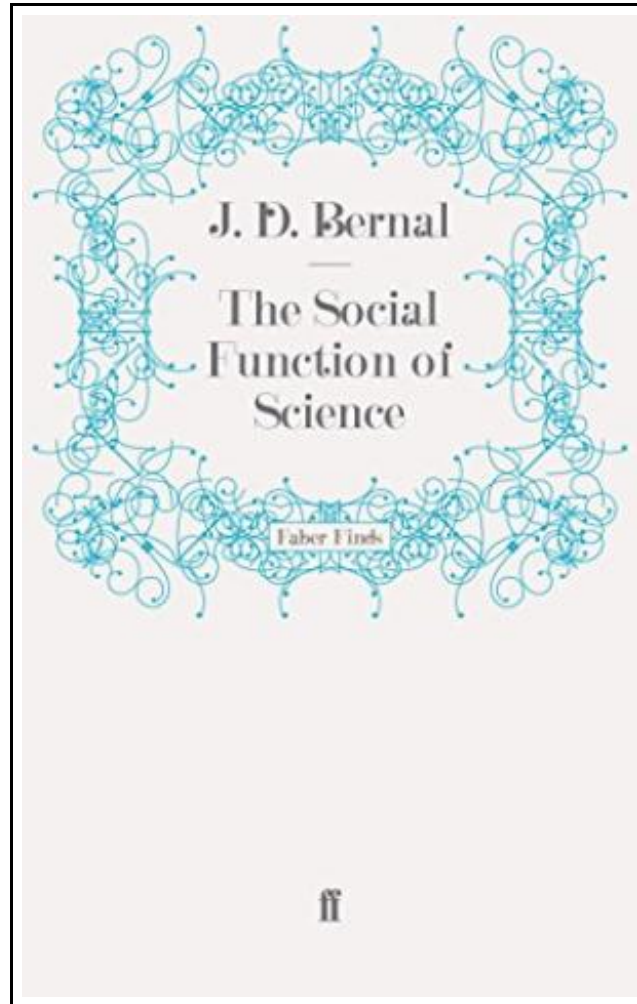


The Social Function of Science



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Reviews

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(Dr. Raven Ledner)

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FABER FABER, United Kingdom, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Main. 216 x 135 mm. Language: English Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.J. D. Bernal's important and ambitious work, *The Social Function of Science*, was first published in January 1939. As the subtitle - *What Science Does, What Science Could Do* - suggests, it is in two parts. Both have eight chapters. Part 1: *What Science Does* contains: Introductory, Historical, The Existing Organization of Scientific Research in Britain, Science in Education, The Efficiency of Scientific Research, The Application of Science, Science and War, and, International Science. Part 11: *What Science Could Do* contains: The Training of the Scientist, The Reorganization of Research, Scientific Communication, The Finance of Science, The Strategy of Scientific Advance; Science in the Service of Man, Science and Social Transformation, and, The Social Function of Science. To quote Bernal's biographer, Andrew Brown, *The Social Function of Science* .was Bernal's attempt to ensure that science would no longer be just a protected area of intellectual inquiry, but would have as an inherent function the improvement of life for mankind everywhere. It was a groundbreaking treatise both in exploring the scope of science and technology in fashioning public policy, with Bernal arguing that science is the chief agent of change in society, and in devising policies that would optimize the way science was organized. The sense of impending war clearly emerges. Bernal deplored the application of scientific discoveries in making war ever more destructive, while acknowledging that the majority of scientific and technical breakthroughs have their origins in military exigencies, both because of the willingness to spend money and the premium placed on novelty during wartime . Anticipating by two decades, the schism C. P. Snow termed *The Two Cultures* , Bernal remarked that...

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