



Moore's Law: The Life of Gordon Moore, Silicon Valley's Quiet Revolutionary

Arnold Thackray , David Brock , Rachel Jones

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Our world today—from the phone in your pocket to the car that you drive, the allure of social media to the strategy of the Pentagon—has been shaped irrevocably by the technology of silicon transistors. Year after year, for half a century, these tiny switches have enabled ever-more startling capabilities. Their incredible proliferation has altered the course of human history as dramatically as any political or social revolution. At the heart of it all has been one quiet Californian: Gordon Moore.

At Fairchild Semiconductor, his seminal Silicon Valley startup, Moore—a young chemist turned electronics entrepreneur—had the defining insight: silicon transistors, and microchips made of them, could make electronics profoundly cheap and immensely powerful. Microchips could double in power, then redouble again in clockwork fashion. History has borne out this insight, which we now call “Moore's Law”, and Moore himself, having recognized it, worked endlessly to realize his vision. With Moore's technological leadership at Fairchild and then at his second start-up, the Intel Corporation, the law has held for fifty years. The result is profound: from the days of enormous, clunky computers of limited capability to our new era, in which computers are placed everywhere from inside of our bodies to the surface of Mars.

Moore led nothing short of a revolution. In *Moore's Law*, Arnold Thackray, David C. Brock, and Rachel Jones give the authoritative account of Gordon Moore's life and his role in the development both of Silicon Valley and the transformative technologies developed there. Told by a team of writers with unparalleled access to Moore, his family, and his contemporaries, this is the human story of man and a career that have had almost superhuman effects. The history of twentieth-century technology is littered with overblown “revolutions.” *Moore's Law* is essential reading for anyone seeking to learn what a real revolution looks like.

Moore's Law: The Life of Gordon Moore, Silicon Valley's Quiet Revolutionary Details

Date : Published May 5th 2015 by Basic Books (first published May 1st 2015)

ISBN : 9780465055647

Author : Arnold Thackray , David Brock , Rachel Jones

Format : Hardcover 560 pages

Genre : Biography, Science, Technology, Business, Nonfiction, History

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From Reader Review Moore's Law: The Life of Gordon Moore, Silicon Valley's Quiet Revolutionary for online ebook

Ken Hamner says

Outstanding book. Highly recommended.

Charles says

Comprehensive history of Moore with a good dose of Intel's history too. Starts off slow with a mostly unnecessary discussion of Moore's ancestors settling in the American West, but picks up after.

Ryan says

This is a phenomenal book, despite starting off slow. The authors' attempt to link Moore's pioneer heritage to his intellectual and professional drive falls flat. But that's ok.

Moore is seriously underrated, particularly as compared with Andy Grove. Moore combined intellectual discipline and ability with entrepreneurial character in a way that, I think, is seldom seen. Moore's status should be raised. His life story is interesting, and the description of the infancy of Silicon Valley is interesting, but the book is strongest when describing Moore's insights into the manufacturing process and technology. The authors describe the mechanics of Moore's Law, which was about the intersection of returns to scale and learning by doing. The book also provides insights into the role of the US government in the development of the semiconductor industry, specifically on the demand side. People typically think of government's role in R&D as being about subsidies of various sorts, but it appears that simply providing large demand was the key role. That is what allowed for the scale that drove Moore's Law. War drives everything, in this case the Cold War.

I recommend the book.

John Purrier says

Very interesting profile of a man that dominated tech from the start of the transistor age until PC's were ubiquitous. Due to his nature, Gordon Moore is not as public as some of his peers and colleagues, but is arguably more influential.

Dvir Oren says

great book, very interesting man, I loved how they dominated the microprocessor market! well done

Moore's Law

- stick to what you know, or try to be similar
- look for emerging markets and innovate there

Gordon Moore followed his passions and talents from an early age. His work in chemistry led him to research semiconductors and microchips, and his success in those fields brought him to personal computers and microprocessors. After revolutionizing our technology with his advancements in memory processing and personal access, he focused on philanthropic work in his old age.
