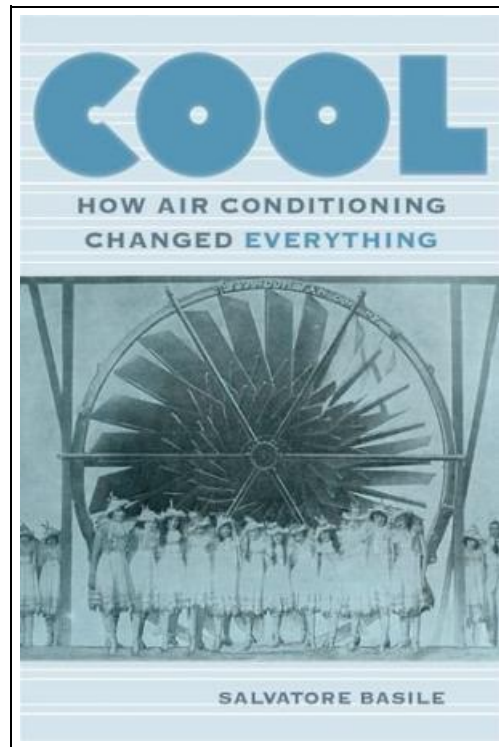


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COOL: HOW AIR CONDITIONING CHANGED EVERYTHING



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Fordham University Press, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. It s July and it s 94 degrees Fahrenheit. What do you do? Blast the air conditioning. It s a modern miracle of convenience and cooling. How did it happen? Sal Basile s narrative history traces the origins one of the machines we take for granted. It s a contraption that makes the lists of Greatest Inventions Ever ; at the same time, it s accused of causing global disaster. It has changed everything from architecture to people s food habits to their voting patterns, to even the way big business washes its windows. It has saved countless lives .while causing countless deaths. Most of us are glad it s there. But we don t know how, or when, it got there. It s air conditioning. For thousands of years, humankind attempted to do something about the slow torture of hot weather. Everything was tried: water power, slave power, electric power, ice made from steam engines and cold air made from deadly chemicals, zephyrifers, refrigerated beds, ventilation amateurs and professional air-sniffers. It wasn t until 1902 when an engineer barely out of college developed the Apparatus for Treating Air a machine that could actually cool the indoors and everyone assumed it would instantly change the world. That wasn t the case. There was a time when people ignored hot weather while reading each day s list of heat-related deaths, women wore furs in the summertime, heatstroke victims were treated with bloodletting .and the notion of a machine to cool the air was considered preposterous, even sinful. The story of air conditioning is actually two stories: the struggle to perfect a cooling device, and the effort to convince people that they...



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