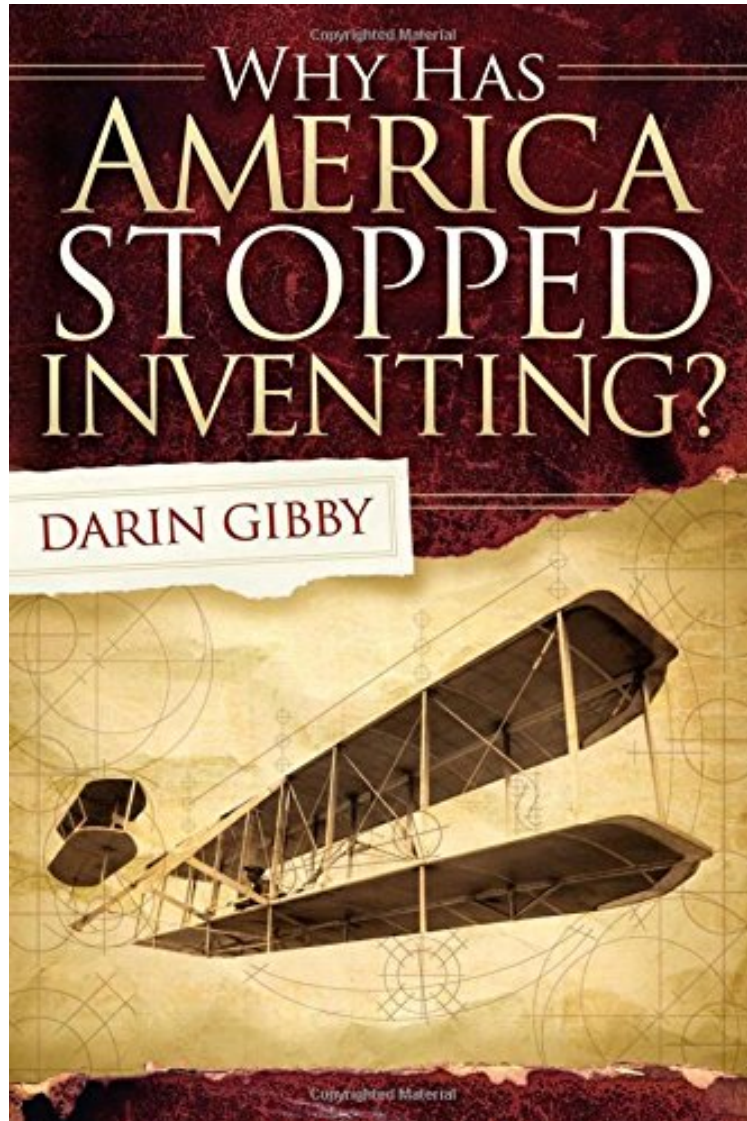


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Why Has America Stopped Inventing

Darin Gibby

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Darin Gibby : Why Has America Stopped Inventing before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why Has America Stopped Inventing:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Others build what we invented and once were the masters of. By Dave in Missouri Excellent look at why the great engineering is now taking place in China. We used to lead the world in skyscrapers, bridges, and what was then high technology engineering projects. Today the Chinese a few other countries do in a year what now takes us decades to do, IF we can even get it approved by the bureaucrats and

