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The following review appeared in the February 2010 issue of CHOICE:

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Cressler, John D. **Silicon Earth: introduction to the microelectronics and nanotechnology revolution.** Cambridge, 2009. 491p bibl index ISBN 9780521879392, \$120.00; ISBN 9780521705059 pbk, \$65.00

In this unique book, Cressler (Georgia Institute of Technology), displaying his immense and diverse knowledge, demystifies the overwhelming concepts of microelectronics. He discusses technologies as wide-ranging as the cell telephone and Global Positioning System in simple terms, and offers apologies when the mathematics goes beyond the grade-school level. In the end, the reader comes away with an appreciation of large numbers, fast speeds, and small devices. The text begins with an introductory history of communication and information technologies and a discussion of size and speed as it relates to these technologies. The book progresses through semiconductors and transistors to more advanced devices such as micro-electro-mechanical systems, or MEMS. The final chapter addresses societal changes, including developments in education. The biggest problem with a book such as this is to find the appropriate audience. It can certainly not be used to teach microelectronics, nor can someone sit down and read it from cover to cover. However, *Silicon Earth* will be particularly useful for the advanced student or technical person who already knows much of the relevant material, but is looking for a refreshing perspective and new motivation for caring about all of the numbers and theories. **Summing Up: Recommended.** Upper-division undergraduates through professionals; general readers. -- M. S. Roden, emeritus, California State University, Los Angeles