

CONTENTS

- 1 **INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS: A LONG HISTORY AND MODERN INFATUATION** 1
 - 2 **INVENTIONS THAT TURNED FROM WELCOME TO UNDESIRABLE** 19
 - Leaded Gasoline 23
 - DDT 36
 - Chlorofluorocarbons 49
 - 3 **INVENTIONS THAT WERE TO DOMINATE—AND DO NOT** 63
 - Airships 66
 - Nuclear Fission 79
 - Supersonic Flight 93
 - 4 **INVENTIONS THAT WE KEEP WAITING FOR** 107
 - Travel in a (Near) Vacuum (Hyperloop) 109
 - Nitrogen-Fixing Cereals 123
 - Controlled Nuclear Fusion 135
 - 5 **TECHNO-OPTIMISM, EXAGGERATIONS, AND REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS** 151
 - Breakthroughs That Are Not 152
 - The Myth of Ever-Faster Innovations 160
 - What We Need Most 171
- FURTHER READING 185
- INDEX 209