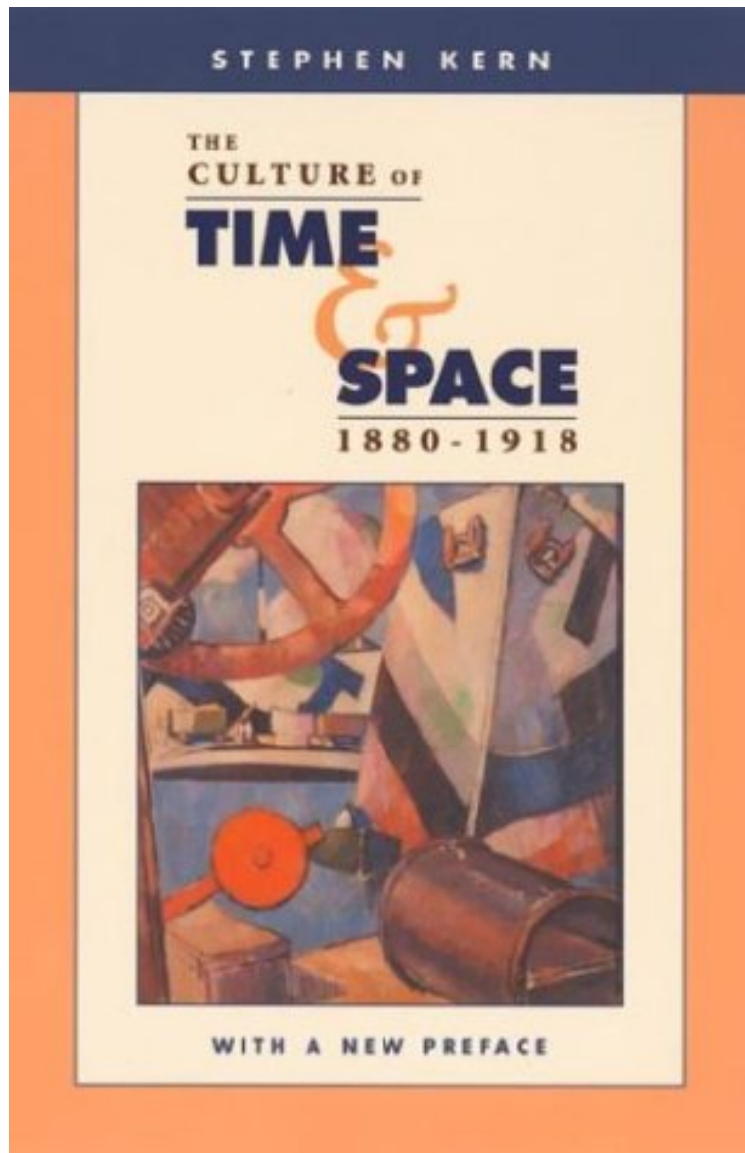


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The Culture of Time and Space, 1880-1918: With a New Preface

Stephen Kern

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Stephen Kern : The Culture of Time and Space, 1880-1918: With a New Preface before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Culture of Time and Space, 1880-1918: With a New Preface:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. brilliant classic By xkern has great insights about a fascinating chunk of history. if social history or turn of the century inventions sound at all interesting, this book is extremely thought provoking. he analysis the social effects of the industrial revolution. his thesis that we are psychologically

jarred by the new inventions (such as the fact the ringing of the phone interrupts our trains of thought), comes off as a bit old fashioned. but the idea is one we should keep in mind as the future unfolds. and anyway, the bulk of the book talks about such interesting ideas that it's a fantastic synthesizing backdrop of the era. as technology progresses, it may seem out-of-date, but this is a classic to understanding why that period is so unique. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating Analysis of an Epoch By Dr. Debra Jan Bibel Interdisciplinary, or more often cross-disciplinary, studies of culture are always fascinating examinations of zeitgeists even if conclusions are stretched and the approach is highly selective. The influence of science on art, and the use of art in science; the experiments in literature; and the changes in public perception with advances in medicine and technology have been behaviors and traits for the crucible by such authors as Leonard Shlain [Art Physics; Parallel visions in space, time, and light] and Alfred Appel, Jr. [Jazz Modernism: From Ellington and Armstrong to Matisse and Joyce]. Focusing on the very rich 40-year period at the turn of the 19th century, Stephen Kern presents the revolution in communication and transportation that transformed people's lives and altered perspectives and perceptions. As in our time the internet and mobile telephone have been an immensely powerful social force, allowing us to observe and participate in distant events as they occur, so too was the development and spread of the telephone and wireless telegraph (radio), medical X-rays, cinema, the phonograph, and the bicycle, automobile, and airplane between 1880 and 1918 (the end of World War I). Kern largely restricts his theme to time and space and offers examples of repercussions in the visual and musical arts and in literature and philosophy. This scholarly book is for the academic and educated general reader and makes reference to classical and refined cultural media [Proust, Kafka, William James, Henri Bergson, Cezanne, et al.] rather than the popular, with the exception of cinema and phonograph. Nevertheless, it is a stimulating intellectual history whose lessons are easily applied in contemporary society. Kern provides myriad amazing facts, much like the brushed dabs of paint by Monet in an Impressionist painting, of how standards and institutions that we take for granted actually came into being. That period certainly was exciting and highly creative in all realms of endeavor from the arts and sciences to business and medicine, from entertainment to philosophy. It is a shame that Kern does not convey the joy, with perhaps the exception of his review on speed affecting everyone's life, but I still found his book to be a very worthwhile, indeed important, read. (As a published historian of microbiology, which developed during this period, I found Kern's discussion of adjacent cultural fields particularly helpful.) 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. another grad class book By kathy fietz very interesting book which gave me information about things I never knew existed. I haven't finished it yet though but I already know its fascinating.

Stephen Kern writes about the sweeping changes in technology and culture between 1880 and World War I that created new modes of understanding and experiencing time and space. To mark the book's twentieth anniversary, Kern provides an illuminating new preface about the breakthrough in interpretive approach that has made this a seminal work in interdisciplinary studies.

No brief summary can do justice to the richness and range of this exciting book, which brims with ideas and insights, evidence and examples, and provides the most comprehensive account of the life of the mind in these crucial decades before the First World War, when so much of our modern world was formed and fashioned. Kern's command of art and literature, painting and architecture, philosophy and psychology, physics and technology is awesome: he moves from Proust to Picasso, Einstein to Stravinsky, with consummate ease and unquenchable enthusiasm. (London of Books) A brilliant, gutsy essay in intellectual history [on] how thought, technology, art, and politics smashed objective time and bourgeois hierarchies of space. (The Nation) Kern's book is splendid. It is imaginative, convincing, learned, and readable. --Eugen Weber (University of California, Los Angeles) About the Author Stephen Kern is Professor of History at The Ohio State University.