



The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600

By Alfred W. Crosby

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby

Western Europeans were among the first, if not the first, to invent mechanical clocks, geometrically precise maps, double-entry bookkeeping, precise algebraic and musical notations, and perspective painting. More people in Western Europe thought quantitatively in the sixteenth century than in any other part of the world, enabling them to become the world's leaders. With amusing detail and historical anecdote, Alfred Crosby discusses the shift from qualitative to quantitative perception that occurred during the late Middle Ages and Renaissance. Alfred W. Crosby is the author of five books, including the award-winning *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900* (Cambridge, 1986)

↓ [Download The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Weste ...pdf](#)

The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600

By Alfred W. Crosby

The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby

Western Europeans were among the first, if not the first, to invent mechanical clocks, geometrically precise maps, double-entry bookkeeping, precise algebraic and musical notations, and perspective painting. More people in Western Europe thought quantitatively in the sixteenth century than in any other part of the world, enabling them to become the world's leaders. With amusing detail and historical anecdote, Alfred Crosby discusses the shift from qualitative to quantitative perception that occurred during the late Middle Ages and Renaissance. Alfred W. Crosby is the author of five books, including the award-winning *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900* (Cambridge, 1986)

The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby
Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #404228 in Books
- Published on: 1997-12-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .55" w x 5.98" l, .81 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 262 pages

 [Download The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Weste ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Measure of Reality is the third book in a series in which Alfred Crosby, a noted historian, asks how it is that Western European societies could have conquered so much of the world in the space of a few generations. The answer, he finds, is in certain agricultural and technological techniques. In this volume he turns to one set of techniques in particular: the precise measurement of time, number, and distance. That precise measurement enabled European armies to march in step, enabled navigators to find faraway ports, and enabled gunsmiths and chemists to formulate the weapons of conquest. These inventions were refined over centuries, but most came heavily into play in the years between 1250 and 1300, the period Crosby examines in closest detail. *The Measure of Reality* offers a fascinating, big-picture view of the artifacts that changed history.

From Publishers Weekly

Having written such books as *Ecological Imperialism*, Crosby, a professor of American studies, history and geography at the University of Texas, Austin, wondered what it was that made Europeans such successful colonists and empire builders. In this engrossing study, he posits that it was Europeans' ability to divide the world, whether experiential or abstract, into quanta which they could then manipulate and exploit. Crosby begins by reminding readers how different the Western worldview was a millennium ago. For example, Europeans, Crosby notes, "had a system of unequal accordeon-pleated hours that puffed up and deflated so as to ensure a dozen hours each for daytime and nighttime, winter and summer." This more fluid conception of reality did not change over night. Crosby first looks at the "Necessary but Insufficient Causes" like the codification of time and calendar, new strides in cartography and astronomy and the introduction of Arabic numerals, before looking at the match that set fire to the rage to quantify. This was, he says, the shift to visualization. With the printing press, large numbers of people moved from oral to literate culture; with increasingly complicated polyphony, composers found need for musical notation; painters, in an effort to bring depth to their work, applied geometry to make the third dimension visual on a flat plane; and merchants eschewed memory for the more reliable double-entry bookkeeping. Crosby's argument is, of course, much subtler (not to mention more entertaining) than this grossly simplified outline. It is a joy for anyone interested in why we think the way we think.

Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Crosby, who has written on the biological reasons Europeans were such successful imperialists, here expands on those reasons. He argues that even more fundamental and earlier than biology, Europeans began to think of reality in quantitative terms more than any other people in the world and thus became the world's leaders in science, technology, navigation, armaments, business, bureaucracy, music, and painting. (LJ 1/97)

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Youngblood:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Sure, you

can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book allowed The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

Ernestine Miller:

Do you one among people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 book is readable by simply you who hate those straight word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer associated with The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 content conveys objective easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the information but it just different available as it. So , do you nevertheless thinking The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

George Sanders:

The book untitled The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains her idea with easy method. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was compiled by famous author. The author brings you in the new era of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice learn.

Herbert Turley:

You will get this The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 by look at the bookstore or Mall. Merely viewing or reviewing it could to be your solve issue if you get difficulties on your knowledge. Kinds of this publication are various. Not only by simply written or printed but in addition can you enjoy this book simply by e-book. In the modern era such as now, you just looking by your local mobile phone and searching what your problem. Right now, choose your current ways to get more information about your e-book. It is most important to arrange yourself to make your knowledge are still upgrade. Let's try to choose proper ways for you.

Download and Read Online The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby

#1A7MKR8PEQZ

Read The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby for online ebook

The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby books to read online.

Online The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby ebook PDF download

The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby Doc

The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby Mobipocket

The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby EPub

1A7MKR8PEQZ: The Measure of Reality: Quantification and Western Society, 1250-1600 By Alfred W. Crosby