

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** “No Inventions; No Innovations,” A History of US Steel

**Article Link:** <https://www.construction-physics.com/p/no-inventions-no-innovations-a-history>

Author(s)	Brian Potter
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**Tweet:** In 1901, US Steel's market cap was 6.7% of US GDP. Prior to Nippon Steel's recently announced acquisition, the company's market cap had dropped to \$8B. @\_brianpotter argues US Steel demonstrated a persistent lack of innovation over its long history.

**Summary:** The new, lean US Steel still continued to be a step behind on technological innovation. US Steel didn't adopt the minimill until 2020 when it acquired a minimill company and built its own minimill in Alabama. (Minimills now produce around 25% of US Steel's domestic output.) Companies like Nucor beat it to the punch with things like thin slab casting technology. Today, the momentum in the American steel industry is clearly with the minimills. An ever-larger fraction of American steel is made in electric arc furnaces. Minimill company Nucor passed US Steel in production in 2015, and today is the largest steel producer in the US. As far as I can tell, no major steelmaking technology over the last century came out of US Steel. Related: The Hamilton Index, 2023: China Is Running Away With Strategic Industries and China Notes, July '23: On Technological Momentum and Why Xi Can No Longer Brag About the Chinese Economy

**Primary Topic:** Innovation/Research

**Topics:** Innovation/Research, Investment, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Productivity

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