



Science and Corporate Strategy: Du Pont R and D, 1902-1980 (Studies in Economic History and Policy: USA in the Twentieth Century)

By David A. Hounshell, John Kenly Smith Jr

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Based on voluminous corporate records and extensive interviews with key employees, *Science and Corporate Strategy: Du Pont R and D, 1902-1980* provides a comprehensive, critical study of research and development in a large US corporation. Du Pont was among a handful of US corporations that established formal research and development laboratories at the turn of the century to improve competitive positions in their respective industries. Initially, Du Pont's executives viewed R&D as an important though not central part of the corporation's strategy. However the gains made by the company's laboratories soon demonstrated that R&D would be a critical ingredient in the firm's success. The industrial research and development laboratory became a major part of corporate structure; science became a central part of corporate strategy.

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