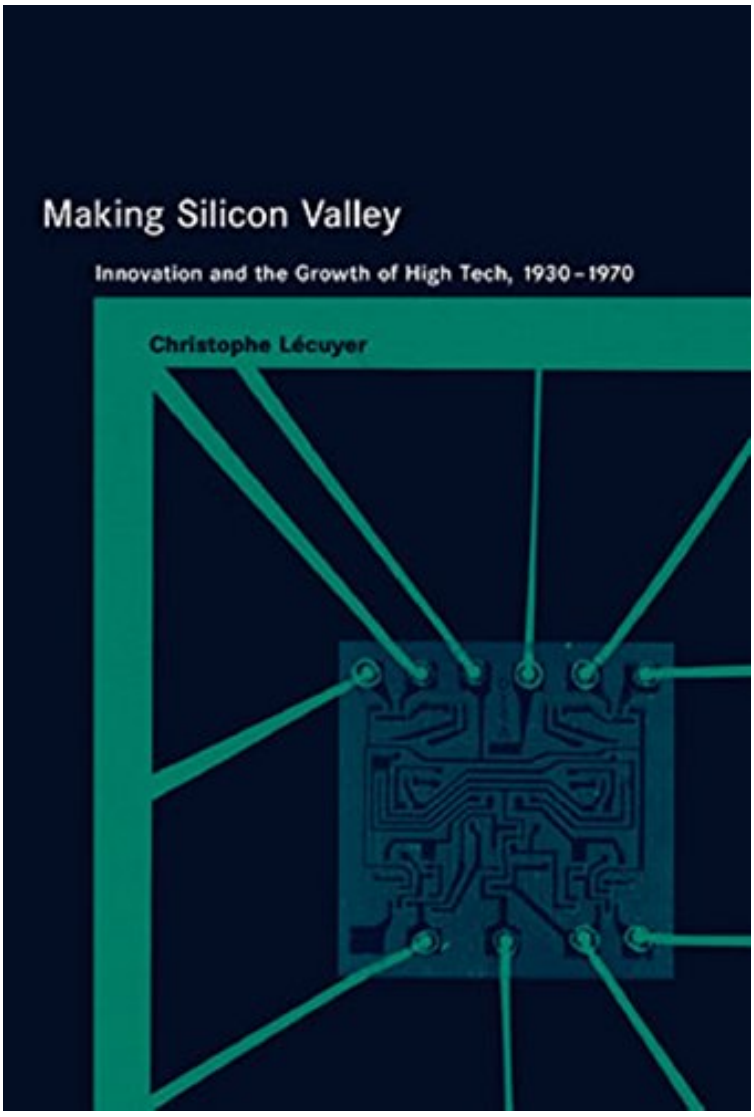
Making Silicon Valley: Innovation and the Growth of High Tech, 1930-1970 (Inside Technology)

Christophe Leacute;cuyer
*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



#1473025 in eBooks 2007-08-24 2007-08-24File Name: B00MHAV2C6 | File size: 27.Mb

Christophe Leacute;cuyer : Making Silicon Valley: Innovation and the Growth of High Tech, 1930-1970 (Inside Technology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Making Silicon Valley: Innovation and the Growth of High Tech, 1930-1970 (Inside Technology):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Read!By ShaneThis books does a wonderful job mixing history with technical content. The author's ideas are well supported through evidence and good logic. Anyone

involved in the technical sector of the San Francisco peninsula should read this book to understand the footsteps they are walking in.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good historicakl reviewBy Garcia Moreira RafaelI enjoyed particularly the decades fronm 1930 to 1970. very useful to understand the role of Stanford Univ. and the DOF in the development of SV.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. the pre-Apple daysBy arpard fazakasThis is a solid, scholarly review of the history of Silicon Valley from its beginning making electronic components through the era of Intel and integrated solid-state circuits. It serves as an excellent foundation for understanding the subsequent development of Silicon Valley as the birthplace of the personal computer revolution. In chronological order the book discusses Eitel-McCullough, a major manufacturer of vacuum tubes; Litton Engineering, which made tools for the manufacturing of vacuum tubes, and its spinoff Litton Industries, which became the premiere manufacturer of tubes for radio and radar; Varian Associates, which specialized in klystrons, a very high frequency radio tube used for radar and atomic bomb fuses; Fairchild Semiconductor, Amelco, and Signetics, which manufactured semiconductor components; and Intel, Interstil, and National Semiconductor, makers of integrated semiconductor circuits. The author describes in detail the major forces which shaped the development of these companies: radio hobbyists; academia, especially Stanford University; competition with East Coast firms; and military procurement. He illuminates the origin of business practices such as collaborative approaches and stock options which became a hallmark of Silicon Valley. Particularly interesting is the Introduction in which the author discusses various social and economic interpretations of the Silicon Valley phenomenon; this section is an excellent starting point for those interested in learning more about these intriguing topics.I found the level of this book to be just right: a solid scholarly tone but not overly technical or erudite. It is definitely not a popular history in the sense of revolving around individual personalities and amusing anecdotes, although it is of course impossible not to tell this story without referring to some remarkable personalities. I was particularly impressed by Charles Litton, who brought a remarkable blend of hands-on mechanical skills, physical intuition, engineering prowess, and business acumen to bear on the difficult problems of designing and manufacturing reliable, high-frequency, high-power radio tubes.This book will be of great interest to anyone interested in the history of technology, electronics, and computers, as well the political, social, and economic forces which have shaped Silicon Valley, the computer industry, California, and the United States as a whole.

