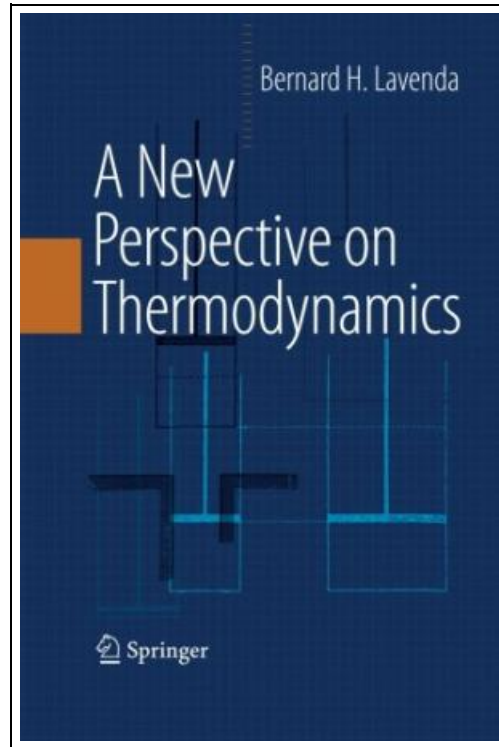


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A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THERMODYNAMICS



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Springer-Verlag New York Inc., United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 2010 ed.. 235 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.More than to any other single individual, thermodynamics owes its creation to Nicolas-Leonard-Sadi Carnot. Sadi, the son of the great Carnot Lazare, was heavily influenced by his father. Not only was Lazare Minister of War during Napoleon's consulate, he was a respected mathematician and engineer in his own right. Mathematically, Lazare can lay claim to the definition of the cross ratio, a projective invariant of four points. Lazare was also interested in how machines operated, emphasizing the roles of work and vis viva, or living force, which was later to be associated with the kinetic energy. He arrived at a dynamical theory that machines in order to operate at maximum efficiency should avoid any impact or sudden change. This was the heritage he left to his son Sadi. The mechanics of Newton, in his Principia, was more than a century old. It dealt with the mechanics of conservative systems in which there was no room for processes involving heat and friction. Such processes would ruin the time reversibility of mechanical laws, which could no longer be derived by minimizing the difference between kinetic and potential energies. When Sadi wrote his only scientific work in 1824, there were no laws governing the mechanical effects of heat. In fact, caloric theory was still in vogue, which treated heat as an imponderable fluid that was conserved.



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