

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790419403321
Autore	Graham Loren R.
Titolo	Lonely ideas : can Russia compete? // Loren Graham
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Massachusetts : , : The MIT Press, , [2013] ©2013
ISBN	0-262-31739-7 0-262-31738-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (229 p.)
Disciplina	338.947
Soggetti	Technological innovations - Russia (Federation) Technology and state - Russia (Federation) Research, Industrial - Russia (Federation) Industrialization - Russia (Federation) High technology industries - Russia (Federation)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents -- Introduction -- I The Problem: Why Can't Russia, after Three Centuries of Trying, Modernize? -- 1 The Early Arms Industry: Early Achievement, Later Slump -- 2 Railroads: Promise and Distortion -- 3 The Electrical Industry: Failed Inventors of the Nineteenth Century -- 4 Aviation: A Frustrated Master, a Deformed Industry -- 5 Soviet Industrialization: The Myth That It Was Modernization -- 6 The Semiconductor Industry: Unheralded and Unrewarded Russian Pioneers -- 7 Genetics and Biotechnology: The Missed Revolution -- 8 Computers: Victory and Failure -- 9 Lasers: Genius and Missed Opportunities -- 10 The Exceptions and What They Prove: Software, Space, Nuclear Power -- II What Are the Causes of the Problem? -- 11 The Attitudinal Question -- 12 The Political Order -- 13 Social Barriers -- 14 The Legal System -- 15 Economic Factors -- 16 Corruption and Crime -- 17 The Organization of Education and Research -- III Can Russia Overcome Its Problem Today? Russia's Unique Opportunity -- 18 Creating New Foundations and Research Universities -- 19 RUSNANO (Nanotechnology) and Skolkovo (a New Technology City) -- 20 How Russia Could Break Out of Its Three-

Sommario/riassunto

When have you gone into an electronics store, picked up a desirable gadget, and found that it was labeled "Made in Russia"? Probably never. Russia, despite its epic intellectual achievements in music, literature, art, and pure science, is a negligible presence in world technology. Despite its current leaders' ambitions to create a knowledge economy, Russia is economically dependent on gas and oil. In *Lonely Ideas*, Loren Graham investigates Russia's long history of technological invention followed by failure to commercialize and implement.

For three centuries, Graham shows, Russia has been adept at developing technical ideas but abysmal at benefiting from them. From the seventeenth-century arms industry through twentieth-century Nobel-awarded work in lasers, Russia has failed to sustain its technological inventiveness. Graham identifies a range of conditions that nurture technological innovation: a society that values inventiveness and practicality; an economic system that provides investment opportunities; a legal system that protects intellectual property; a political system that encourages innovation and success. Graham finds Russia lacking on all counts. He explains that Russia's failure to sustain technology, and its recurrent attempts to force modernization, reflect its political and social evolution and even its resistance to democratic principles.

But Graham points to new connections between Western companies and Russian researchers, new research institutions, a national focus on nanotechnology, and the establishment of Skolkovo, "a new technology city." Today, he argues, Russia has the best chance in its history to break its pattern of technological failure.