In Making Silicon Valley, Christophe Leacute;cuyer shows that the explosive growth of the personal computer industry in Silicon Valley was the culmination of decades of growth and innovation in the San Francisco-area electronics industry. Using the tools of science and technology studies, he explores the formation of Silicon Valley as an industrial district, from its beginnings as the home of a few radio enterprises that operated in the shadow of RCA and other East Coast firms through its establishment as a center of the electronics industry and a leading producer of power grid tubes, microwave tubes, and semiconductors. He traces the emergence of the innovative practices that made this growth possible by following key groups of engineers and entrepreneurs. He examines the forces outside Silicon Valley that shaped the industry -- in particular the effect of military patronage and procurement on the growth of the industry and on the development of technologies -- and considers the influence of Stanford University and other local institutions of higher learning.Leacute;cuyer argues that Silicon Valley's emergence and its growth were made possible by the development of unique competencies in manufacturing, in product engineering, and in management. Entrepreneurs learned to integrate invention, design, manufacturing, and sales logistics, and they developed incentives to attract and retain a skilled and motivated workforce. The largest Silicon Valley firms -- including Eitel-McCullough (Eimac), Litton Industries, Varian Associates, Fairchild Semiconductor, and Intel -- dominated the American markets for advanced tubes and semiconductors and, because of their innovations in manufacturing, design, and management, served as models and incubators for other electronics ventures in the area.

Leacute;cuyer's book is the most scrupulous scholarly exploration so far of the cluster of innovative firms that has come to be called Silicon Valley. It is a book that should be read by anyone curious about the emergence of the high-tech electronics firms that have created this remarkable concentration of innovative talent. (Nathan Rosenberg, Professor of Economics (Emeritus), Stanford University)Silicon Valley wannabes search for the Valley's secrets of success. Leacute;cuyer's impressively informed response reminds them that God is in the manufacturing details. (Thomas P. Hughes, author of Human-Built World: How to Think about Technology and Culture) Making Silicon Valley is meatier than its contemporaries. Dense and replete with footnotes, it's an expert book written for experts-readers who already know Robert Noyce from Gordon Moore. For them, it's a detailed and nuanced discussion of how and why Silicon Valley emerged as a center of manufacturing, product engineering, and management. (HBS Working Knowledge) "Lecuyer's book is the most scrupulous scholarly exploration so far of the cluster of innovative firms that has come to be called Silicon Valley. It is a book that should be read by anyone curious about the emergence of the high-tech electronics firms that have created this remarkable concentration of innovative talent." Nathan Rosenberg, Professor of Economics (Emeritus), Stanford University " Making Silicon Valley is meatier than its contemporaries. Dense and replete with footnotes, it"s an expert book written for experts-readers who already know Robert Noyce

from Gordon Moore. For them, it"s a detailed and nuanced discussion of how and why Silicon Valley emerged as a center of manufacturing, product engineering, and management." HBS Working Knowledge "A deeply informed historian who writes with impressive clarity, David Nye persuades us in *Technology Matters* that we should ask the kind of life-shaping questions about technology that we customarily pose about politics and economics. He does not finally answer the timely questions that he explicates, but provokes us to search for our own answers."--Thomas P. Hughes, author of *Human-Built World: How to Think about Technology and Culture*About the AuthorChristophe Leacute;cuyer is Professor of the History of Science and Technology at Universiteacute; Pierre et Marie Curie and the author of Making Silicon Valley: Innovation and the Growth of High Tech, 1930-1970 (MIT Press, 2005).