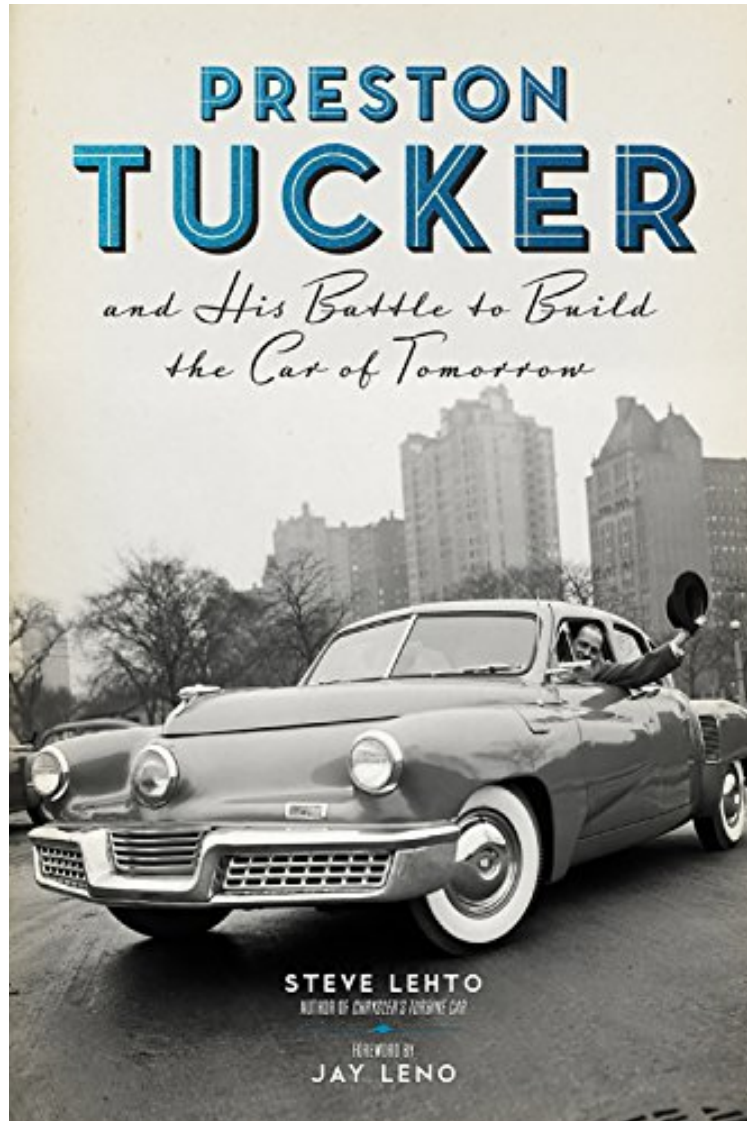


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Preston Tucker and His Battle to Build the Car of Tomorrow

Steve Lehto, Jay Leno

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Steve Lehto, Jay Leno : Preston Tucker and His Battle to Build the Car of Tomorrow before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Preston Tucker and His Battle to Build the Car of Tomorrow:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Elaine B.Good book...rent or buy the movie if possible0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Still a beautiful car after all these yearsBy John G. WoodsonWhile Preston Tucker may have been more salesman than major industrialist, he did produce an important automobile for the post WWII masses. If the powers that be and his own failings had not brought him down he might still be in business today. Truly innovative, under capitalized.Still a beautiful car after all these years.0

of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy SteegreeComprehensive look at the man and his car

After World War II, the American automobile industry was reeling. Having spent years building tanks and airplanes for the army, the car companies would need years more to retool their production to meet the demands of the American public, for whom they had not made any cars since 1942. And then in stepped Preston Tucker. This salesman extraordinaire from Ypsilanti, Michigan, had built race cars before the war, and had designed prototypes for the military during it. Now, gathering a group of brilliant automotive designers, engineers, and promoters, he announced the creation of a revolutionary new car: the Tucker '48, the first car in almost a decade to be built fresh from the ground up. Tucker's car would include ingenious advances in design and engineering that other car companies could not match. With a rear engine, rear-wheel drive, a safety-glass windshield that would pop out in case of an accident, a padded dashboard, independent suspension, and automatic transmission, it would be more attractive and aerodynamic—and safer—than any other car on the road. But as the public eagerly awaited Tucker's car of tomorrow, powerful forces in Washington were trying to bring him down. An SEC commissioner with close ties to Detroit's Big Three automakers deliberately leaked information about an investigation the agency was conducting, suggesting that Tucker was bilking investors with a massive fraud scheme. Headlines accused him a perpetrating a hoax and claimed that his cars weren't real and his factory was a sham. In fact, the Tucker '48 sedan was genuine, and everyone who saw it was impressed by what this upstart carmaker had achieved. But the SEC's investigation had compounded the company's financial problems and management conflicts, and a superior product was not enough to keep Tucker's dream afloat. Here, Steve Lehto tackles the story of Tucker's amazing rise and tragic fall, relying on a huge trove of documents that has been used by no other writer to date. It is the first comprehensive, authoritative account of Tucker's magnificent car and his battles with the government. And in this book, Lehto finally answers the questions automobile aficionados have wondered about for decades: Exactly how and why was the production of such an innovative car killed?

“Car enthusiasts of every stripe—including Jay Leno, who was inspired to provide a thoughtful introduction—will appreciate Lehto's meticulous research, which re-creates a lost era and cogently and accurately presents the full dramatic story of one of the auto industry's seminal innovators.”
—Booklist