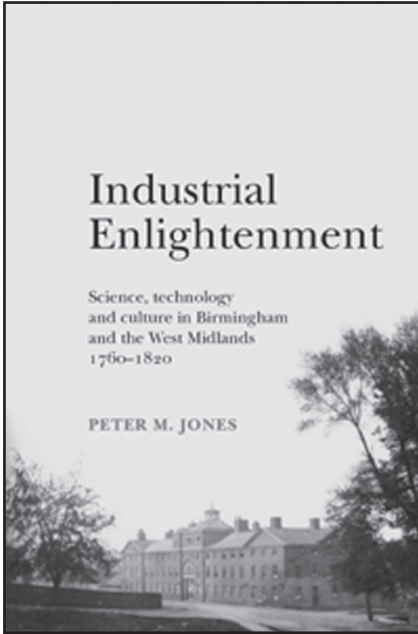


# Industrial Enlightenment

Science, technology and culture in Birmingham and the West Midlands 1760–1820

**Peter M. Jones**



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*Industrial Enlightenment* explores the transition through which England passed between 1760 and 1820 on the way to becoming the world's first industrialised nation. In drawing attention to the important role played by scientific knowledge, it focuses on a dimension of this transition which is often overlooked by historians.

The book argues that in certain favoured regions, England underwent a process whereby useful knowledge was fused with technological 'know how' to produce the condition described here as Industrial Enlightenment. In the forefront of the process were the natural philosophers who entered into a close and productive relationship with technologists and entrepreneurs. One of the most favoured regions in which this interaction took place was the West Midlands. Accordingly, the book probes the relationship between knowledge generators and knowledge appliers in the specific setting of eighteenth-century Birmingham's booming metal-goods economy. Much of the evidence for this study is drawn from the extraordinary archival record of the activities of Matthew Boulton (1728–1809) and his Soho Manufactory. For Soho, 'where genius and the arts preside', would become the principal emblem and adornment of England's Industrial Enlightenment.

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The book will appeal to those keen to explore the dynamics of change in eighteenth-century England, and to those with a broad interest in the cultural history of science and technology.

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