



# The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction

By Jonathan Sterne

Download now

Read Online 

**The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction** By Jonathan Sterne

*The Audible Past* explores the cultural origins of sound reproduction. It describes a distinctive sound culture that gave birth to the sound recording and the transmission devices so ubiquitous in modern life. With an ear for the unexpected, scholar and musician Jonathan Sterne uses the technological and cultural precursors of telephony, phonography, and radio as an entry point into a history of sound in its own right. Sterne studies the constantly shifting boundary between phenomena organized as "sound" and "not sound." In *The Audible Past*, this history crisscrosses the liminal regions between bodies and machines, originals and copies, nature and culture, and life and death.

Blending cultural studies and the history of communication technology, Sterne follows modern sound technologies back through a historical labyrinth. Along the way, he encounters capitalists and inventors, musicians and philosophers, embalmers and grave robbers, doctors and patients, deaf children and their teachers, professionals and hobbyists, folklorists and tribal singers. *The Audible Past* tracks the connections between the history of sound and the defining features of modernity: from developments in medicine, physics, and philosophy to the tumultuous shifts of industrial capitalism, colonialism, urbanization, modern technology, and the rise of a new middle class.

A provocative history of sound, *The Audible Past* challenges theoretical commonplaces such as the philosophical privilege of the speaking subject, the visual bias in theories of modernity, and static descriptions of nature. It will interest those in cultural studies, media and communication studies, the new musicology, and the history of technology.

 [Download The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reprod ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Repr ...pdf](#)



# The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction

By Jonathan Sterne

## The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne

*The Audible Past* explores the cultural origins of sound reproduction. It describes a distinctive sound culture that gave birth to the sound recording and the transmission devices so ubiquitous in modern life. With an ear for the unexpected, scholar and musician Jonathan Sterne uses the technological and cultural precursors of telephony, phonography, and radio as an entry point into a history of sound in its own right. Sterne studies the constantly shifting boundary between phenomena organized as "sound" and "not sound." In *The Audible Past*, this history crisscrosses the liminal regions between bodies and machines, originals and copies, nature and culture, and life and death.

Blending cultural studies and the history of communication technology, Sterne follows modern sound technologies back through a historical labyrinth. Along the way, he encounters capitalists and inventors, musicians and philosophers, embalmers and grave robbers, doctors and patients, deaf children and their teachers, professionals and hobbyists, folklorists and tribal singers. *The Audible Past* tracks the connections between the history of sound and the defining features of modernity: from developments in medicine, physics, and philosophy to the tumultuous shifts of industrial capitalism, colonialism, urbanization, modern technology, and the rise of a new middle class.

A provocative history of sound, *The Audible Past* challenges theoretical commonplaces such as the philosophical privilege of the speaking subject, the visual bias in theories of modernity, and static descriptions of nature. It will interest those in cultural studies, media and communication studies, the new musicology, and the history of technology.

## The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4482093 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Duke University Press Books
- Published on: 2003-03-13
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.74" h x 1.50" w x 6.36" l, 1.88 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 472 pages

 [Download The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reprod ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Repr ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online *The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction* By Jonathan Sterne

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"[Sterne's] prose moves gracefully and nimbly beneath the academic robes. . . and the topic is so intimately connected to the way we experience the world around us that it can't help resonating. . . Forget what you think you know about ours being a visual culture, in which sight is the privileged sense." - Ruth Walker, *Christian Science Monitor*

"[A] stimulating and provocative work. . . Sterne excels as a writer. . . [T]his book will amply reward readers who want a broader perspective on the culture of sound. Sterne's book will no doubt reach the wide readership it deserves." - David Hochfelder, *Business History Review*

"[P]rovocative. . . Sterne breaks new ground, focusing on the need to understand sound and listening as issues of history." - Leon Botstein, *Los Angeles Times*

"[M]eticulously researched. . . One of the book's most significant achievements is that it revisits a fairly well-worn territory, finds a new and noteworthy story to tell about that territory, *and* manages to open up a sizable vein of important, yet unexplored, questions about that territory for future research." - Gilbert B. Rodman, *Cultural Studies*

"[E]xcellent. . . [A] critical and long-overdue intervention. . . [B]rilliant. . . Sterne's research is wide ranging and impressive. . . This is a book that all scholars of sound should read, to overturn some of our neat assumptions about sound and its technological and cultural manifestations and to clear the ground for new approaches." - Michele Hilmes, *American Quarterly*

