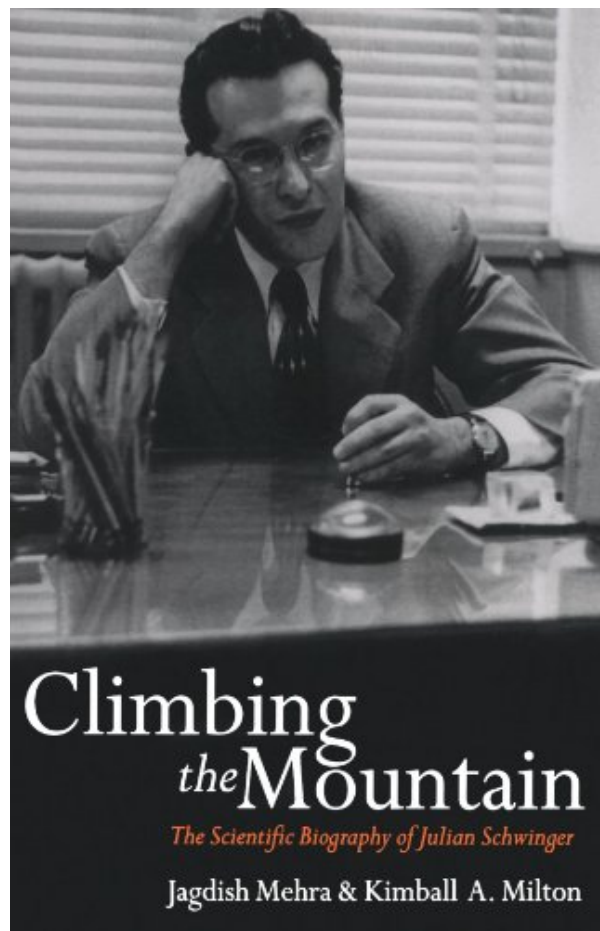
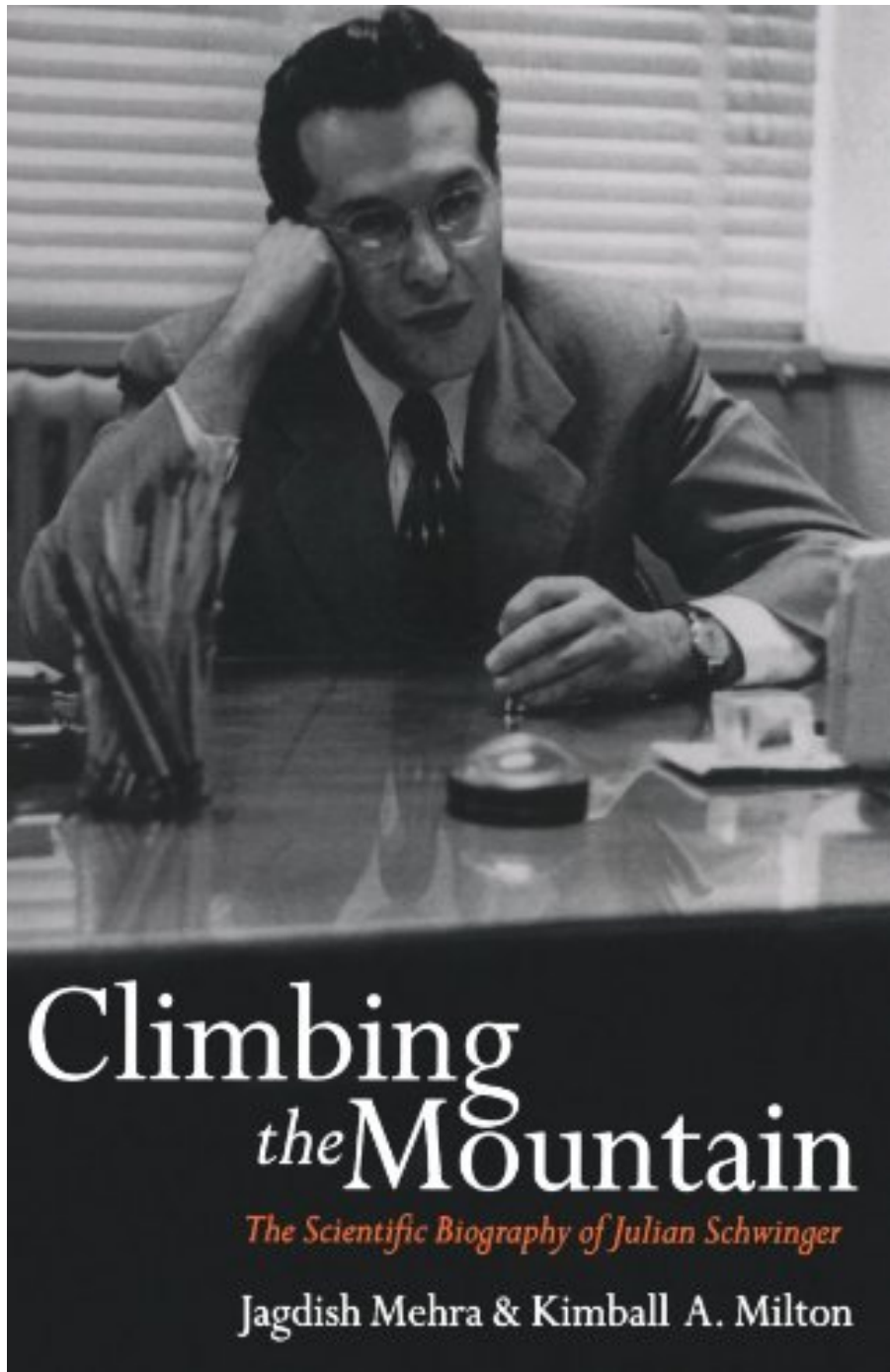


