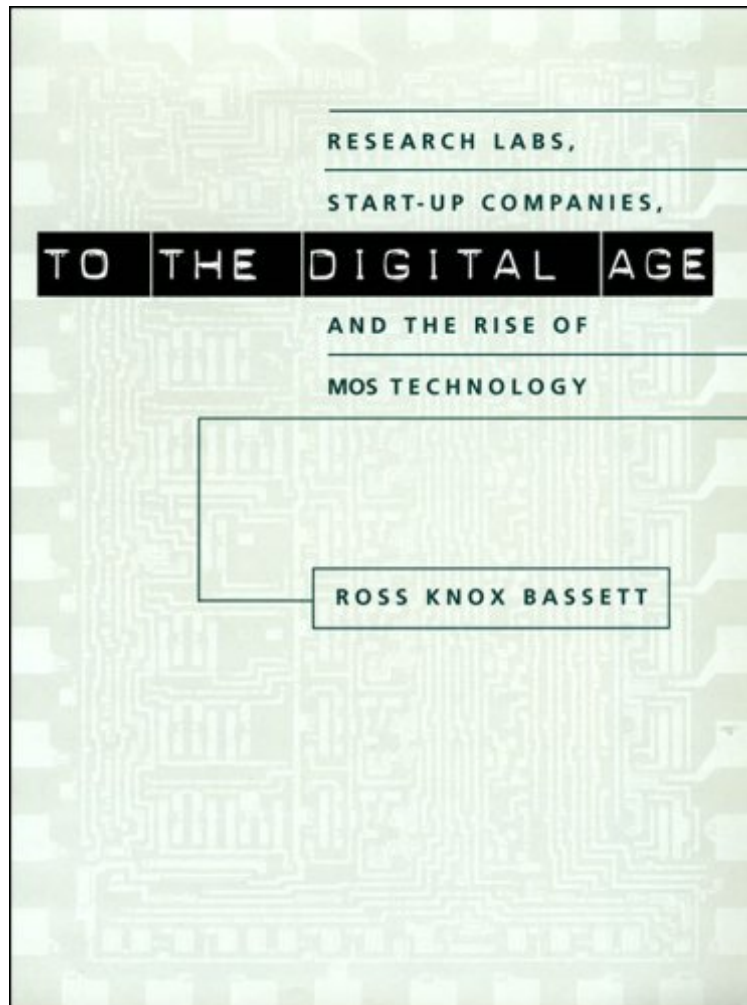


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## To the Digital Age: Research Labs, Start-up Companies, and the Rise of MOS Technology (Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology)

Ross Knox Bassettm

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**Ross Knox Bassettm : To the Digital Age: Research Labs, Start-up Companies, and the Rise of MOS Technology (Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To the Digital Age: Research Labs, Start-up Companies, and the Rise of MOS Technology (Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The subject is of great interest to meBy emzThe subject is of great interest to me, but I found the book not as exciting as others on the subject of IC history. I like Makers of the

Microchip by Christophe L'ecuyer and David Brock. The author should put more illustrations in *To the Digital Age*. He should add some chapter introductions and chapter summaries. He should put tables and graphs in, too. I think this book could be rewritten to be highly interesting.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent record of the semiconductor industry history

By Sameer V. Vora

This a truly great book documenting history of MOS technology. Even though it focuses on MOS, it is a must read for anyone who is interested in the development of semiconductor industry in the United States and Silicon Valley in particular. The Author takes us from Bell labs where first transistor was invented to its progress over there and then shows how Bell labs was left behind and the cutting edge moved to places like Fairchild, IBM, RCA, Texas Instruments, General Instruments. It tracks how IBM made it big and then lost the initiative to Intel and about how the great minds moved from East coast to west coast. It focuses on numerous personalities including William Shockley, Gordon Moore and Andy Grove. It is very well researched. The author had extensive access to records from above mentioned companies and he makes good use of those. Perhaps my only criticism will be that this book is too detailed and scientifically oriented. People not familiar with MOS technology may find it little overwhelming. But it is a treat for any student or researcher of this area.

Three enthusiastic thumbs up for this one.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A survey which is perfect for both business and science libraries at the college level

By Midwest Book Review

**TO THE DIGITAL AGE: RESEARCH LABS, START-UP COMPANIES, AND THE RISE OF MOS TECHNOLOGY** provides college-level collections strong in science history with a survey of the rise of the transistor and its affects on both business and scientific pursuits. The achievements and discoveries of individual scientists and the participation of private industries in breakthrough discoveries alike are charted in a survey which is perfect for both business and science libraries at the college level, offering students an excellent opportunity to understand and discuss how technological advancements both affect and are fostered by business pursuits.

The metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) transistor is the fundamental element of digital electronics. The tens of millions of transistors in a typical home -- in personal computers, automobiles, appliances, and toys -- are almost all derive from MOS transistors. *To the Digital Age* examines for the first time the history of this remarkable device, which overthrew the previously dominant bipolar transistor and made digital electronics ubiquitous. Combining technological with corporate history, *To the Digital Age* examines the breakthroughs of individual innovators as well as the research and development power (and problems) of large companies such as IBM, Intel, and Fairchild. Bassett discusses how the MOS transistor was invented but spurned at Bell Labs, and then how, in the early 1960s, spurred on by the possibilities of integrated circuits, RCA, Fairchild, and IBM all launched substantial MOS R D programs. The development of the MOS transistor involved an industry-wide effort, and Bassett emphasizes how communication among researchers from different firms played a critical role in advancing the new technology. Bassett sheds substantial new light on the development of the integrated circuit, Moore's Law, the success of Silicon Valley start-ups as compared to vertically integrated East Coast firms, the development of the microprocessor, and IBM's multi-billion-dollar losses in the early 1990s. *To the Digital Age* offers a captivating account of the intricate R D process behind a technological device that transformed modern society.