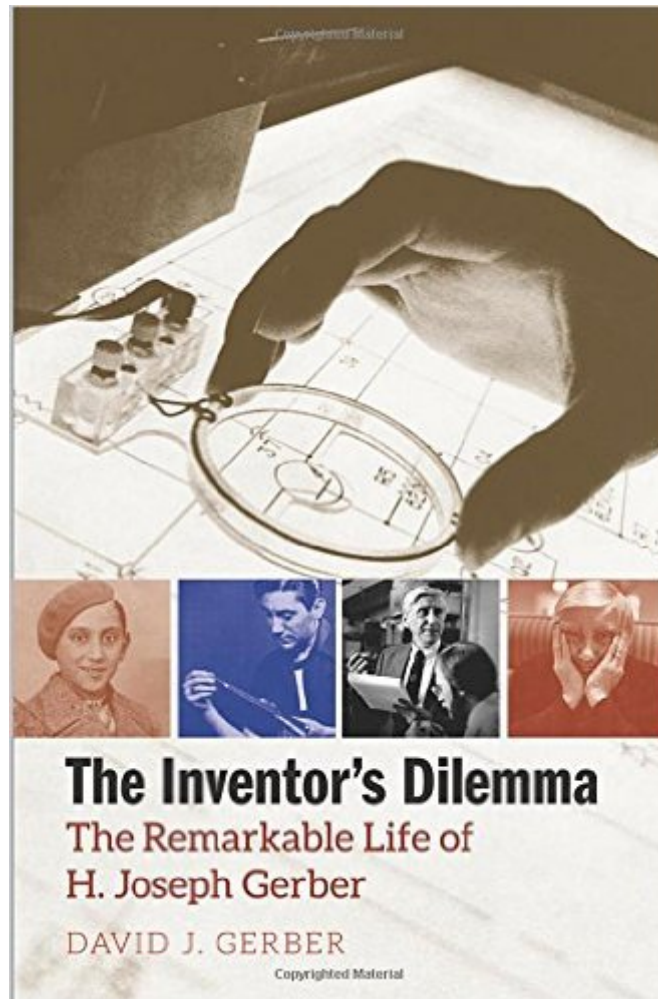


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The Inventor's Dilemma: The Remarkable Life Of H. Joseph Gerber



Synopsis

The extraordinary life and career of the iconic twentieth-century inventor, technologist, and business magnate H. Joseph Gerber is described in a fascinating biography written by his son, David, based on unique access to unpublished sources. A Holocaust survivor whose early experiences shaped his ethos of invention, Gerber pioneered important developments in engineering, electronics, printing, apparel, aerospace, and numerous other areas, playing an essential role in the transformation of American industry. Gerber's story is remarkable and inspiring, and his method, redolent of Edison's and Sperry's, holds a key to a restored national economy and American creative vitality in the twenty-first century.

Book Information

Hardcover: 424 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press (October 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300123507

ISBN-13: 978-0300123500

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (18 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

David Gerber's biography of his father, H. Joseph Gerber, is a riveting and captivating portrayal of Gerber who miraculously escapes NAZI Austria. Bringing only his mother and his dreams with him to America, Gerber never again sees or knows what happened to his father left behind in war-torn Europe. It is a vivid account of a Jewish refugee becoming one of the greatest American inventors who revolutionizes many antiquated industries of the twentieth century. This book is a wonderful tribute and work of love to a man who overcame all obstacles to be hailed as the "Thomas Edison of the Apparel Industry" and awarded the National Medal of Technology. I was very proud to work for both Gerber Garment Technology, Inc. and its parent Gerber Scientific, Inc. as an art director. It was an energized company, always developing new and amazing technologies because Mr. Gerber, like Steve Jobs, encouraged innovation and creativity. I truly hope Hollywood

will turn this inspirational story into a movie. Regina Surdel

This book is beautifully written. Joe Gerber's attitude and approach to identifying opportunities IS the American way, as he was proud to say. Today's youth could learn a lesson in both vision and perseverance, necessarily coupled with charm and ruthless impatience. His youth in Vienna quickly turned from privilege to horrors. Once he escaped beyond the Nazi reach, each day became better, slowly, then faster and faster, until his name was burned into the fabric of several industries.

I started reading the book a few days ago and was immediately hooked. The book reveals a life full of inspiration. It is amazing how Joe processed issues and situations around him, imagined solutions for them, immediately worked on implementing them, and came out victorious on the other end. David has not only written a life story of his father here, but has created an all-in-one archive of his father's accomplishments as well. I am excited about meeting David tomorrow during book signing at Gerber Scientific Headquarters.

Here, David Gerber presents the life of his father, the great and mostly unknown inventor Joe Gerber, from his birth in pre-war Vienna to his death as the owner of a large technology company in Connecticut. I've always loved stories about the lives of inventors, and this one does not fail to fascinate, as Gerber the inventor conjures his devices from his imagination. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was devising an automated machine to cut cloth for clothing, something no other inventor would accomplish, although many tried (and others later copied his ideas). The book also succeeds as an immigrant "rags to riches" story -- telling of a boy who escaped the Nazis in the 1930s to come to America as a thirteen year old without a penny in his pocket, who later reaches the height of success, winning accolades from everyone up to President of the United States. An inspiring life.

This well-written book is a vivid picture of the life and times of a brilliant 20th century inventor. Heinz Joseph Gerber, a precocious boy, employs his technical ingenuity to help save himself and his family from the vicissitudes of the Holocaust in Austria, then works incredibly hard to realize the freedoms and opportunities of the American Dream. The author's descriptive style transports you to exquisite places of old Vienna, terrifying events of the Holocaust, challenges of beginning a new life, and the excitement of creating new technologies that transform antiquated industries. The book is engaging both as a human interest story and as a business/technology history.

• The Inventor's Dilemma: The Remarkable Life of H. Joseph Gerber • by David Gerber, is an inspiring read. There are two stories in this book that continuously overlay and underscore the other. One story is about personal character. When still a boy, H. Joseph Gerber escaped the Holocaust and arrived in the US with very little, other than his intellect and perseverance. He worked his way through school, developed a start-up, went public, and raised a happy family all on the way to being given the highest national award in technology by the President of the United States. Despite the destruction to his childhood life, family, and friends, he led a positive and constructive life that benefited many. The second story brings disruptive technology to life. The book follows Gerber's journey from developing an idea into a mature public holding company while maintaining a culture of innovation. In retrospect, you could derive a "how to" manual that explains how to take an idea to market, iterate on it, create new ideas and markets in an self-sustaining cycle, and help re-build a faltering national economy. Throughout his career as an inventor, technologist, and businessman, Gerber invented and applied technologies that created new markets in engineering, electronics, printing, apparel, aerospace, and other industries. There are many parallels with what we see today as we experience the next level of automation through artificial intelligence. History repeats itself. Gerber played an essential role in the transformation of American industry. This is evident in his well-deserved place at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. His story is worth reading.

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