

[John Losee] A HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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Introduct...

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A Historical Introduction to the Philosophy of Science

Third edition, revised and enlarged

JOHN LOSEE

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Preface

This book is a historical sketch of the development of views about scientific method. Its emphasis is on developments prior to 1940. No attempt has been made to reproduce the contemporary spectrum of positions on the philosophy of science. My purpose has been exposition rather than criticism, and I have endeavoured to abstain from passing judgement on the achievements of the great philosophers of science.

It is my hope that this book may be of interest both to students of the philosophy of science and to students of the history of science. If, on reading this book, a few such students are encouraged to consult some of the works listed in the Bibliography at the end of the book, I shall consider my effort to have been well spent.

I have received numerous helpful suggestions from Gerd Buchdahl, George Clark, and Rom Harré in the preparation of this volume. I am most grateful, both for their encouragement, and for their criticism. Of course, responsibility for what has emerged is mine alone.

Lafayette College
July 1971

Preface to the Second Edition

The discussion of post-Second-World-War developments has been



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reorganized and expanded in the second edition. There are new chapters on the Logical Reconstructionism of Carnap, Hempel, and Nagel; the critical reaction to this orientation; and the alternative approaches of Kuhn, Lakatos, and Laudan.

August 1979