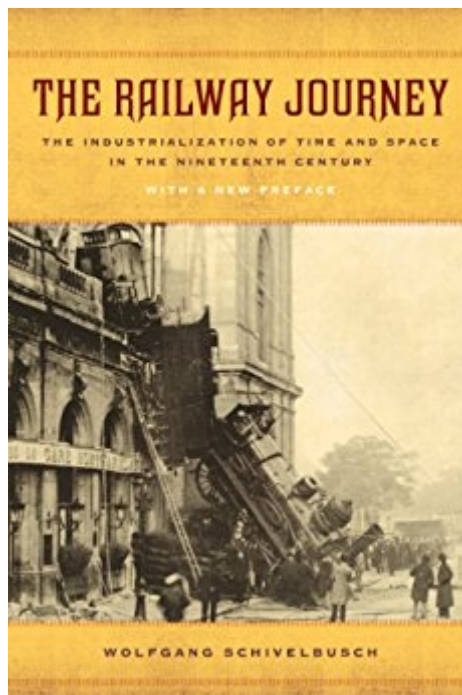




The book was found

# The Railway Journey: The Industrialization Of Time And Space In The Nineteenth Century



## Synopsis

The impact of constant technological change upon our perception of the world is so pervasive as to have become a commonplace of modern society. But this was not always the case; as Wolfgang Schivelbusch points out in this fascinating study, our adaptation to technological change – the development of our modern, industrialized consciousness – was very much a learned behavior. In *The Railway Journey*, Schivelbusch examines the origins of this industrialized consciousness by exploring the reaction in the nineteenth century to the first dramatic avatar of technological change, the railroad. In a highly original and engaging fashion, Schivelbusch discusses the ways in which our perceptions of distance, time, autonomy, speed, and risk were altered by railway travel. As a history of the surprising ways in which technology and culture interact, this book covers a wide range of topics, including the changing perception of landscapes, the death of conversation while traveling, the problematic nature of the railway compartment, the space of glass architecture, the pathology of the railway journey, industrial fatigue and the history of shock, and the railroad and the city. Belonging to a distinguished European tradition of critical sociology best exemplified by the work of Georg Simmel and Walter Benjamin, *The Railway Journey* is anchored in rich empirical data and full of striking insights about railway travel, the industrial revolution, and technological change. Now updated with a new preface, *The Railway Journey* is an invaluable resource for readers interested in nineteenth-century culture and technology and the prehistory of modern media and digitalization.

## Book Information

File Size: 3146 KB

Print Length: 247 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; 1 edition (May 6, 2014)

Publication Date: May 6, 2014

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00KCKIGMW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #316,919 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #34

inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Railroads

#227 inÃ Â Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Railroads #574 inÃ Â Kindle

Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > History & Philosophy

## Customer Reviews

Some of the best and most sparkling scholarship I've ever encountered. Schivelbusch will transform your understanding of modernity.

Very interesting perspective going beyond the rails into many contributing factors of change.

Easy read, super fascinating--even for weekend locomotive lovers.

Fascinating cultural study.

The book had a lot of interesting information on the original trains, and that was worth the read, but some of this theories just don't make any sense. I get the feeling he's too willing to dislike modernization, it's one thing to say how some people disliked or were afraid of the train (the "railway spine" disease made me chuckle) but it's quite another thing to blame the railroads for everything from loss of culture to ruining cities. That is a very powerful claim but he does not seem to back it up with any real evidence. I want to see pictures of what the cities looked before and after, some statistics on income, something. You cannot make that claim without some sort of evidence. As for the alleged social side effects, I don't know how he would know that. I think that's a sweeping generalization even in its best form, and I can't really see how there could be any sort of means to show, definitively, that EVERY city that has a railroad has lost its culture due only to the railroad being there. I can't even imagine what kind of evidence would back that up. I really like the history part of it, the facts are painstakingly researched and captivating to read. If it were truly a history book I would have given it five stars, easily. But the book is about his theories of time and space and the railroad, so, unfortunately, I can't give him a good rating, because the central purpose of his novel is far too undersupported and weakly argued.

The Railway Journey is a straightforward but deceptively sophisticated work of social/cultural history

that chronicles the rise of train travel and the effect this had on perceptions of space, time, travel, commerce, and ultimately 'modernity' (though the author avoids that loaded term). Schivelbusch draws mainly from primary sources and presents arguments about how significantly train travel affect the consciousness of 19th century travelers, and how the effects differed in America and Europe. The strength of the book lies in Schivelbusch's mastery of the details; the reader discovers exactly why British rails were straight while American rails curved around the landscape... the answers are rooted firmly in the economic differences between the two nations. And you learn about how the imprints of class structure differed for British and American train passengers, because British train cars evolved from stagecoaches while American train cars emulated river steamships. The goal of so many histories of science and technology is to show the connections between the physical, technical world of scientists and engineers and the broader cultural world, and how the connections run both ways. Of course it is usually easy to show how science and technology change culture, but much harder to show profound influences of culture on science and technology. But Schivelbusch does just that, and does so with crisp writing and very clear evidence; his conclusions are often profound, yet it is very hard to take issue with the connections he makes. Another reviewer recommends Kern's *Culture of Time and Space* over this book; while Kern takes a much broader view of the connections between culture and science, his work is so loosely constructed that it is hard to take his overreaching conclusions seriously. In particular, Kern has a very thin understanding of the history of science (especially regarding the technical details), which frequently undermines his narrative. *The Railway Journey* is far more satisfying; it is a model of how cultural history of science can be done without ignoring the actual history of actual science.

