

CHEMICAL EXPLANATIONS: FREE RADICALS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REACTION MECHANISMS.

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By the 1920's and 1930's the search for explanations of how chemical reactions occur was rapidly approaching a water shed. Stimulated by the controversy and debate over the radiation versus collision hypothesis of reaction rate theory, the concerted efforts of physical and organic chemists were to accelerate researches into the elusive way in which chemical reactions actually proceed. The conception, isolation and study of free radicals constituted a tremendous step forward in this search and was to bring understanding and order to the inherent complexities of organic reactions.

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See also: M. Christine King, "A history of free radical chemistry," *CHEMTECH* 15 (1985), 701-704.