



Engines of Change: A History of the American Dream in Fifteen Cars

By Paul Ingrassia

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From Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Paul Ingrassia comes a narrative of America like no other: a cultural history that explores how cars have both propelled and reflected the national experience—from the Model T to the Prius.

From the assembly lines of Henry Ford to the open roads of Route 66, America's history is a vehicular history—an idea brought brilliantly to life in this major work by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Paul Ingrassia.

Engines of Change is a wondrous epic in fifteen automobiles, including the Corvette, the Beetle, and the Chevy Corvair, as well as the personalities and tales behind them: Robert McNamara's unlikely role in Lee Iacocca's Mustang, Henry Ford's Model T, as well as Honda's Accord, the BMW 3 Series, and the Jeep, among others. Through these cars and these characters, Ingrassia shows how the car has expressed the particularly American tension between the lure of freedom and the obligations of utility. Narrative history of the highest caliber, *Engines of Change* is an entirely edifying new way to look at the American story.

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Editorial Review

Review

"You will never look at a car the same way after reading *Engines of Change*—as I strongly recommend to anyone who relishes great storytelling that combines biography, social and political history, science, and romance. Having driven and virtually lived in a 1953 Plymouth on a year's journey across Eisenhower's America, and having followed that up many driving years later by writing on the innovations of Henry Ford, I thought I knew something of the history of cars. I was all the more surprised—and vastly entertained—by the riches in Ingrassia's stories of fifteen vehicles embodying the American dream from the Model T to the Beetle, the Corvair, the Corvette, and the Mustang to the pickups and the Prius (driven by the Pious). Even readers who cannot tell a camshaft from a cami-knicker will find fascination in a gallery of characters depicted by Ingrassia with vivacity and wit."—**Sir Harold Evans**

"The whole country in 15 cars—that's crowded! And *Engines of Change* is indeed packed from rocker panels to sunroof with good stories and salient facts about the automobiles that shaped America, from the oddity of the Model T to the oddballs driving the Prius."—**P.J. O'Rourke**

"Highly entertaining... lucid... *Engines of Change* informed and charmed me..."—**Joseph Epstein, *The Wall Street Journal***

"The prose is lapidary, the tone informed by humor. Paul Ingrassia has written an automobile book that goes beyond the genre; it's for anyone interested in modernity and what led us to where we are."—**Miles Collier, *The Revs Institute for Automotive Research***

"Paul Ingrassia knows where the bodies are buried, or maybe where the keys to the American car business got lost. With a swift, sure scalpel honed by years as *the* industry reporter, he anatomizes Detroit in all its glory and inglorious decline. A thoughtful, propulsive assay of the machine that changed a nation, a world."—**Dan Neil, car critic, *The Wall Street Journal***

"Entertaining and instructive..."—**George Will, *The Washington Post***

"Sure, cars suck up gas, and they promote suburban sprawl, but they also help drive the economy, and drive families from home to school to soccer field. And, of course, cars fire our imaginations. Paul Ingrassia, who won a Pulitzer Prize for reporting from Detroit for *The Wall Street Journal*, has written a book about cars that may not all be cherished classics or engineering marvels, but have earned a place in America's scrapbook."—**Scott Simon, *National Public Radio***

"Ingrassia succeeds in fashioning well-researched, swift-paced narratives around each of these 15 select automobiles. Using colorful detail, he effectively recasts these significant driving machines in their respective cultural contexts and brings to life the eras they influenced."—**Kirkus Reviews**

"A must for anyone with a passion for cars, history, or simply an interest in America's story."—**Bask Magazine**

"Paul Ingrassia...is probably the best broadsheet reporter ever to cover the car business...Picking 15 vehicles as tent poles for this sprawling canvas was a good idea, and Ingrassia chose well...Any book on a topic so

overwhelming as the car in America has to be more of a goad to, than a proof of, argument. And here Ingrassia has succeeded.”—*Weekly Standard*

"In this new book, Ingrassia traces the history of some iconic cars and how those models reflected shifts in politics, culture, and technology. He also takes readers inside the industry, skillfully navigating among the soaring tail fins, egomaniacal visionaries, and corporate intrigue that surrounded the creation of these vehicles."—*Boston Globe*

"Paul Ingrassia's *Engines of Change: A History of the American Dream in Fifteen Cars* ranges as widely and quirkily as the title suggests among the people, passions and foibles of the automotive industry. As a journalist for the *Wall Street Journal*, Ingrassia shared a 1993 Pulitzer Prize for writing on General Motors Co. In this book he lets out the journalistic stays, enjoying the freedom to openly needle an industry and admire its pioneers without any loss of the good reporter's delight in detail and a fine tale."—**Jeffrey Burke, *Bloomberg BusinessWeek***

"In *Engines of Change*, Mr. Ingrassia arguably does for cars and culture what David Halberstam did for a decade in *The Fifties*. History well researched, made alive, relevant and eminently readable."—**John Lamm, *The New York Times***

"Using his nimble narrative gifts, Mr. Ingrassia turns the creation stories behind the Prius and other cars into gripping accounts of how visionary design, corporate competition and inventive engineering combined to produce automobiles that would come to represent an era or a mind-set."—**Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times***

About the Author

Paul Ingrassia, formerly the Detroit bureau chief for *The Wall Street Journal* and later the president of Dow Jones Newswire, is the deputy editor-in-chief of Reuters. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 (with Joseph B. White) for reporting on management crises at General Motors, he is the author of *Crash Course: The American Automobile Industry's Road from Glory to Disaster*.

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WHEN HENRY MET SALLIE: CAR WARS AND CULTURE CLASHES AT THE DAWN OF AMERICA'S AUTOMOTIVE AGE

Someone should write an erudite essay on the moral, physical, and esthetic effect of the Model T Ford on the American nation. Two generations of Americans knew more about the Ford coil than the clitoris, about the planetary system of gears than the solar system of stars.

—John Steinbeck, *Cannery Row* 1

Just north of downtown Detroit on a small street called Piquette sits an inner-city storefront church called the Abundant Faith Cathedral. By the looks of the surrounding weed-choked lots and empty factories, abundant faith is exactly what's needed, not to mention plenty of hope. The neighborhood is a postindustrial ghetto, although right across the street from the church is a functioning business called the General Linen & Uniform Service. It occupies the first floor of an old building where, as unlikely as it seems, modern America began.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Curtis Russell:

In other case, little persons like to read book Engines of Change: A History of the American Dream in Fifteen Cars. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. So long as we know about how is important a new book Engines of Change: A History of the American Dream in Fifteen Cars. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world by a book. Absolutely right, because from book you can understand everything! From your country till foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple factor until wonderful thing you may know that. In this era, we can easily open a book or even searching by internet product. It is called e-book. You may use it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's examine.

Geraldine Noll:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always try and and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both day to day life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the book you have read is Engines of Change: A History of the American Dream in Fifteen Cars.

Gail Kennedy:

Is it anyone who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Engines of Change: A History of the American Dream in Fifteen Cars can be the respond to, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this fresh era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

Myra Hackett:

Some individuals said that they feel uninterested when they reading a e-book. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the actual book Engines of Change: A History of the American Dream in Fifteen Cars to make your current reading is interesting. Your skill of reading skill is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the feeling about book and examining especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to available a book and study it. Beside that the publication Engines of Change: A History of the American Dream in Fifteen Cars can to be your brand-new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of the time.

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