

Tore Nordenstam, "[Taylor and the Science of Handling Pig Iron](#)" (*), in T. Nordenstam, [The Power of Example](#), Stockholm 2009, pp. 197-205.

Abstract

The legacy of the American engineer F.W. Taylor is a varied one. Assessments of his work range from praise as one of the major innovators in working life studies to criticism of Taylorism as one of the worst examples of the efforts of capitalism to exploit the working class for its own ends. But if you turn to his essay, *The Principles of Scientific Management* (1911), you will meet a more subtle and far more humane figure. The starting point for my reflections on his contribution to working life studies is the question, What did Taylor mean by 'scientific' and what he did he mean by 'principles'?