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HISTORICAL PAPERS ON
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bombs, rockets, cannon and hand-held guns - as well as fireworks. For 400 years, the Chinese kept gunpowder to themselves, until a Mongol soldier leaked the secret to the Islamic world. The Ottoman empire was built on gunpowder, after the spectacular capture of Constantinople using new siege tactics, while the Moghuls conquered India with muskets and artillery mounted on 700 carts held together with ox-harnesses. The use of gunpowder in Europe was inhibited by a shortage of saltpetre, but archers soon gave way to gunners, while gunpowder destroyed the last vestiges of feudalism and changed the balance of power in the medieval world. Black powder, the world's first chemical explosive, was originally developed during the Tang dynasty in China. It was a crude mixture at first, but over time chemists discovered the optimum proportion of sulfur, charcoal, and nitrates, as well as the best way to mix them for a complete and powerful

reaction. Author and chemistry buff Simon Quellen Field takes readers on a decades-long journey through the history of things that go boom, from the early days of black powder to today's modern plastic explosives. Not just the who, when, and why, but also the how. How did Chinese alchemists come to create black powder? What accidents led to the discovery of high explosives? How do explosives actually work on a molecular scale? Boom! The Chemistry and History of Explosives reviews the original papers and patents written by the chemists who invented them, to shed light on their development, to explore the consequences of their use for good and ill, and to give the reader a basic understanding of the chemistry that makes them possible. Blown to Bits in the Mine charts the evolution of the use of explosives for mining and quarrying in North America from the Industrial Revolution into the twentieth century. The art of blasting was of prime importance to mining because

explosives enabled miners to move through solid rock as no other technology could. This book presents a detailed look at the whole process of using explosives, from drilling blast-holes to setting off the charges, with an emphasis on technology, material culture, and the impacts to the mine as a work environment. Everyone with a penchant for mining history will enjoy this book. Eric Twitty became interested in mining history at the early age of seven, and during the following several decades made extensive trips to mining districts throughout the West in search of physical evidence and fact to compare against the numerous related books he read. Eric completed a MA degree in 1999 in American History emphasizing mining in the West and started a consulting business. Eric is currently researching, recording, analyzing, and evaluating the remains of historic mines in Colorado, where he resides. When Chinese alchemists fashioned the first manmade explosion

sometime during the tenth century, no one could have foreseen its full revolutionary potential. Invented to frighten evil spirits rather than fuel guns or bombs-neither of which had been thought of yet-their simple mixture of saltpeter, sulfur, and charcoal went on to make the modern world possible. As word of its explosive properties spread from Asia to Europe, from pyrotechnics to battleships, it paved the way for Western exploration, hastened the end of feudalism and the rise of the nation state, and greased the wheels of the Industrial Revolution. With dramatic immediacy, novelist and journalist Jack Kelly conveys both the distant time in which the "devil's distillate" rose to conquer the world, and brings to rousing life the eclectic cast of characters who played a role in its epic story, including Michelangelo, Edward III, Vasco da Gama, Cortez, Guy Fawkes, Alfred Nobel, and E.I. DuPont. A must-read for history fans and military buffs alike, Gunpowder brings

together a rich terrain of cultures and technological innovations with authoritative research and swashbuckling style. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be

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pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant. This entertaining and informative book tells the dramatic tale of explosives, which have provided the world's most powerful source of portable energy for over a thousand years. Laying the emphasis on the lives of the people involved, on the diverse uses of explosives and on their social and historical impact, the author relates a story of remarkable international human endeavour. Excerpt from *Explosives, Vol. 1: History and Manufacture; With 77 Illustrations* Since the late Mr. Oscar Guttman published his work on the *Manufacture of Explosives* in 1895 no comprehensive book on this subject has appeared in English. In the interval the

explosives industry has undergone many changes every branch of it has developed enormously - even that of black powder; and scientific investigations have thrown light on many of the problems that arise in the manufacture and use of explosives.