environmental radicals. We once led the world in this, now others do what we invented. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **The Stifling of Creativity** By Terry Bunch This venture into the world of patents brings some of America's finest inventions and their creators to life in a whole different light. In that process the groundwork is laid that explains in understandable ways how innovative people have risen and then diminished in our culture, as well as practical remedies that will reinvigorate innovation. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. **Fixing the patents system** By John Gibbs Patenting has always been a messy business, and America has always struggled with how to protect its inventors, according to Darin Gibby in this book. A modern inventor faces a drawn-out and expensive battle with the Patent Office in applying for a patent, and the cost rises to millions of dollars if the patentee seeks to enforce a patent, with very little certainty at the end of the process. But America's first inventors also encountered hardships and obstacles in protect their creations. * Eli Whitney provided a tremendous boost to the American economy by inventing a machine that removed seeds from cotton, but he tried to charge too much and courts refused to uphold his patent. * Charles Goodyear spent years trying to make a rubber that did not melt in hot weather. When he finally invented the vulcanization process, his invention was stolen and he faced years of litigation to protect his rights. * Sam Colt would have gone bankrupt if he had not been saved by the war in Mexico which increased demand for his patented gun. * Samuel Morse struggled for a long time to convince the government to install telegraph lines to take advantage of his invention, and when funding became available he was forced into patent battles against blatant infringers. * Isaac Singer created the most popular sewing machine, but became ensnared in a patent battle over the prior patent rights of Elias Howe. Problems with overlapping patents were eventually resolved by the creation of a patent licensing pool, and Howe became a millionaire even though he never produced a commercially viable sewing machine. The book also includes stories about Cyrus McCormick, Alexander Graham Bell, George Baldwin Selden (a patent attorney whom the author describes as the first patent troll), Guglielmo Marconi, Thomas Edison and the Wright Brothers. According to the author, if America's golden days of invention are to be revived, it will be necessary to create a more efficient equitable process for protecting inventions. His specific recommendations include: * Reintroduce the requirement for patent applicants to produce working models of their inventions. * Abolish the obviousness standard and the doctrine of equivalents. * Reduce the twenty year patent term to ten years. * Curtail the continuation practice which keeps patent applications pending for years. * Go to a first-to-file system in place of the first-to-invent system. Interestingly enough, the last of the author's recommendations is already being implemented in the America Invents Act of 2011. Do his other recommendations actually solve the problems with patents that the rest of the book so vividly illustrate? They might help, but it seems to me that a significant problem illustrated by the stories is the ability of the patentee to use the patent monopoly capriciously to hold up progress. If useful inventions are encouraged by the prospect of huge rewards, then surely it is possible to structure those rewards in a manner less antagonistic to the interests of society, for example by means of a compulsory licensing scheme whereby the inventor is rewarded with royalties but cannot prevent others from using and building upon his or her invention. If it was feasible, such a scheme could potentially make patents much less expensive to enforce and much less of a threat to industries. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about many of America's famous inventors, and contemplating the author's ideas for reform.

America loves innovation and the can-do spirit that made this country what it is a world leader in self-government, industry, technology, and pop culture. Everything about America has been an experiment and a leap of faith. And one such experiment upon which all others depend for success is the U.S. Patent System. **Why Has America Stopped Inventing?** takes a close look at why this experiment appears to be failing, and why America has all but stopped inventing. Our belief that we are the most innovative people on earth is mistaken. Statistics show that today we invent less than half of what our counterparts did a century and a half ago. Look around: Where are the groundbreaking inventions comparable to those from the Industrial Revolution? Its unforgivable that we've been using the same mode of transportation for over a century. Why are we giving trillions of dollars every year to hostile foreign nations for imported oil when we have the inventive talent in America to solve the nations energy crisis? We don't have these desperately needed technologies because regular Americans have given up on inventing. **Why Has America Stopped Inventing?** compares some of America's most successful 19th century inventors with those of today, showing Jefferson refusing to waste any more weekends examining patent applications, Whitney being robbed of his fortune while the South's wealth exploded, the patent models that kept British soldiers from burning Washington's last-standing federal building, the formation of Lincoln's cabinet, and Selden crippling the entire U.S. Auto Industry. It also tells the largely forgotten stories of the Wright brothers airplane monopoly, the Colt revolvers role in the Mexican American War, the Sewing Machine wars, the last six months of Daniel Webster's life, and the controversy surrounding the first telephone patents.

About the Author Darin Gibby is a patent attorney with Kilpatrick Townsend and has nearly twenty years of experience in obtaining patents on hundreds of inventions from the latest mountain bikes to life-saving cardiac equipment. He has built IP portfolios for numerous Fortune 500 companies and has monetized patents on a range of

products from computer disk drives to in-line skates. He is a sought-after speaker on IP issues at businesses, colleges and technology forums.