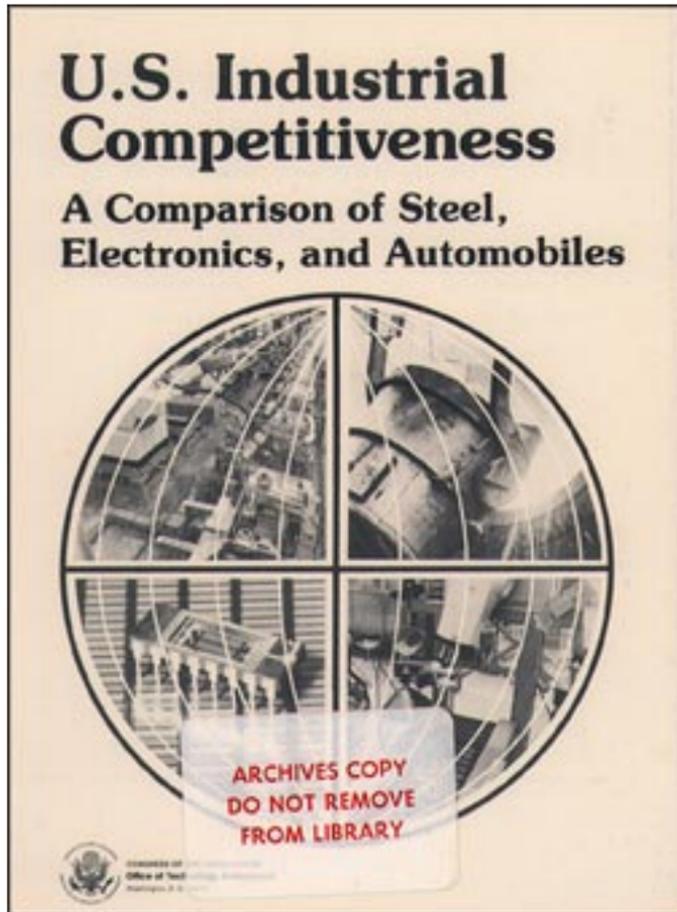


*U.S. Industrial Competitiveness: A
Comparison of Steel, Electronics, and
Automobiles*

July 1981

NTIS order #PB81-235749



Foreword

This assessment builds on past and ongoing work by OTA requested by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and several other congressional committees. OTA'S study of the role of technology in the competitiveness of the American steel industry appeared in June 1980. An assessment of international competitiveness in electronics is now in progress. The report that follows draws upon both of those assessments, as well as past work at OTA on the automobile industry. It compares the international competitiveness of the U.S. steel, electronics, and automobile industries and evaluates prospects for better integration of policies affecting industries in the United States.

A variety of factors that influence industrial competitiveness are identified, and the current status and future prospects of the three industries—all critically important to the American economy—are evaluated and compared. The report also reviews past policies toward these industries in the United States, examines possibilities for industrial policy in the American context, and outlines options for policymakers.

OTA is grateful for the assistance of the advisory panel for this study, as well as for that provided by many individuals in the executive and legislative branches of the Government. OTA assumes full responsibility for the report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John H. Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

JOHN H. GIBBONS
Director

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NOTE: The advisory panel provided advice and critique throughout the assessment, but does not necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse the report, for which OTA assumes full responsibility.

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