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"Mehra and Milton provide a great deal of material from interviews and archival files and thus help give us a fuller picture of Schwinger. Perhaps their most important contribution is their account of the evolution of many of Schwinger's thoughts. [...] It does shed light on a many-faceted genius."

About the Author

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Julian Schwinger was one of the leading theoretical physicists of the twentieth century. His contributions are as important, and as pervasive, as those of Richard Feynman, with whom (and with Sin-itiro Tomonaga) he shared the 1965 Nobel Prize for Physics. Yet, while Feynman is universally recognized as a cultural icon, Schwinger is little known even to many within the physics community. In his youth, Julian Schwinger was a nuclear physicist, turning to classical electrodynamics after World War II. In the years after the war, he was the first to renormalize quantum electrodynamics. Subsequently, he presented the most complete formulation of quantum field theory and laid the foundations for the electroweak synthesis of Glashow, Weinberg, and Salam, and he made fundamental contributions to the theory of nuclear magnetic resonance, to many-body theory, and to quantum optics. He developed a unique approach to quantum mechanics, measurement algebra, and a general quantum action principle. His discoveries include 'Feynman's' parameters and 'Glauber's' coherent states; in later years he also developed an alternative to operator field theory which he called Source Theory, reflecting his profound phenomenological bent. His late work on the Thomas-Fermi model of atoms and on the Casimir effect continues to be an inspiration to a new generation of physicists. This biography describes the many strands of his research life, while tracing the personal life of this private and gentle genius.

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The forgotten genius

By Rodney A. Brooks

This book should be required reading for every physicist and every physics student. While the technical material can be tough going, it can be skipped over, and there is much personal history to interest the lay reader. Schwinger's accomplishments were not just comparable to Feynman's; they were much greater. Only by reading this book can one appreciate all that he did, including anticipating electroweak unification, introducing the Higgs mechanism, and proving the spin-statistics theorem. Most importantly, he perfected Quantum Field Theory (his third trip "up the mountain"). The tragedy is that, like most of Schwinger's work, QFT has been abandoned and forgotten - at least in its true meaning of a world made of fields - leaving the world to drown in a sea of chaos caused by the particle picture. As I show in my book for the lay reader [ASIN:0473179768 Fields of Color: The theory that escaped Einstein], which is dedicated in part to the memory of Julian Schwinger, only QFT can resolve the paradoxes of relativity and quantum mechanics that arise from the particle view.

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Great Book!

By Boson18

This book was sick. A really really good look into one of the greatest minds. Just about as much physics as there is history in it so the average physicist will have a ball reading it. I personally loved the perspective that it gave with how physics is approached from within the theoretical community. It really gave humanity to some of the heavy weights of the 20th century; with how the ideas were developed, how personal issues effected the outcomes of certain events, and how Julian Schwinger took on the monumental task (alone and in the middle of the night) one of man kinds greatest achievements of mankind: the formulation and execution of QED.

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