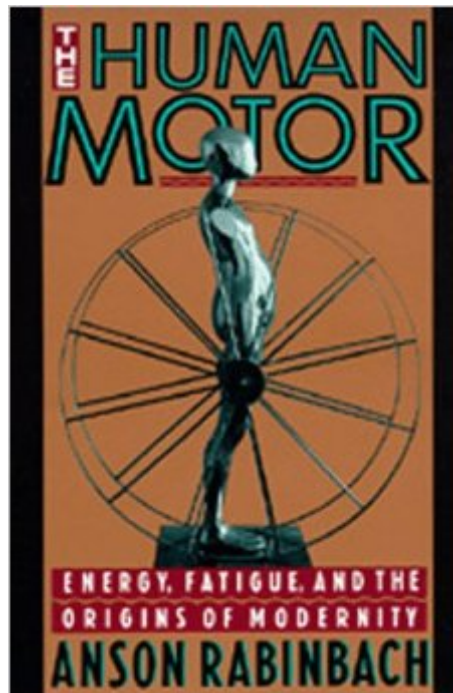


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# The Human Motor: Energy, Fatigue, And The Origins Of Modernity



## Synopsis

Science once had an unshakable faith in its ability to bring the forces of nature&#151;even human nature&#151;under control. In this wide-ranging book Anson Rabinbach examines how developments in physics, biology, medicine, psychology, politics, and art employed the metaphor of the working body as a human motor. From nineteenth-century theories of thermodynamics and political economy to the twentieth-century ideals of Taylorism and Fordism, Rabinbach demonstrates how the utopian obsession with energy and fatigue shaped social thought across the ideological spectrum.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Provides a detailed historical perspective with documentation, of western Europe's fixation with the study of fatigue, productivity. For work physiologists, this is a must read as it provides the foundational basis for present day laboratory procedures and research directions.

The book is similar in theme and content to Mirowski's 1989 *More Heat than Light* (albeit less technically rigorous), containing interesting trivia tidbits, e.g. that German mathematician Carl Neumann, the first to introduce the d-hat derivative symbol for inexact differentials (1875), had views on how economic life related to energetic components of energy exchanges between people. Here's a short bio on Rabinbach:[...]He states that the book originated from a 1993 paper he wrote.

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