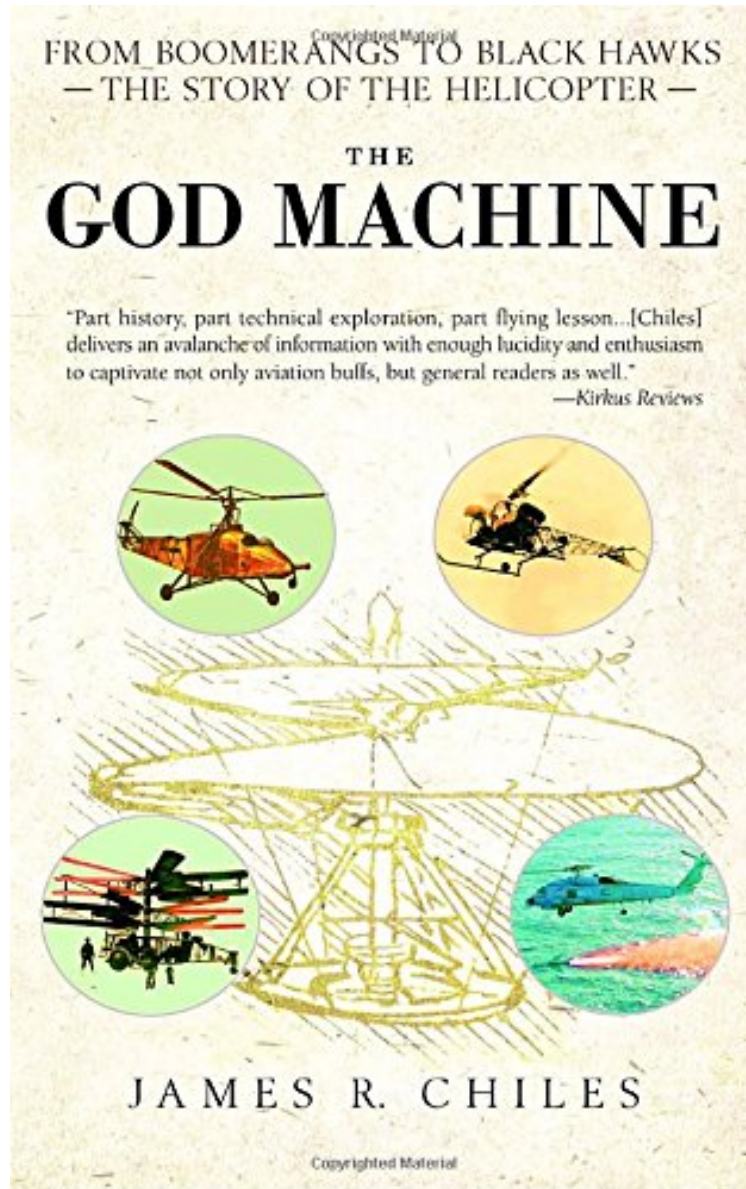


The God Machine: From Boomerangs to Black Hawks: The Story of the Helicopter

James R. Chiles

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#475550 in Books 2008-09-30 2008-09-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.20 x 1.00 x 5.20l, .85 #File Name: 0553383523372 pages Helicopter Boomerangs to Black Hawks The God Machine James R. Chiles Military | File size: 76.Mb

James R. Chiles : The God Machine: From Boomerangs to Black Hawks: The Story of the Helicopter before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The God Machine: From Boomerangs to Black Hawks: The Story of the Helicopter:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Technical error grates on meBy CustomerThe explanation of why the pilot sits in the seat on the right side is wrong. Regardless of where the "pilot" sits, that person's right hand must stay on the cyclic stick basically at all times. (The left hand operates the collective, but it can be locked in place and the left hand used for other things during straight-and-level flight.) If the "pilot" is in the left seat, the radios, transponders, etc., that are in the console between the seats or the right side of the instrument panel or overhead on the centerline are out of reach of the pilots free (left) hand. Raised my skepticism level too much. What things that I don't know about are also wrong?I found this modern article on the subject: "Why do helicopter pilots sit in the right seat?" at airspacemag.com0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional Coverage of Rotocraft History and EvolutionBy Donna A. DuloThis is one of the best and up to date books on rotocraft that I have read. It is an extensive, thorough work which is engaging and informative. I like how the author develops rotocraft theory and traces the origins of the machine from the simple early developments to modern technological advances. The pace of the book is effective and it logically flows to ensure that clear, concise coverage is given to all areas and stages of development of helicopters in both a technological and an historic perspective, which is rarely seen in books on rotocraft. It is also quite entertaining and is a great book both for the aviator and the general population. I highly recommend this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. helicopter mechanicsBy Tony M. CoalsonTHE GOD MACHINE was a well researched book and informative..plus actual events depicted in the book regarding the mechanics of helicopters --was surprised to see an event which happened--- which on page 237 is myself -Tony Coalson-- and thats about the way it happened --- we almost lost the rotor wing dept. on the lift off....april 29, 1975 as we begin the evacuation of Saigon..google -- "tony coalson"

