THE SHORTER SCIENCE & CIVILISATION IN CHINA: 2

An abridgement by Colin A. Ronan of Joseph Needham's original text



Shorter Science And Civilisation In China

Colin Alistair Ronan, Joseph Needham, Noel Joseph Terence Montgomery Needham

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monumental work is concerned with the remarkable engineering feats made during the early and medieval periods No other country did more in civil engineering both as to scale and skill than China The book opens with an account of the road system which compared favorably with that of the Roman Empire Naturally the Great Wall of China is covered in some detail within the social context of walls which more than any other structure mark the basic features of Chinese communities The Chinese genius for town planning and achievements in hydraulic engineering are covered in later chapters. This book provides many clues as to the influence of Chinese innovation on Western engineering trends and will fascinate readers who are interested in the history of science and Chinese civilization Science and Civilisation in China, Part 2, Mechanical Engineering Joseph Needham, 1965-01-02 As Dr Needham's immense undertaking gathers momentum it has been found necessary to subdivide volumes into parts each to be bound and published separately The first part of Volume 4 already published deals with the physical sciences the second with the diverse applications of physics in the many branches of mechanical engineering and the third will deal with civil and hydraulic engineering and nautical technology With this part of Volume 4 then we come to the application by the Chinese of physical principles in the control of forces and in the use of power we cross the frontier separating tools from the machine We have already noticed that the ancient Chinese concept of chhi somewhat similar to the pneuma of the Greeks asserted itself prominently in acoustics but we discover here that the Chinese tendency to think pneumatically was also responsible for a whole range of brilliant technological achievements for example the double acting piston bellows the rotary winnowing fan and the water powered metallurgical blowing machine ancestor of the steam engine as well as for some extraordinary insights and predictions in aeronautics The Shorter Science and Civilisation in China: Vol. 4, pt. 1 and a section of vol. 4, pt. 3 of the major series Joseph Needham, 1978

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