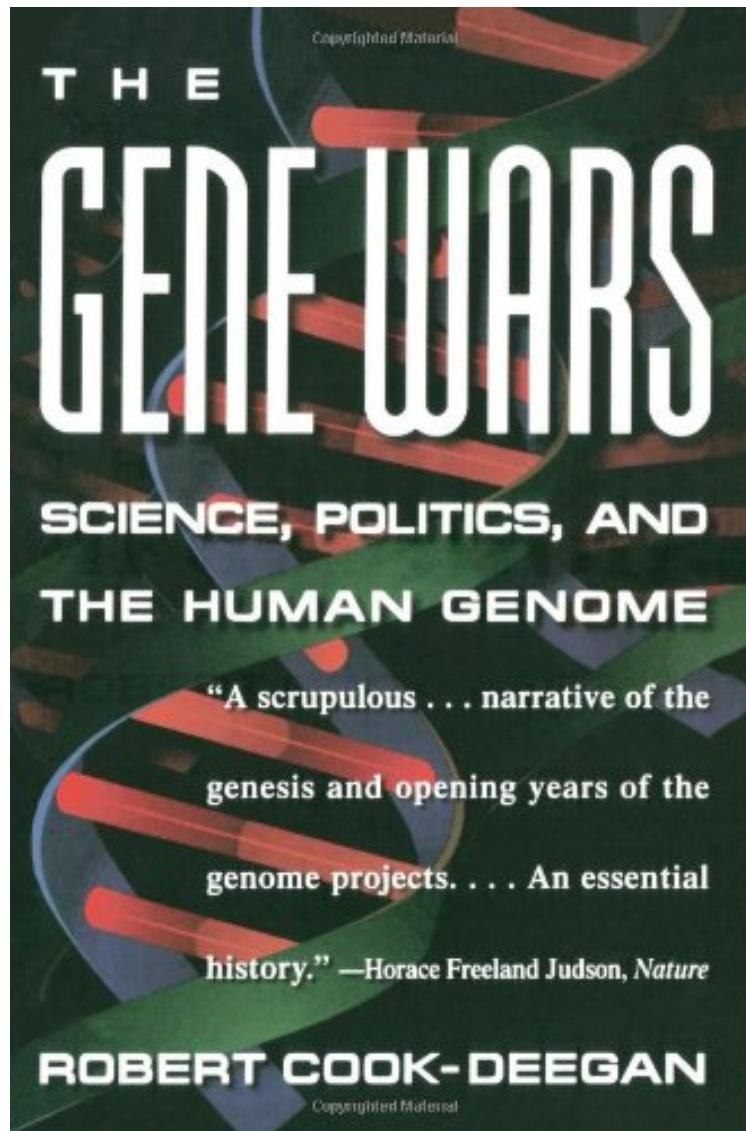


(Ebook free) The Gene Wars: Science, Politics, and the Human Genome

The Gene Wars: Science, Politics, and the Human Genome

Robert Cook-Deegan

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Robert Cook-Deegan : The Gene Wars: Science, Politics, and the Human Genome before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gene Wars: Science, Politics, and the Human Genome:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy 99th BGIInteresting history of important events0 of 0

people found the following review helpful. The best treatment of the early days of the human genome project. By D. Smith Without a doubt Cook-Deegan has written the definitive story of the beginnings of the Human Genome Program. He was there and he interviewed all the major players. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Curious about the genetics industry? Start here. By A. Tresca I originally read this book for a college course about the ethics of genetics. It is something every person in the biological or natural sciences should read, but it is also helpful for anyone interested in genetics. It is primarily about the politics and ethics which surround all genetic issues. Cook-Deegan explains the rudiments of genetics in a very easy to understand manner, and then launches into an in-depth examination of the politics of genetics. More goes on behind the scenes of biological science than you would ever believe. In the coming years genetics and the ethical issues surrounding genetics are going to become very important in medicine, pharmaceutical research, and criminal forensics. No longer just a class for science majors, genetics may well enter your life in ways you never expected. Cook-Deegan's book can definitely educate as well as entertain.

Probably the most authoritative account of the genesis and early stages of the Human Genome Project. . . . This book tells it the way it was and is. Victor A. McKusick, University Professor of Medical Genetics, Johns Hopkins University The Human Genome Project, the most ambitious biological research program ever undertaken, was born in controversy. Heralded by its more enthusiastic proponents as a quest for the 'Holy Grail of biology' - and the key, ultimately, to the treatment of a variety of hereditary diseases - it has as its initial goal the mapping of all the genes in the entire three-billion-letter genetic code embodied in the DNA of a typical human cell. A major factor in the counterarguments of its opponents: its projected cost, estimated to run into the billions of dollars, spread over 10-20 years. In this firsthand account of the protracted struggle to launch the genome project, a close observer of that process - and sometime participant in it - unravels the tangled scientific and political threads of the story, relying on primary documents gathered even as events unfolded, supplemented by interviews with all the main actors - including the controversial first head of the National Institutes of Health genome effort, Nobel laureate James D. Watson. The result is an absorbing case study in the politics of modern science - focused in this case on a project with far-reaching medical and social implications.

From Publishers Weekly Launched in 1990 with federal support, the Human Genome Project to map the genetic code embodied in the six feet of DNA coiled inside every human cell holds the promise of identifying the genes involved in specific diseases. Cook-Degan, a physician and consultant who directed a 1988 Congressional study on genome research and is now with the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, tracks the program's early history and politics in this absorbing study. James Watson, co-discoverer of DNA's double-helix structure, was the genome project's first director; his status as the "father of DNA" helped win funding from Congress by mollifying critics who deemed the project overcentralized Big Science of dubious practical value. As the project became a global collaborative effort, U.S. scientists clashed with Japanese researchers eager to wed its goals to corporate biotechnology interests. Yet a similar process now seems to be underway in the U.S. with the expanding role of commercial investment in genome research. Cook-Degan weighs the ethical issues surrounding the genome project, which raises the specter of discrimination in employment and insurance through genetic screening and testing. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This accessible account of the Human Genome Project is as much about the politics, economics, and personalities as it is about the science of this \$3 billion, 15-year project to map the 100,000 chromosome sequences of the human genome. However, more discussion of the potential clinical implications and controversies surrounding the decision to map the entire genome, including sequences with no currently known purpose, would have been helpful. Cook-Deegan, Executive Director for the Biomedical Ethics Advisory Committee when funding was cut, is occasionally an intrusive narrator, concerned about his own career prospect. He could also have reserved mention of newly appointed director Francis Collins to the epilog. But he knows the players and has seen much of the story unfold firsthand. Recommended for its relatively rare inside glimpse into the world of big science, big politics, and big money. See also Jerry Bishop and Michael Waldholz's *Genome*, LJ 7/90. -Ed. --Mary Chitty, Biotrends Research, Natick, Mass. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Close to the Human Genome Project by virtue of serving on two congressional advisory bodies and consulting the National Center for Human Genome Research, Cook-Deegan sees the project as "a case study in the politics of modern science." Although he provides enough information on genes for basic understanding of the science involved, he fills most of the book with descriptions of the major players--that of the flamboyant Jim Watson is especially well done--and of relevant public and covert activities. Cook-Deegan also goes into the work of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute; the Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues group; various related foreign groups, such as Wada and the RIKEN project; and such individuals as Craig Venter, Rebecca Eisenberg, and Watson's nemesis, Bernadine Healy, exploring in passing the personal motivations of several of them. The book, despite its technical subject, thus moves right along. William Beatty