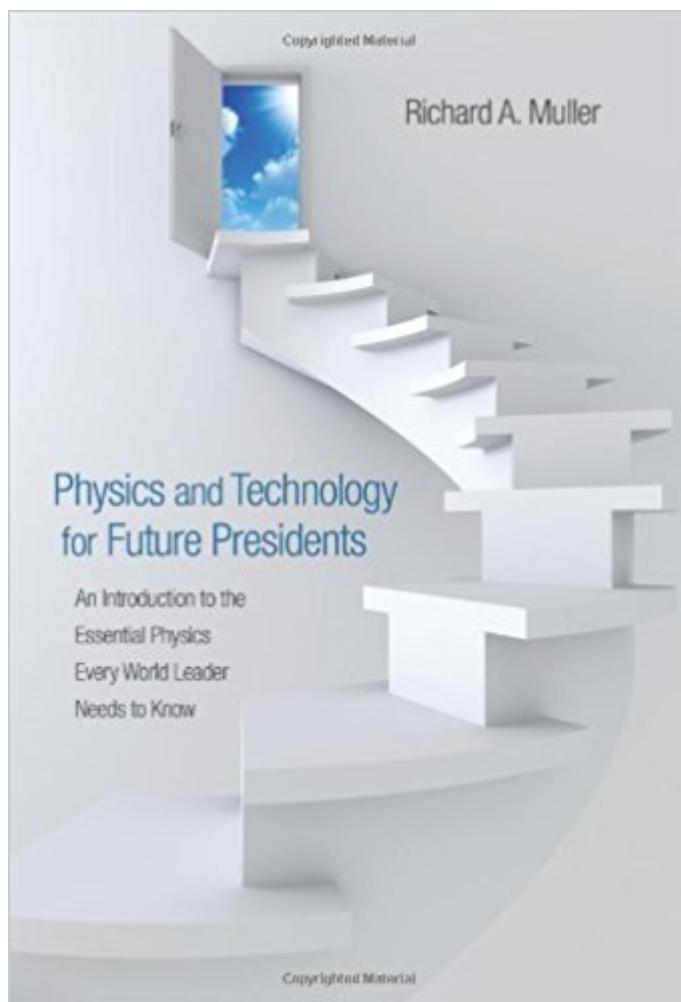


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# Physics And Technology For Future Presidents: An Introduction To The Essential Physics Every World Leader Needs To Know



## Synopsis

Physics and Technology for Future Presidents contains the essential physics that students need in order to understand today's core science and technology issues, and to become the next generation of world leaders. From the physics of energy to climate change, and from spy technology to quantum computers, this is the only textbook to focus on the modern physics affecting the decisions of political leaders and CEOs and, consequently, the lives of every citizen. How practical are alternative energy sources? Can satellites really read license plates from space? What is the quantum physics behind iPods and supermarket scanners? And how much should we fear a terrorist nuke? This lively book empowers students possessing any level of scientific background with the tools they need to make informed decisions and to argue their views persuasively with anyone--expert or otherwise. Based on Richard Muller's renowned course at Berkeley, the book explores critical physics topics: energy and power, atoms and heat, gravity and space, nuclei and radioactivity, chain reactions and atomic bombs, electricity and magnetism, waves, light, invisible light, climate change, quantum physics, and relativity. Muller engages readers through many intriguing examples, helpful facts to remember, a fun-to-read text, and an emphasis on real-world problems rather than mathematical computation. He includes chapter summaries, essay and discussion questions, Internet research topics, and handy tips for instructors to make the classroom experience more rewarding. Accessible and entertaining, Physics and Technology for Future Presidents gives students the scientific fluency they need to become well-rounded leaders in a world driven by science and technology. Professors: A supplementary Instructor's Manual is available for this book. It is restricted to teachers using the text in courses. For information on how to obtain a copy, refer to: [http://press.princeton.edu/class\\_use/solutions.html](http://press.princeton.edu/class_use/solutions.html) Leading universities that have adopted this book include: Harvard Purdue Rice University University of Chicago Sarah Lawrence College Notre Dame Wellesley Wesleyan University of Colorado Northwestern Washington University in St. Louis University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign Fordham University of Miami George Washington University

