

EXPANDING HORIZONS IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

This book challenges the common assumption that the predominant focus of the history of science should be the achievements of Western scientists since the so-called scientific revolution. The conceptual frameworks within which the members of earlier societies and of modern indigenous groups worked admittedly pose severe problems for our understanding. But rather than dismiss them on the grounds that they are incommensurable with our own and to that extent unintelligible, we should see them as offering opportunities for us to revise many of our own preconceptions. We should accept that the realities to be accounted for are multidimensional and that all such accounts are to some extent value-laden. In the process insights from current anthropology and the study of ancient Greece and China especially are brought to bear to suggest how the remit of the history of science can be expanded to achieve a cross-cultural perspective on the problems. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

SIR GEOFFREY LLOYD is Emeritus Professor of Ancient Philosophy and Science at the University of Cambridge and Senior Scholar in Residence at the Needham Research Institute. He has authored or edited more than thirty books and won numerous international prizes and medals (Dan David Prize, Fyssen Prize, Sarton Medal, Kenyon Medal) for pioneering studies in the comparative history of science.

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IN THE HISTORY
OF SCIENCE

The Comparative Approach

G. E. R. LLOYD

Needham Research Institute, Cambridge



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UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51624-9 — Expanding Horizons in the History of Science
G. E. R. Lloyd
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316516249

DOI: 10.1017/9781009029285

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009029285

First published 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-316-51624-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-50794-3 Paperback

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