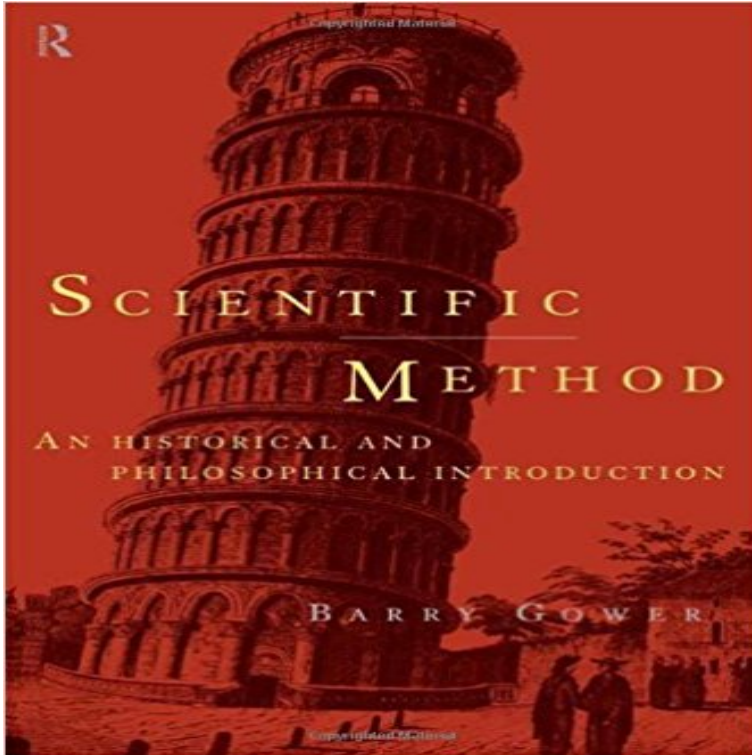


Scientific Method: A Historical and Philosophical Introduction



The central theme running throughout this outstanding new survey is the nature of the philosophical debate created by modern sciences foundation in experimental and mathematical method. More recently, recognition that reasoning in science is probabilistic generated intense debate about whether and how it should be constrained so as to ensure the practical certainty of the conclusions drawn. These debates brought to light issues of a philosophical nature which form the core of many scientific controversies today. Scientific Method: A Historical and Philosophical Introduction presents these debates through clear and comparative discussion of key figures in the history of science. Key chapters critically discuss* Galileos demonstrative method, Bacons inductive method, and Newtons rules of reasoning* the rise of probabilistic `Bayesian methods in the eighteenth century* the method of hypotheses through the work of Herschel, Mill and Whewell* the conventionalist views of Poincare and Duhem* the inductivism of Peirce, Russell and Keynes* Poppers falsification compared with Reichenbachs enumerative induction* Carnaps scientific method as Bayesian reasoningThe debates are brought up to date in the final chapters by considering the ways in which ideas about method in the physical and biological sciences have affected thinking about method in the social sciences. This debate is analyzed through the ideas of key theorists such as Kuhn, Lakatos, and Feyerabend.

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