

# Has Daltonian atomism provided chemistry with any explanations?

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## Abstract

Philosophers frequently cite Dalton's chemical atomism, and its 19th century developments, as a prime example of inference to the best explanation. This was a controversial issue in its time. But the critics are dismissed as positivist-inspired antirealists with no interest in explanation. Is this a reasonable assessment?

**Keywords:** Dalton, atomism, chemistry

**Conferences and Volumes:** [\[2002\] Philosophy of Science Assoc. 18th Biennial Mtg - PSA 2002: Contributed Papers \(Milwaukee, WI; 2002\): PSA 2002 Symposia](#)

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