Recently I've developed a taste for cultural histories that examine the influence of new technologies on the perception of nature, space, time, individuality (etc., etc.) The railroad is a prime example of a technology that, once adopted, profoundly altered how people perceived and interacted with their world. (And, in a very real sense, created a new world.) The railroad 'collapsed' space and time, opened up new lands to settlement (and new resources to exploitation), and inaugurated a new era of technologically-mediated experiences of nature. Wolfgang Schivelbusch's book is not only a good, concise history of the railroad (focusing on England and the United States), but a pioneering study in the cultural impacts of new technologies. It's a bit old, and in places shows its age, but is an excellent place to start for readers who share my interest in the culture/technology interface. What is particularly valuable is the realization that many of the cultural shifts associated with 'postmodernity' today (particularly 'time-space compression') are in fact rooted in such eminently modernist

achievements as the railroad and (contemporaneously) the telegraph. Also valuable is Schivelbusch's discussion of resistance to the railroad. While early promoters had the idea of reorganizing transportation (of both goods and people) through a widespread adoption of rail, there were just as many - and just as vocal - dissenters. Opponents of this new technology were concerned that it would further isolate people from nature. The relentless motion of the train displaced the feelings of fatigue and physical exertion that come with long-distance travel; the speed of the train turned landscape into simply passing scenery. (In other words: the same arguments that people had and continue to have about the cultural impacts of the automobile were already taking place nearly 200 years ago!) To continue a thread of discussion in these reviews, I suggest that a book like this (and Schivelbusch's other excellent work on technology: "Disenchanted Night: The Industrialization of Light in the Nineteenth Century") be read alongside broader histories like Stephen Kern's "The Culture of Time and Space", and more focused studies of technology like David Landes' "Revolution in Time." The weakness and strength of Schivelbusch's study, when read along with these other works, is its conciseness. Schivelbusch does not delve very deeply into concurrent technologies; nor does he make broad generalizations or indulge in speculation (however warranted that may be). Instead he culls nuggets of insight from original sources and provides enough interpretation to whet the reader's appetite - perhaps for their own researches. Well written, well argued, and a quick read.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and Space in the Nineteenth Century  
The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and Space in the 19th Century  
Trans-Siberian Handbook, 8th: Eighth edition of the guide to the world's longest railway journey (Includes Siberian BAM railway and guides to 25 cities) (Trailblazer Guides)  
Garden Railway Manual: The Complete Step-By-Step Guide to Building and Running a Narrow-Gauge Garden Railway  
Compensating Asbestos Victims: Law and the Dark Side of Industrialization  
The Four Little Dragons: The Spread of Industrialization in East Asia (The Edwin O. Reischauer Lectures)  
The Early Industrialization of America  
Oxford Anthology of Western Music: The Mid-Eighteenth Century to the Late Nineteenth Century  
Paraguayan War: Armies of the Nineteenth Century: The Americas (Armies of the 19th Century: The Americas)  
Launch Vehicles  
Pocket Space Guide: Heritage of the Space Race (Pocket Space Guides)  
Trans-Siberian Handbook: The guide to the world's longest railway journey with 90 maps and guides to the route, cities and towns in Russia, Mongolia & China  
The Cape to Cairo Rail Journey: overseas rail adventures (Railway adventures and historical sketches) (Volume 1)  
Trans-Siberian Handbook: Seventh Edition of the Guide to the World's Longest Railway Journey

(Trailblazer Guides) Every Traveller's Guide to the Railways of England, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, France, and Germany: Containing Correct Time and Fare Tables of Every Railway The Italian Traditions and Puccini: Compositional Theory and Practice in Nineteenth-Century Opera (Musical Meaning and Interpretation) Self-Defense for Gentlemen and Ladies: A Nineteenth-Century Treatise on Boxing, Kicking, Grappling, and Fencing with the Cane and Quarterstaff Arresting Dress: Cross-Dressing, Law, and Fascination in Nineteenth-Century San Francisco (Perverse Modernities: A Series Edited by Jack Halberstam and Lisa Lowe) Mexico's Once and Future Revolution: Social Upheaval and the Challenge of Rule since the Late Nineteenth Century Everyday Life and Politics in Nineteenth Century Mexico : Men, Women, and War London and the Culture of Homosexuality, 1885-1914 (Cambridge Studies in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)