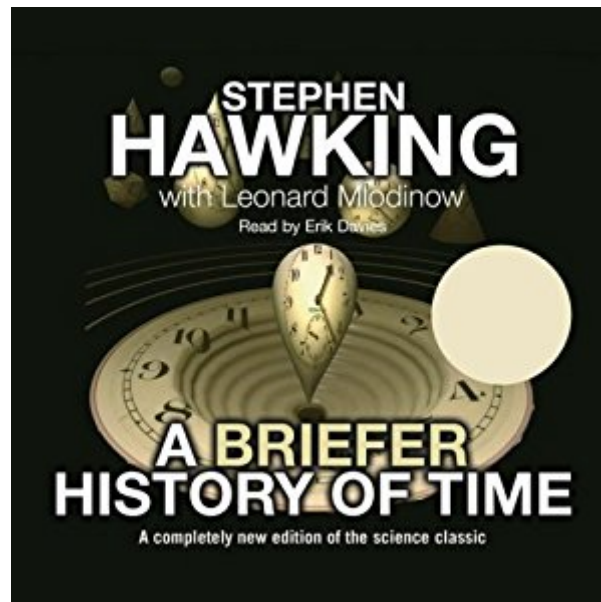




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A Briefer History Of Time



Synopsis

FROM ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT MINDS OF OUR TIME COMES A BOOK THAT CLARIFIES HIS MOST IMPORTANT IDEAS — Stephen Hawking's worldwide bestseller *A Brief History of Time* remains a landmark volume in scientific writing. But for readers who have asked for a more accessible formulation of its key concepts—the nature of space and time, the role of God in creation, and the history and future of the universe—*A Briefer History of Time* is Professor Hawking's response. Although a briefer, this book is much more than a mere explanation of Hawking's earlier work. *A Briefer History of Time* both clarifies and expands on the great subjects of the original, and records the latest developments in the field—from string theory to the search for a unified theory of all the forces of physics. Thirty-seven full-color illustrations enhance the text and make *A Briefer History of Time* an exhilarating and must-have addition in its own right to the great literature of science and ideas. From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

I couldn't wait to read this book. But after a few chapters, I thought, "Wow, Hawking and his co-author have no idea how to introduce these concepts to non-scientist audiences." From an instructional writing perspective, it's not well-written at all. I didn't even finish the book.

The book is great!!! It is written as if Hawking and Mlodinow were speaking directly to oneself. Read

it twice (also had it on Kindle) it was so good.

In *A Briefer History of Time*, Stephen Hawking does an amazing job introducing many difficult physics related topics in only 142 pages. He takes concepts such as relativity, time, and quantum theory and simplifies them to a level that is more comprehensible to the average person. Although he is able to break down the concepts to a simpler level, many of them are still difficult to grasp because of how brief the book is. I still did learn an extraordinary amount from this book. Hawking's first book *A Brief History of Time*, is a best seller with over nine million copies sold, but too difficult for many people to understand; *A Briefer History of Time* fixes that problem. Though it still is difficult to understand in many concepts, the language that he uses is simple and easy to understand. He constantly gives examples to back up theories and statements, which make them more comprehensible. He compares today's theories with the theories of great physicists in the past, tracing the evolution of physics. Overall I really enjoyed this book. I am not a huge fan of reading, but I found myself glued to this book. Hawking does such an incredible job making quantum theory, relativity, and other concepts understandable. If you are looking for a book that is a good introduction to these topics, then this is the last place you need to look. This was the first Hawking book that I have read, and I enjoyed every minute of it. On top of everything else, Hawking is funny. He incorporates humor, albeit very dry, into his reading, which makes it even better I think. I highly recommend this book to anyone!

If you're not a mathematician or a physicist, you're not going to spend a lot of time wrapping your head around the concept of strings that possibly have 26 dimensions. That said, this book will describe string theory, particles, the expansion of the universe, and general relativity in about as much detail as the average lay person can handle without making a career out of it. I am very interested in these topics myself, and love hearing about discoveries in the news, etc., but never really sat down and read a book that summarized it all in a way that made me feel I had a grip on all of the basics. In other words, I had heard of string theory, but only in second-hand accounts from people who might not have understood it themselves. And although I often heard that Einstein said it is impossible to travel faster than the speed of light, I never understood the mechanics of why that is. This book informed me exactly to the point where I felt I had understood the general concepts, and stopped short of going into the level of detail that would require lots of math on a chalkboard. In keeping the subject matter limited to a clear understanding of the basics, the authors also managed to make it a quick, enjoyable read.

This book presents some of the more complex aspects of relativity theory in a way that can be understood by people who don't have Ph.D. degrees in physics or mathematics. However, it doesn't get into the really important questions of what time really is, how it began and will end, and how the universe itself arose. To say that this is a "history of time" implies that the author would have said something about how time came to be in the first place. This criticism is not just to this book but to the field of cosmology in general.

This exploration into the origins of the universe and the work which has been done, thus far, into the nature and substance of all things was an enlightening piece which provided me insight into these varied and complex theories and facts. Each aspect was referred to later in the book so making connections among the various concepts was possible. I have explored other works on the nature of time and the universe and this more scientific piece was able to build on what I already knew. DR.

CHARLES FLOOD

Great writer, worth reading more than once

As the almost forgotten Mr. Rumsfeld observed, there are known unknowns and then there are unknown unknowns. Some of us are curious enough to at least wonder about the former. Most of the rest of us lack the time or the dedication or, let's admit it, the intellectual capacity to take the hard journey to the frontiers between what we know or we believe we know today and what's on the other side - and the frontiers are moving farther and farther away from us. It takes a down-to-Earth genius like Stephen Hawking to give us a guided tour to the current limits of human knowledge and back and we can even get a hint of what may be lying across the border. It's a high altitude flight and very little experience is necessary for us to follow our guide but, when it's over, most of us are likely to agree that we gained a better understanding of the world in which we live than we had before we started reading. Unless we are string theorists ourselves, of course :) I found the book to be relatively easy to read, interesting and informative. Even the little digressions into Newton's 'real' character (not a very nice person) were welcome. It is, indeed, a history, in the sense that it maps the human understanding of reality as it grew and evolved in time. In the end... I still have no idea what TIME really is (does anyone?) but I enjoyed reading the book because, many times, I had the feeling that 'aha, I DO understand this now'.

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