

Romancing the Atom

Nuclear Infatuation from the Radium Girls to Fukushima

Robert R. Johnson

This book presents a compelling account of atomic development over the last century that demonstrates how humans have repeatedly chosen to ignore the associated impacts for the sake of technological, scientific, military, and economic expediency.

The atom and its associated power have captivated the human consciousness for more than 100 years. From the production of glow-in-the-dark wristwatch faces to studies on the effects of radiation on the human body, there have been many shocking examples of our willingness to expose innocent victims to great harm in exchange for the perceived benefit.

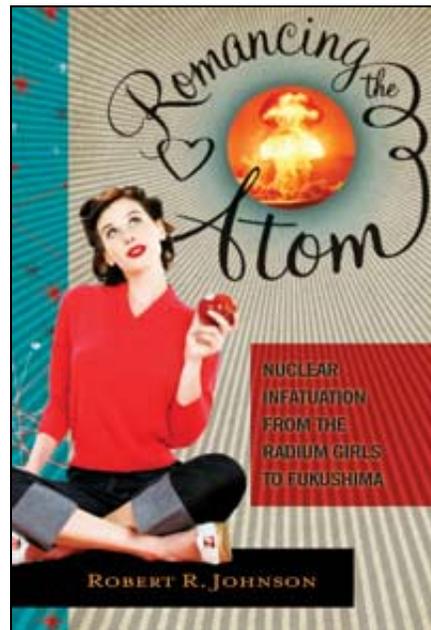
In 1945, Albert Einstein said, "The release of atomic power has changed everything except our way of thinking ... the solution to this problem lies in the heart of mankind." This statement seems more valid today than ever. *Romancing the Atom: Nuclear Infatuation from the Radium Girls to Fukushima* presents compelling moments that clearly depict the folly and shortsightedness of our "atomic mindset" and shed light upon current issues of nuclear power, waste disposal, and weapons development.

The book consists of ten nonfiction historical vignettes, including the women radium dial painters of the 1920s, the expulsion of the Bikini Island residents to create a massive "petri dish" for post-World War II bomb and radiation testing, the government-subsidized uranium rush of the 1950s and its effects on Native American communities, and the secret radioactive material development facilities in residential neighborhoods. In addition, the book includes original interviews of prominent historians, writers, and private citizens involved with these poignant stories.

More information is available online at www.romancingtheatom.com.

Features

- Draws from top-secret government and military documents from the history of atomic development, archival documents from the Library of Congress, and letters from Albert Einstein and other prominent scientists during the 1950s and 1960s
- Presents chronological histories of events such as the displacement and relocation of the Bikini Islanders, uranium mines on Native American lands, and the cleanup of a secret uranium milling facility in a residential neighborhood in Oxford, Ohio
- Contains various maps including radioactive cleanup sites in the United States and other parts of the world
- Includes many photographs and illustrations that accompany the text



Imprint: Praeger

Publication Date: 08/2012

Pages: 210

Volumes: 1

Size: 6 1/8x9 1/4

Format Price ISBN-13

Hardcover \$48.00 978-0-313-39279-5

eBook Call 978-0-313-39280-1

- Provides a bibliography containing a significant collection of books, magazine articles, newspaper reports, movies, comics, government documents, and other related archival materials

Highlights

- Tells the history of atomic development through energetic nonfiction vignettes and original interviews that will appeal to a wide audience, including young adults
- Argues that the current impetus in the United States to develop nuclear power plants as a "green technology" is flawed given our current knowledge of the hazards of atomic development
- Documents the rampant disregard atomic developers have had for indigenous cultures all over the globe
- Clearly illustrates many health and environmental impacts of atomic development and offers suggestions for how citizens can confront continued atomic expansion
- Contains original materials selected for publication in two national journals

Robert R. Johnson is professor of rhetoric, composition, and technical communication in the Humanities Department at Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI. His published works include articles in virtually every major journal in his respective disciplines and the book *User-Centered Technology: A Rhetorical Theory for Computers and Other Mundane Artifacts*, winner of the 1999 Best Book Award in Scientific and Technical Communication from the National Council of Teachers of English.

[View this product in our online catalog](#)

To order or for more information please contact:

Customer Service
130 Cremona Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93117
805.968.1911
fax: 866.270.3856
sales@abc-clio.com

Prices and publication dates are subject to change without notice. Quantities may be limited.