

SEX, BOMBS AND BURGERS



HOW WAR, PORN AND FAST
FOOD CREATED TECHNOLOGY
AS WE KNOW IT

PETER NOWAK

Sex, Bombs and Burgers How War, Porn and Fast Food Created Technology As We Know It

Peter Nowak

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(316pp, pbk)

Contrary to popular (musical) belief, war is good for *something*, namely stepping on the accelerator pedal of innovation. As military scientists and engineers develop cunning ways of keeping one step ahead, we feel the trickle down effect of their work in our daily lives.

Most of us are familiar with this scenario: 'WWII German rocket scientists work for the US, and in a political race with the USSR, succeed in putting men on the Moon. As a result, my pen writes upside down and my egg won't stick to the pan'. Peter Nowak's book looks at the examples of the relationship between conflict, tech and our most primal urges, namely eating and... the other thing.

This book is an enjoyable and informative history of the surprising origins of some of the technological 'marvels' that underpin the modern world. It maps the way they morph and often end up in other areas of our lives. The military has had a huge influence on how we eat as well as the development of robotics and the internet. The ways pornography is made, distributed and consumed have been influential too. There's a nice quote from Sir Tim Berners-Lee that sums it up: "Legend has it that every new technology is first used for something related to sex and porn. That seems to be the way of humankind." ●●●●●

**Dallas Campbell is a presenter
on Bang Goes The Theory**