

# CONTENTS

Preface	ix
1. Introduction: The Ascent and Descent of Growth	1
<b>PART I. 1870–1940—THE GREAT INVENTIONS CREATE A REVOLUTION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE HOME</b>	<b>25</b>
2. The Starting Point: Life and Work in 1870	27
3. What They Ate and Wore and Where They Bought It	62
4. The American Home: From Dark and Isolated to Bright and Networked	94
5. Motors Overtake Horses and Rail: Inventions and Incremental Improvements	129
6. From Telegraph to Talkies: Information, Communication, and Entertainment	172
7. Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Illness and Early Death	206
8. Working Conditions on the Job and at Home	247
9. Taking and Mitigating Risks: Consumer Credit, Insurance, and the Government	288
Entr'acte. The Midcentury Shift from Revolution to Evolution	319
<b>PART II. 1940–2015—THE GOLDEN AGE AND THE EARLY WARNINGS OF SLOWER GROWTH</b>	<b>329</b>
10. Fast Food, Synthetic Fibers, and Split-Level Subdivisions: The Slowing Transformation of Food, Clothing, and Housing	331
11. See the USA in Your Chevrolet or from a Plane Flying High Above	374

12. Entertainment and Communications from Milton Berle to the iPhone	409
13. Computers and the Internet from the Mainframe to Facebook	441
14. Antibiotics, CT Scans, and the Evolution of Health and Medicine	461
15. Work, Youth, and Retirement at Home and on the Job	498
Entr'acte. Toward an Understanding of Slower Growth	522
<b>PART III. THE SOURCES OF FASTER AND SLOWER GROWTH</b>	<b>533</b>
16. The Great Leap Forward from the 1920s to the 1950s: What Set of Miracles Created It?	535
17. Innovation: Can the Future Match the Great Inventions of the Past?	566
18. Inequality and the Other Headwinds: Long-Run American Economic Growth Slows to a Crawl	605
Postscript: America's Growth Achievement and the Path Ahead	641
Afterword to the Paperback Edition	653
Acknowledgments	659
Data Appendix	663
Notes	673
References	723
Credits	747
Index	751