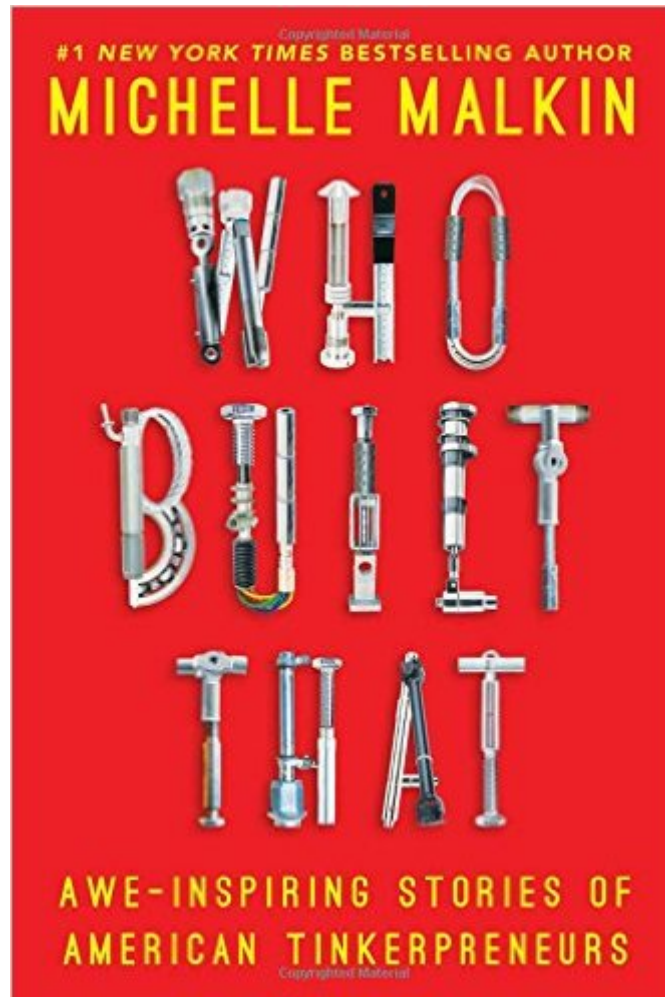


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Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories Of American Tinkerpreneurs



Synopsis

Firebrand conservative columnist, commentator, Internet entrepreneur, and #1 New York Times bestselling author Michelle Malkin tells the fascinating, little-known stories of the inventors who have contributed to American exceptionalism and technological progress. In July 2012, President Obama infamously proclaimed: "If you've got a business you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen." Malkin wholeheartedly disagrees. *Who Built That* is a rousing tribute to the hidden American capitalists who pioneered everyday inventions. They're the little big things we take for granted: bottle caps and glassware, tissue paper, flashlights, railroad signals, bridge cables, revolutionary plastics, and more. Malkin takes readers on an eclectic journey of American capitalism, from the colonial period to the Industrial Age to the present, spotlighting awe-inspiring and little-known tinkerprenuers who achieved their dreams of doing well by doing good. You'll learn how famous patent holders Abraham Lincoln and Mark Twain championed the nation's unique system of intellectual property rights; how glass manufacturing mavericks Edward Libbey and Mike Owens defied naysayers to revolutionize food, beverage, and pharmaceutical packaging; how penniless Croatian immigrant Anthony Maglica started his \$400 million Maglite flashlight business in a rented garage; and many more riveting stories that explain our country's fertile climate for scientific advancement and entrepreneurship. To understand who we are as people, we need to first understand what motivates America's ordinary and extraordinary makers and risk-takers. Driven by her own experience as a second-generation beneficiary of the American Dream, Malkin skillfully and passionately rebuts collectivist orthodoxy to celebrate the engineers, mechanics, designers, artisans, and relentless tinkerers of all backgrounds who embody our nation's spirit of self-made entrepreneurialism.

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Customer Reviews

I could easily give this 50 stars!!! It is so much more than just the "awe-inspiring stories". It delves into the history of life without these inventions, and describes in fascinating technical descriptions, some of the scientific processes and reasonings involved in the labor pains of getting to where we are today in the use of these items. No, it's not boring technical, even to the average reader. It's exciting, and for this reason should be in every library, in the hands of every student - even those who answer, "Just get a job", when asked what they want to do when they graduate from High School. This could well be what ignites imagination, curiosity, courage and self-confidence to experiment, try, and try again. It could also well be the guide to those whose love, strength and patience supports and encourages future "tinkerpreneurs". - - And, yes, no question about it, shows how personal fortitude, independence, ambition and faith succeed where government cannot.

So many of the things we use everyday and take for granted have such amazing stories behind them. Great book for kids and adults. You will enjoy sharing the things you learn from this book.

Very nice to read about ordinary people with the guts to continue their dreams. Michelle picked the right time to cover this subject in our current system in America.

What fascinating people are the Americans who built the products that have made American life the rich, aspiring gift that it is. Malkin writes as only someone who truly loves her country can. I can't wait to share these stories with my students.

If this book doesn't restore your faith in the greatness of America and the "can-do" attitude of Americans, I don't know what will. Ms. Malkin tells the stories of some of the unsung heros that changed our lives. The tone is upbeat and proud to be a part of the American experience. I enjoyed every chapter. I think anyone would love this book.

A great book describing the stories of many individual inventors who worked tirelessly to develop products that they wanted to develop and sell commercially, and in doing so, changed society for

the better. The book's introduction and conclusion frames these stories around Obama's "you didn't invent that" speech, but the book is not a diatribe against Obama (as some reviewers here think it is, or wish it should have been.) If that's what you want, there are many other books on the subject. If, however, you want to read inspiring stories of Americans (some immigrants, some born American) who changed the world through their genius, insight and hard work, then this is a must-read.

I got this book as a birthday gift for my father who was 95 at the time. The last conversation we had before he passed away was him telling me how much he enjoyed this book. Indeed, he called me after reading the first chapter, telling me how much he enjoyed it. Then his last call came when he had completed the reading and he told me again what a fantastic book it was.

Let me start my review with the only complaint I had about the book. Malkin invents a new word -- tinkerpreneur -- to replace the word inventor. She uses the word in the book's title and she uses it incessantly throughout the book to the point of tedium. Every time I came across the word I wished she had simply used the word inventor instead. Yeah, it's a nitpick on my part but it was annoying. The book is filled with interesting stories of people who invented products on their own, without the help of government. All of these stories go to great lengths to refute Obama's claim that "If you've got a businessâ "you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen." I found the book to be fun to read, interesting, and educational. For that, it was well worth the time I spent on the book.

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