Analog superpowers

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Note sur le contenu : Introduction: Naval fire control as beach reading Invention as authorship Infringement as plagiarism Official secrets Westward the course of piracy makes its way Secret patents and the Pax Britannica Breaking up is hard to do Clocking the crown Inside the military-industrial complex Outside the military-industrial complex State secrets and the Pax Americana Conclusion: Everything old is new again

Résumé ou extrait : "The technology at the center of this book marks a milestone in computing history. Until the late nineteenth century, naval gun crews aimed and fired at virtually point-blank ranges, but as warship speeds and battle ranges grew, it became necessary to predict where the target would be when a projectile landed. Two British civilian inventors, Arthur Pollen and Harold Isherwood, insisted that the only way to predict with sufficient speed and accuracy to enable hits in battle was to incorporate all the relevant variables into mathematical equations and to develop instruments for solving them instantaneously and continuously. This insight led them to build an integrated, gyro-stabilized system for gathering data, calculating predictions, and transmitting the results to the gunners. At the heart of their system was the most advanced analog computer of the day. In addition to being a landmark technological

achievement, Pollen and Isherwood's invention also took on legal significance. Its value was so evident that first Britain's Royal Navy and then the US Navy paid them the compliment of pirating it. The inventors' attempts to gain compensation in the courts had rippling effects on how the two leading liberal societies of the modern era struggled to reconcile their ideological commitment to private property rights with the perceived imperatives of national security. Their story shows that the modern American national-security state and secrecy regime, which are often associated with atomic energy during the mid-twentieth century, had longer, trans-Atlantic roots. It also shows that the United States, in its rise to global hegemony, relied heavily on the acquisition of British technology by fair means or foul-much as Americans accuse China of doing to the United States today"

Sujet - Nom de personne : Pollen, Arthur Joseph Hungerford (1866-1937)
Isherwood, Harold (1877-1964)

Sujet - Nom commun : Brevets d'invention -- Faux -- États-Unis -- 20e siècle
Brevets d'invention -- Droit -- Grande-Bretagne -- 20e siècle
Inventeurs -- Grande-Bretagne
Conduite de tir (marine) -- Innovation -- Grande-Bretagne
Calculateurs analogiques
Brevets d'invention -- Faux -- Grande-Bretagne -- 20e siècle
Sécurité nationale -- Grande-Bretagne
Sécurité nationale -- États-Unis