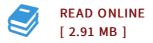




A Short Bright Flash: Augustin Fresnel and the Birth of the Modern Lighthouse

By Theresa Levitt

WW Norton & Co. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, A Short Bright Flash: Augustin Fresnel and the Birth of the Modern Lighthouse, Theresa Levitt, Augustin Fresnel (1788-1827) shocked the scientific elite with his unique understanding of the physics of light. The lens he invented was a brilliant feat of engineering that made lighthouses blaze many times brighter, farther, and more efficiently. Battling the establishment, his own poor health, and the limited technology of the time, Fresnel was able to achieve his goal of illuminating the entire French coast. At first, the British sought to outdo the new Fresnel-equipped lighthouses as a matter of national pride. Americans, too, resisted abandoning their primitive lamps, but the superiority of the Fresnel lens could not be denied for long. Soon, from Dunkirk to Saigon, shores were brightened with it. The Fresnel legacy played an important role in geopolitical events, including the American Civil War. No sooner were Fresnel lenses finally installed along U.S. shores than they were drafted: the Union blockaded the Confederate coast; the Confederacy set about thwarting it by dismantling and hiding or destroying the powerful new lights. Levitt's scientific and historical account, rich in anecdote and personality, brings to life...



Reviews

This publication could be worthy of a study, and superior to other. it was writtern extremely perfectly and beneficial. I am just easily could possibly get a delight of reading through a published pdf.

-- Prof. Bernie Torphy

I just started off reading this article ebook. It is actually writter in basic words and not confusing. I am just very happy to let you know that this is the best ebook i actually have read through inside my individual daily life and can be he finest ebook for possibly.

-- Dayne Johns