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## Customer Reviews

One of Choice's Compilation of Significant University Press Titles for Undergraduates for 2010-2011 "Physics for Future Presidents" is a course, yes (with the professor's best seller, and soon its sequel, serving as textbook), but it is really more a tour de force. Richard A. Muller presents an astonishing amount of information on atoms, antimatter and other subjects. But since these are actual lectures, recorded in a hall on the Berkeley campus. . . . It's all highly entertaining and educational, although it's hard to imagine being able to absorb it all. The course is geared for nonscientists, billed as being long on concepts and short on math, and covers topics like radioactivity, climate change and waves of all kinds. Yet it doesn't spare details."--Henry Fountain, New York Times "[I]t's a great textbook for a physics course for non-scientists, and there's plenty of stuff in there to interest scientists as well."--Brian Clegg, Popular Science "Muller does a very good job of comprehensively describing the physics base of the technological infrastructure of our social world."--Choice "[T]his handsome volume merits a very wide readership if we are to make the most of it and of everything else for that matter."--Arthur B. Shostak, European Legacy

"Modern science and technology have the power to shape the world we live in, for good or for evil. Muller, himself a brilliant, creative scientist, has distilled the most important scientific principles that define our choices, and has presented them clearly and objectively. To make wise decisions, not only future presidents, but future business and community leaders, and thoughtful citizens generally, need the information in this book."--Frank Wilczek, Nobel Prize--winning physicist "Richard Muller has written an amazing and very entertaining book, not only for future presidents but for just about everyone else. It's written in a nonmathematical style, but includes tidbits that will amaze even working physicists. This is a great book that should be read by everyone."--David Goodstein, California Institute of Technology "Anyone who aspires to be president (of any enlightened organization)--or for that matter, anyone who would like to be led by an informed president--should

read this book. Extraterrestrials would surely be amazed that the citizens of the most powerful country on earth routinely elect presidents who proudly profess to know nothing about science and technology. We can only dream that one day presidential debates will include a quiz based on this book."--A. Zee, author of *Fearful Symmetry*"Clear, inviting, and humorous, this is the first nonquantitative book I've seen that covers all the topics of physics. The introduction of current social and political issues is excellent. Students will want to read this book from cover to cover. It could increase scientific literacy significantly."--Mark Oreglia, University of Chicago"Physics and Technology for Future Presidents provides a new answer to an old problem: how to teach physics to nontechnical students. Richard Muller does not 'dumb down' the technical aspects of physics; he skips them altogether and focuses on physics results rather than methods. Fun to read and accessible to general readers, this book presents a lot of interesting physics facts."--Vadim Kaplunovsky, University of Texas, Austin

I am a Ph.D. physicist who works part time for a congressman as a staff assistant on technical items. This is the clearest discussion I have seen of the impact of physics on future decisions. My favorite is the open discussion of how much cancer is caused by nuclear power. Try the chapter. I knew about the basic ideas from working on nuclear weapons in the 1960's. The discussion is very thought provoking. The book ought to be given to every congressman and senator and made mandatory reading so they don't get taken in by the charlatans that are out there trying to feast at the government trough.

This may be one of the few textbooks that I have ever actually used to follow along in a course. I enjoy reading the chapters- although it is a topic that has had more recent advancements (I would consider a more recent edition), the course is really enjoyable and there is already a lot of supplemental material available online. I am taking the course at Florida State University and although the material is somewhat simplified for non-science majors, it is still a course that has challenged me in someways. I've learned a lot from this book so far and I love the way it is written, even if there are some biases- It is still credible.

Very interesting and well written but in the Kindle version, the illustrations appear as black boxes and the tables are nearly unreadable. This is true on my Mac as well as on the Kindle. I suggest you buy the hardcopy if you intend to use this as a text. I notified Kindle support of the difficulty nearly a month ago. they responded that they would see if it could be fixed. So far, no fix and no further

response.

The cover was kind of gross and the spine had a huge dent from the seller, but get past the disproved "facts" of the progressive religion of Gia and her disease called man while disregarding any and every mention of economics made by the author, and this is a fantastic book. It is great for understanding important scientific concepts if you have not seen them before or need a quick refresher.

This is easily one of the best text books I have ever had! My mine has been blown! Easy to understand, very well written. Full of all the best, most interesting, and applicable parts of Physics. I am definitely not selling this textbook back!

The book was surprisingly interesting. It uses a little math but it's elementary level stuff. It focuses more on relating the information to everyday matters like heating your house or why we still don't have electric cars all over the roads yet. There's no need to know 'real' physics beforehand and it doesn't talk in any technical language so it's easy for the average person to understand. Just be a little interested and you'll find the book a good read.

I have taken physics classes that cover the same material in this book and it seems like the professors are more interested in having you learn how to manipulate equations to get the right answer. There is not much effort put into getting students to understand physics in a way that connects it to the real world. This book does that. Even for physics students, this is an excellent book to make sure you have a solid understanding of the foundations.

This book made learning physics fun and easy to understand. It is definitely necessary for the class. There's not much math. Tests for my class came directly from questions at end of each chapter. If you read the chapters and look up those answers you will get an A.

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