



Plato's Alarm Clock And Other Amazing Ancient Inventions

James M. Russell

Keynote

Discover the true history of some of the most extraordinary inventions of the ancient world, including mysterious devices that we can't recreate today, and the original versions of modern technology.

Description

We all like to think we are pretty smart. New medical advances seem to come along every day; space travel suddenly doesn't seem so difficult; self-driving cars are no longer a thing of the future ... but if we were stranded on a desert island tomorrow, most of us wouldn't know how to catch a fish or start a fire, let alone rebuild all that extraordinary technology we now rely on.

The truth is that we're not necessarily more clever than our ancestors, we just have an accumulation of centuries of technological progress on which we can rely. As this book shows, many of the ancients were much more advanced than we realize – indeed there are recent inventions that had actually been discovered centuries earlier and then forgotten. And what about all those modern day devices and machines that rely on ancient inventions such as paper, levers and gears?

From brain surgery in the Stone Age to Chinese whisky from the 7th century BC, to Damascus steel – once the hardest metal in the world, which we no longer know how to make – this insightful book collects together the stories of hundreds of ancient devices, inventions and breakthroughs from around the world and across the centuries, giving us a fascinating glimpse into past eras that were far more technologically advanced than we sometimes realize.

Sales Points

- The histories of ancient inventions, devices and breakthroughs from around the world and across the centuries
- Features everything from Etruscan false teeth and early Chinese mechanical clocks to the first bone tools from Southern Africa 60,000 years ago and Indian plastic surgery practiced in the 1st century BC
- Includes line illustrations and diagrams throughout
- From the publishers of *A History of the World in Bite-sized Chunks* (over 150,000 copies sold)
- Author available for PR

Author Biography

James M. Russell has a philosophy degree from the University of Cambridge, a post-graduate qualification in critical theory, and has taught at the Open University in the UK. He currently works as a freelance writer, designer and editor. He is the author of *A Brief Guide to Philosophical Classics*, *A Brief Guide to Spiritual Classics* and *A Traveller's Guide to Infinity*. He lives in north London with his wife, daughter and two cats.

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