Especially during the last few years many obscure points have been cleared up. It is hoped therefore that the present work will be found to supply a real want. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work.

Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections

successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works. During the early years of World War II, American ships crossing the Atlantic with oil and supplies were virtually defenseless against German U-boats. Bombs and torpedoes fitted with TNT barely made a dent in the tough steel plating that covered the hulls of Axis submarines and ships. Then, seemingly overnight, a top-secret, \$100 million plant appeared near Kingsport, Tennessee, manufacturing a sugar-white substance called Research Department Explosive (code name RDX). Behind thirty-eight miles of fencing, thousands of men and women synthesized 23,000 tons of RDX each month. Twice as deadly as TNT and overshadowed only by the atomic bomb, this ordnance proved to be pivotal in the Battle of the Atlantic and directly contributed to the Allied victory in WWII. In *The Secret History of RDX*, Colin F. Baxter documents the journey

of the super-explosive from conceptualization at Woolwich Arsenal in England to mass production at Holston Ordnance Works in east Tennessee. He examines the debates between RDX advocates and their opponents and explores the use of the explosive in the bomber war over Germany, in the naval war in the Atlantic, and as a key element in the trigger device of the atomic bomb. Drawing on archival records and interviews with individuals who worked at the Kingsport "powder plant" from 1942 to 1945, Baxter illuminates both the explosive's military significance and its impact on the lives of ordinary Americans involved in the war industry. Much more than a technical account, this study assesses the social and economic impact of the military-industrial complex on small communities on the home front. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the

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explosive manufacturing in the United States during World War I. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the "public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore,

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++++ History Of Explosives; Army Ordnance 1917-1919 J. Herbert Hunter, United States. Army. Ordnance Dept Government Printing Office, 1919 History; Military; World War I; Explosives, Military; History / Military / World War I; World War, 1914-1918
Gunpowder studies are still in

their infancy despite the long-standing civil and military importance of this explosive since its discovery in China in the mid-ninth century AD. In this second volume by contributors who meet regularly at symposia of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), the research is again rooted in the investigation of the technology of explosives manufacture, but the fact that the chapters range in scope from the Old World to the New, from sources of raw materials in south-east Asia to the complications of manufacture in the West, shows that the story is more than the simple one of how an intriguing product was made. This volume is the first to develop the implications of the subject, not just in the sense of relating it to changing military technologies, but in that of seeing the securing of gunpowder supplies as fundamental to the power of the state and imperial pretensions. The search for

saltpetre, for example, an essential ingredient of gunpowder, became a powerful engine of sea-going European trade from the early seventeenth century. Smaller states like Venice were unable to form these distant connections, and so to sustain a gunpowder army. Stronger states like France and Britain were able to do so, and became even more powerful as the demand for improved explosives fostered national strengths - leading to a development of the sciences, especially chemistry, in the former case, and of manufacturing techniques in the latter. Story of the British bomb disposal units in World War II. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the "public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate)

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being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant. Excerpt from The Manufacture of Explosives, Vol. 2 of 2: A Theoretical and Practical Treatise on the History, the Physical and Chemical Properties, and the Manufacture of Explosives Di-nitro-naphthalene; Picric Acid; Picrates; Tri-nitro-cresol; Fulminate of Mercury; Manufacture; Properties and Constitution; Fulminate of Silver and Fulminate of Gold; Utilization of Waste Acids; Denitration; Concentrating The Recovered Sulphuric Acid; Dynamite; Dynamites with Inactive Absorbents; Dynamites with Active Absorbents; Manufacture of Dynamite; Mixing; Forming Cartridges; Packing; Properties of Dynamite; Physical Properties; Chemical Properties; Qualitative Examination; Quantitative Examination; Heat Test; Exudation Test; Extracting Nitro-Glycerin; Mechanical Properties; Spontaneous Decomposition; The Action of Heat on Dynamite; The Effect of Shock;

The Action of Light and Electricity; The Action of Water and Moisture; Gun-cotton Dynamite About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of

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