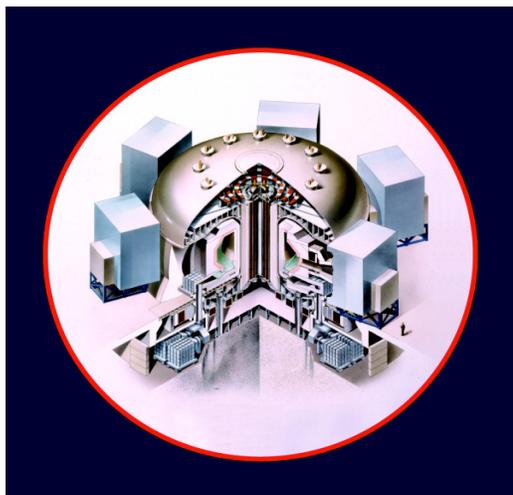


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WESTON M. STACEY

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**Weston M. Stacey** is a plasma physicist and nuclear engineer with more than 40 years of teaching and research experience in nuclear reactor and fusion research. He currently holds the position of Callaway Regents' Professor of Nuclear Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology.

# THE QUEST FOR A FUSION ENERGY REACTOR

## An Insider's Account of the INTOR Workshop

Weston M. Stacey

At the Geneva Superpower Summit in November 1985, Secretary of the former Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev and US President Ronald Regan agreed to pursue an international project to develop fusion energy for peaceful purposes. At a time when tension between these Cold War nations was very high, how were these leaders able to come together to work towards making nuclear fusion a feasible energy source?

*The Quest for a Fusion Energy Reactor* is the story of the International Atomic Energy Agency's INTOR Workshop (*International Tokamak Reactor*) which brought together hundreds of scientists and engineers from Europe, Japan, the United States, and the (then) USSR from 1978 to 1988 to share their national research and work cooperatively on designing and developing an experimental fusion energy reactor. Drawing on his insights while serving as Vice Chairman of the INTOR Workshop, Weston Stacey offers an insider's account of both the participants' technical work and their fascinating personal interactions among themselves and with government officials under the blanket of the Cold War. An accessible presentation of their research on the viability of designing, constructing, and operating a Tokamak experimental power reactor is combined with personal anecdotes of the obstacles Workshop leaders and participants faced as they strove to make progress on the global future of nuclear fusion technology while balancing their own countries' priorities. The Workshop led to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), construction of which began in 2009 with the goal of demonstrating the scientific and technical feasibility of fusion power.

The book is intended not only for professionals, academics, and students studying fusion science and engineering, but also for anyone interested in the intersection of science, politics, and international relations. Appendices document the historical record of the INTOR Workshop. Its historical appeal is complemented by the personal portrait that it paints of the individuals involved in the INTOR Workshop, their roles and decisions, and how their efforts contributed to the greater crucial conversation on sustainable energy.

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