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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Part One. FAMILY AND UPBRINGING -- the BLOEMBERGEN Dynasty: high peaks and deep valleys -- Bilthoven: Playground for the elite (1925-1938). Primary school and High school -- Part Two. STUDIES -- IN THE footsteps OF LORENTZ, KRAMERS, AND ORNSTEIN -- BSc and MSc exams in wartime - INFECTED by science -- Quantum mechanics and oil lampS: Bilthoven in the war -- Part Three. From atoms to humans: nuclear magnetic resonance and MRI -- A leap into the deep -- To Harvard: Tintin in America (1946-1947) -- Doctorate in Leiden: in the lab of Kamerlingh Onnes (1947-1948) -- A permanent position in Harvard. Marriage -- From atoms to humans: Chemical shift and Magnetic Resonance Imaging -- Part Four. Masers and lasers -- The birth of the maser - Oil and the Milky Way:

applications of the maser -- The Wild West and Soviets - laser applications From eyes to cars -- Part Five. Non-linear optics, the icing on the cake -- From lasers to nonlinear optics -- Crowning glory: the Nobel Prize -- Part Six. Star wars -- STRategic Defense Initiative (SDI) -- Part Seven. TAKING THINGS EASY -- Emeritus, but not retired.

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## Sommario/riassunto

This biography is a personal portrait of one of the best-known Dutch physicists, Nicolaas Bloembergen. Born in 1920 in Dordrecht, Bloembergen studied physics in Utrecht, leaving after World War II for the United States, where he became an American citizen in 1958. At Harvard University, he pioneered nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR, used in chemistry and biology for structure identification; moreover leading to MRI), laser theory and nonlinear optics. In 1978 he was awarded the Lorentz Medal for his contribution to the theory of nonlinear optics (used in fiber optics), and in 1981 he received the Nobel Prize for physics, along with Arthur Schawlow and Kai Siegbahn. The book is based on numerous conversations with Nicolaas Bloembergen himself, his wife Deli Brink, his family, and colleagues in science. It describes his childhood and study in Bilthoven and Utrecht, the first postwar years at Harvard, the discoveries of masers and lasers, and the award of the Nobel Prize. It also delves into Bloembergen's involvement in American politics, particularly his role in Ronald Reagan's controversial "Star Wars" program.

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