
Sourcebook on Atomic Energy, 3rd ed. *Samuel Glasstone*. D. Van Nostrand Co., Princeton, New Jersey. 1967. vii+883 p. \$9.25.

Glasstone's *Sourcebook on Atomic Energy* was first published in 1950 when nuclear energy suddenly emerged from what the Chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission calls the "shrouds of secrecy". It was revised in 1958 and now appears in a much enlarged third edition. As nuclear energy becomes increasingly important in modern life and decreasingly shrouded in secrecy, this most popular of Glasstone's 20 some books will continue to be a valuable reference for scientists, laymen, teachers, and students—a must for the small science library and a definite asset for the larger ones.

In relatively simple language, and with a minimum of mathematics, Dr. Glasstone describes the most important aspects of atomic energy. The fundamentals of atomic and nuclear theory and the development of practical applications in science and technology are presented in an historical context. Beginning with early atomic theory and the theory of radioactivity, the developments leading to the design of particle accelerators, the building of nuclear reactors, and the widespread utilization of nuclear energy in medicine and other fields are described succinctly and lucidly. The text is superbly organized, cross-referenced, and indexed. The third edition contains a new chapter on elementary particles, and parts of many other chapters have been expanded to reflect recent developments in various fields. References for further reading on both the popular and the technical level have been added to each chapter.

While this is not an "easy" book, it provides the essential facts in a compact and readable form. Both beginners and professionals specializing in different fields related to atomic energy will find it immensely useful.

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