From transforming the ways of war to offering godlike views of inaccessible spots, revolutionizing rescues worldwide, and providing some of our most-watched TV moments—including the cloud of newscopters that trailed O. J. Simpson's Bronco—the helicopter is far more capable than early inventors expected. Now James Chiles profiles the many helicoptrians who contributed to the development of this amazing machine, and pays tribute to the selfless heroism of pilots and crews. A virtual flying lesson and scientific adventure tale, *The God Machine* is more than the history of an invention; it is a journey into the minds of imaginative thinkers and a fascinating look at the ways they changed our world.

From Publishers WeeklyThe title of this sprightly history is apt both because of the helicopter's seemingly miraculous ability to float above the earthly realm and pluck mortals from the jaws of disaster, and for the nearly superhuman feats of engineering accomplished in its development. Chiles (*Inviting Disaster*) gives an anecdote-studded history of the inspired and eccentric breed of garage mechanics who tamed the helicopter's tendency to tip over in winds, twirl uncontrollably and shake itself to pieces to give us the sturdy, poised aircraft we know today. Gears and aerodynamics don't take over the book. Chiles explores the helicopter's role in history and culture, from its visionary beginnings, when housewives were expected to ferry kids to school in the family chopper, to its heroic age during the Vietnam war, to its present workaday role lifting and hauling, monitoring traffic and car chases, saving victims of flood waters and skyscraper infernos and serving as Hollywood's conveyance of choice for bad guys. Chiles darts about this landscape, sometimes cruising through a lucid narrative of technological development, sometimes hovering awhile to sketch a character study of some helicoptrian enthusiast or take in a daring aerial rescue. The result is an engaging blend of pop science and pop culture. (Oct. 30) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "The helicopter is a triumph of technology, but at its heart, the real story is one of the talented, brave, and occasionally foolhardy people who developed and employed these amazing machines, and, most significantly, those who have benefited from [them]. Whether it is rescue from certain doom or gaining the edge in a political campaign, James Chiles expertly weaves the remarkable narrative of society's interaction with these underappreciated workhorses of the aerial age." —Roger Connor, Specialist, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution"Engaging...I wanted more.... [Chiles] describes the physics and machinery with such conviction that the reader is drawn ineluctably into the rest of his tale.... From the exploits of Hank 'Gunfighter' Emerson in Vietnam to those of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Karl Maier in Mogadishu, there are vignettes enough to curl your hair." —New York Post "An engaging blend of pop science and pop culture.... Chiles explores the helicopter's role in history and culture, from its visionary beginnings ... to its heroic age during the Vietnam war, to its present workaday role lifting and hauling, monitoring traffic and car chases, saving victims of flood waters and skyscraper infernos.... [A] sprightly history."—Publishers Weekly"Lively.... Sketches of machine designs enrich the text.... Should be a required purchase for academic libraries serving engineering or aviation programs and for aeronautical corporation or aviation flight department collections."—Library Journal"Entertaining ... part history, part technical exploration, part flying lesson.... Delivers an avalanche of information with enough lucidity and enthusiasm to captivate not only aviation buffs, but general readers as well."—Kirkus s"Enthusiastic and knowledgeable, Chiles should take off with aviators."—BooklistAbout the AuthorJames R. Chiles trained in a two-seater helicopter as part of his research for this book. His first book, *Inviting Disaster*, was named a Best Book of 2001 by .com and was made

into a four-part series for the History Channel. He lives in Minnesota. From the Hardcover edition.