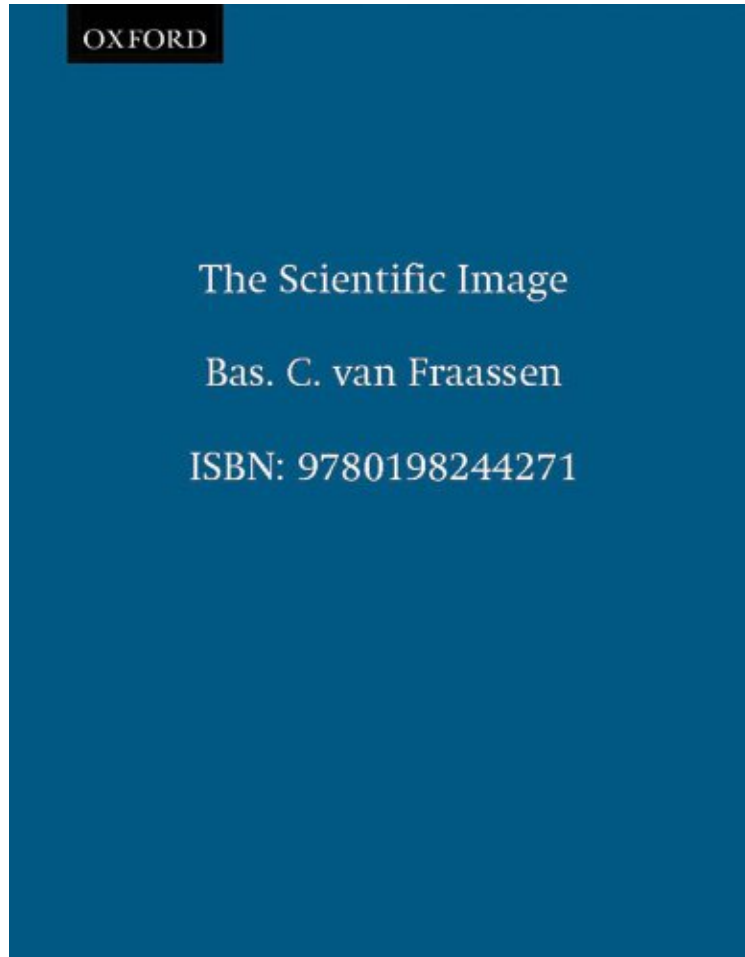


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## The Scientific Image (Clarendon Library of Logic and Philosophy)

*Bas. C. van Fraassen*

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**Bas. C. van Fraassen : The Scientific Image (Clarendon Library of Logic and Philosophy)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Scientific Image (Clarendon Library of Logic and Philosophy):

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. The role of models in scienceBy ReaderFrom van Fraassen's perspective, science is concerned with the development of scientific models for understanding and controlling reality. The model does not have to be 'true', as the believers in scientific realism seem to believe, but it has to be testable against empirical evidence. The success of science should not and cannot be explained by referring to how current knowledge is closer to the truth, but by the fact that our models are better at explaining and predicting. When space probes report data about planets beyond our solar system, they are not explaining the 'truth', they are providing data that we can use for improving our models of the universe. Scientific theories contain statements about scientific models, not about the 'real world'. Truth is a concept that applies to logic and mathematics, and makes little sense for discussing the real world. What is important in science is the validity of the models being used, which van Fraassen

describes as whether the models are empirically adequate or not. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By HankGood. 13 of 23 people found the following review helpful. A book on very contemporary philosophy of science By A Customer In this book, van Fraassen put forth a 'constructive empiricist' anti-realist account of science. The book contains many metaphors and even a short story. Yet it is often unclear whether he is prescribing norms for scientists, and merely describing their practice. (This may result from his counterfactual account, which strangely seems to warrant belief in propositions containing terms allegedly referring to unobservables that have nevertheless not been observed. At best, the account makes perfect agnosticism preferable to belief-formation with respect to propositions containing unobservable terms, where such prescriptions are justified on the basis of something other than facts.) The book represents what positivist philosophy might have become in the absence of thinkers who were more sensitive to the subtleties between the philosophy of language and ontology.

In this book van Fraassen develops an alternative to scientific realism by constructing and evaluating three mutually reinforcing theories.

"An excellent extreeacute; to the current debates on this topic, as seen by van Fraassenn who is probably the most direct and severe opponent of scientific realism."-- of Metaphysics "A most useful and stimulating book. It brings together some of the main strands in the 'dialectic' of post-positivist analytic philosophy, and moreover, it does this with lucidity, charm, erudition, and great intelligence.... Would make an excellent text for a middle to upper-level course in contemporary philosophy of science."--Journal of Philosophy "Would make an excellent introduction to the philosophical issues clustering around scientific realism for undergraduates if set in conjunction with the recent realist literature." Important not only for its contributions to special topics such as the theory of explanation and the use of probability, but important also for its detailed and sustained critique of scientific realism."--Philosophy of Science From the Back Cover The Aim of 'The Scientific Image' is to develop an empiricist alternative to both logical positivism and scientific realism. The book presents three mutually supporting theories concerning science. The presentation of these three theses is preceded by two chapters which provide an informal introduction to current in the philosophy of science, particularly concerning scientific realism. About the Author Bas. C. van Fraassen is at Princeton University.