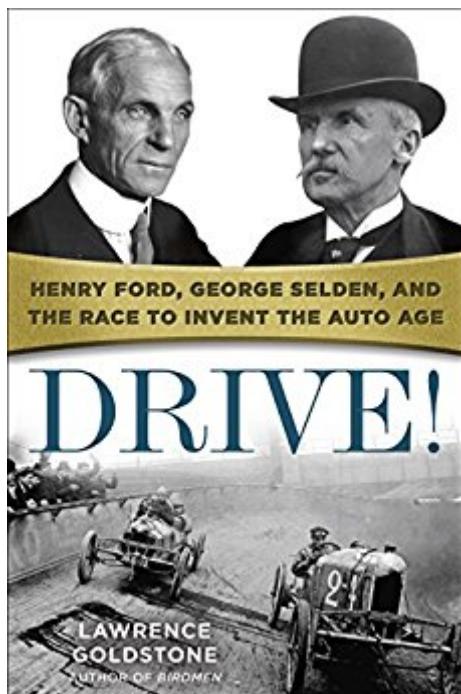


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# Drive!: Henry Ford, George Selden, And The Race To Invent The Auto Age



## **Synopsis**

From the acclaimed author of *Birdmen* comes a revelatory new history of the birth of the automobile—“an illuminating and entertaining true tale of invention, competition, and the visionaries, hustlers, and swindlers who came together to transform the world. With a narrative as propulsive as its subject, *Drive!* plunges us headlong into a time unlike any in history, when manic innovation and consumerist zeal coalesced to forever change the way people got from one place to another.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is a good telling of the early days of the auto industry. Goldstone covers a lot of ground quickly and in an entertaining manner. As you can tell from the other reviews, most are in agreement that it is a good read. This book fills a need for a summary of those beginnings. The tale of the patent is almost a consequence of the bigger story, how the auto industry in the U.S. grew to world dominance, from roots established elsewhere; until the 1980's, anyway. I know a little about the ongoing development of the modern auto, Goldstone helped me to learn more about the development of early auto technology in this well made book.

"Drive" by Lawrence Goldstone is about the early history of the Automotive Industry . . . the technological and manufacturing developments and the legal battles over patents. . . . Having grown-up in Michigan and worked in the Auto Industry, I was surprised at how little I really knew about it. . . . The book isn't particularly complimentary of Henry Ford, one of my youthful heroes. I wonder if Goldstone, with apparent Jewish roots, may have tilted his history against Henry because of his anti-Semitism. Has anyone else wondered about this?

the early history of the automobile is not well known among the public. This book reveals some of this history. And some of subsequent history as well. Did you know that Nuclear Submarines are made by a successor company to an outfit that built electric and gas horseless carriages in the 1890s? No? Electric Boat is a successor company to Pope Bicycle Co which came to run electric cabs in most eastern cities, collected royalties from most automotive manufacturers at the time, and eventually gave birth to the Society of Automotive Engineers.

The story was not painted like this on the History Channel: Men Who Built America. Ford seemed to really have a lot of luck that mixed well with his hard work. However, he seemed to be the ultimate credit rogue. Also, I didn't know that Europe was so far ahead of the U.S. in ICE technology so early. Also, this corrected my assumption that Ford was the oldest corporation in America. Too many ah ha moments to list.

An engrossing story of an remarkable time in American history, with insights into the big personalities--and their foils--who came to define the age. While the story is captivating, the author makes very effective use of footnotes to extend the story without distracting from the main events--and the footnotes contribute to an aura of discovery that permeates the book.

I thought I knew a lot about the automobile industry and Henry Ford. But this gave me a whole new insight into this period in history.

Exposed a little known historical relationship, along with a somewhat unfavorable view of Ford that most histories ignore. A very good read!

I thought I knew a lot about the history of cars until I read this delightful book and realized all I had

missed.

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