"Jonathan Sterne confronts what is certainly the most challenging topic in the study of auditory culture—what happened when modern technologies came crashing into ways of sound making, communicating and listening—with outstanding results. Through disciplined arguments bolstered by plenty of original research and with refreshing critiques of many cherished notions, *The Audible Past* forms a basis from which to address central questions of communication studies, musicology and music history, film sound and media studies, perception and culture, all those areas where listening and sound impinge upon cultural history and theory."—Douglas Kahn, author of *Noise, Water, Meat: A History of Sound in the Arts*

"Jonathan Sterne's *The Audible Past* boldly stakes out a largely neglected but important topic, the history of sound in modern life."—John Durham Peters, author of *Speaking into the Air: A History of the Idea of Communication*

"Jonathan Sterne's *The Audible Past* has come along to set the record straight on the cultural origins of

sounds and systems, on machines and the mechanisms of culture. He's come here to give us the lowdown on how the technology evolved. Think of the book as a kind of sonic map of the origins of the way we listen to things around us, as a primer for the sonically perplexed."—Paul D. Miller a.k.a. Dj Spooky that Subliminal Kid

"[A] stimulating and provocative work. . . . Sterne excels as a writer. . . . [T]his book will amply reward readers who want a broader perspective on the culture of sound. Sterne's book will no doubt reach the wide readership it deserves."

(David Hochfelder *Business History Review*)

"[E]xcellent. . . . [A] critical and long-overdue intervention. . . . [B]rilliant. . . . Sterne's research is wide ranging and impressive. . . . This is a book that all scholars of sound should read, to overturn some of our neat assumptions about sound and its technological and cultural manifestations and to clear the ground for new approaches."

(Michele Hilmes *American Quarterly*)

"[M]eticulously researched. . . . One of the book's most significant achievements is that it revisits a fairly well-worn territory, finds a new and noteworthy story to tell about that territory, *and* manages to open up a sizable vein of important, yet unexplored, questions about that territory for future research."

(Gilbert B. Rodman *Cultural Studies*)

"[P]rovocative. . . . Sterne breaks new ground, focusing on the need to understand sound and listening as issues of history."

(Leon Botstein *Los Angeles Times*)

"[Sterne's] prose moves gracefully and nimbly beneath the academic robes. . . and the topic is so intimately connected to the way we experience the world around us that it can't help resonating. . . . Forget what you think you know about ours being a visual culture, in which sight is the privileged sense."

(Ruth Walker *Christian Science Monitor*)

From the Publisher

"Jonathan Sterne's *The Audible Past* boldly stakes out a largely neglected but important topic, the history of sound in modern life."—John Durham Peters, author of *Speaking into the Air: A History of the Idea of Communication*

"Jonathan Sterne confronts what is certainly the most challenging topic in the study of auditory culture—what happened when modern technologies came crashing into ways of sound making, communicating and listening—with outstanding results. Through disciplined arguments bolstered by plenty of original research, and with refreshing critiques of many cherished notions, *The Audible Past* forms a basis from which to address central questions of communication studies, musicology and music history, film sound and media studies, perception and culture, all those areas where listening and sound impinge upon cultural history and theory."—Douglas Kahn, author of *Noise, Water, Meat: A History of Sound in the Arts*

"Jonathan Sterne's *The Audible Past* has come along to set the record straight on the cultural origins of sounds and systems, machines and the mechanisms of culture. He's come here to give us the lowdown on how the technology evolved. Think of the book as a kind of sonic map of the origins of the way we listen to things around us, as a primer for the sonically perplexed."—Paul D. Miller a.k.a. DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid

From the Back Cover

"Jonathan Sterne's "The Audible Past "has come along to set the record straight on the cultural origins of sounds and systems, on machines and the mechanisms of culture. He's come here to give us the lowdown on how the technology evolved. Think of the book as a kind of sonic map of the origins of the way we listen to things around us, as a primer for the sonically perplexed."--Paul D. Miller a.k.a. Dj Spooky that Subliminal Kid

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Larry Hudgens:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction. Try to make book The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction as your pal. It means that it can for being your friend when you sense alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let's make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

#### **Theresa Smith:**

Now a day those who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each data they get. How a lot more to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Looking at a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specifically this The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction book because book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

#### **Jonathan Peterson:**

The book with title The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction has lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This particular book exist new know-how the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to learn how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you inside new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

#### **Charles Howell:**

Is it you who having spare time then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction can be the solution, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your free time by reading in this completely new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides

have than the others?

**Download and Read Online The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne #TGL9VIRJOAF**

## **Read The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne for online ebook**

The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne books to read online.

### **Online The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne ebook PDF download**

#### **The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne Doc**

**The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne Mobipocket**

**The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne EPub**

**TGL9VIRJOAF: The Audible Past: Cultural Origins of Sound Reproduction By Jonathan Sterne**