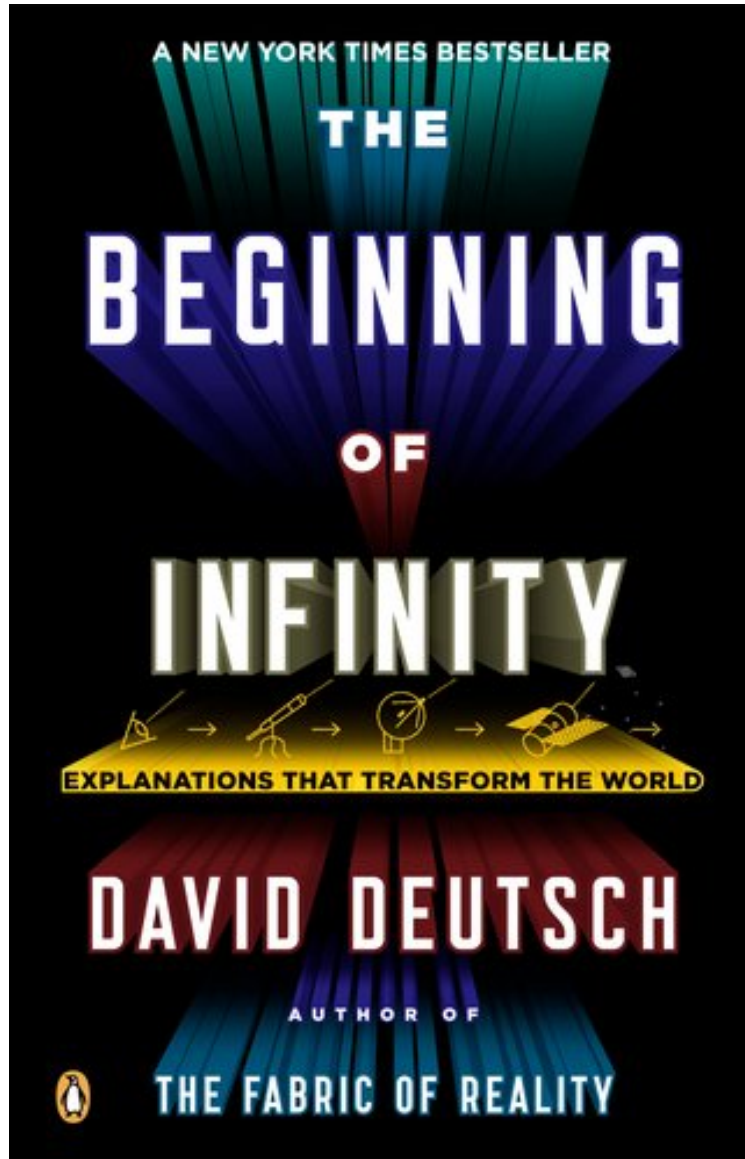


(Free and download) The Beginning of Infinity: Explanations That Transform the World

The Beginning of Infinity: Explanations That Transform the World

David Deutsch

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David Deutsch : The Beginning of Infinity: Explanations That Transform the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beginning of Infinity: Explanations That Transform the World:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book for explanations of where we are in physics and philosophy of scienceBy Rafael BernalDr. Deutsch is an extremely intelligent person, well versed not on science and

philosophy, but in almost all facets of Western culture. He uses this knowledge wisely to bring forward his explanations (a term one finds central to this book) of how the Universe works. He's also an optimist and sees the emergence of intelligence as the take off point towards infinity. In this case "infinity" means the very long road that the Universe itself is beginning to take in order to know itself. And that's an amazing fact in itself, that the Universe, in its eternal process of emergence of things more interesting and complex at each turn, emerges conscience/intelligence, a property which can begin to understand the Universe itself. The book is sometimes heavy because of its high density of ideas/page (a measure of how much attention you have to pay if you want to follow it). I think sometimes Dr. Deutsch goes a bit on a limb on certain topics that he cannot be an expert on, for nobody is an expert on everything. I am still unclear on whether memes have a drive to expand and if so, whether it means they possess some kind of will, which he makes quite clear they don't, but not too clear how they grow and expand. I guess some day will understand that when we have a theory of emergence, which to me is the next big big thing in physics. I have never myself been a great fan of the multiverse theories and although Dr. Deutsch makes a good case for them, or at least one of them, his own version, I find that part the most questionable. To me, not yet a definite explanation of quantum weirdness. I do recommend it to those who want to be aware of where we are in the frontiers of physics and philosophy of science.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not as good as "The Fabric of Reality" By Roberto M. Pensotti If you hoped for a book of the same breadth as David Deutsch's "The Fabric of Reality" you'll be disappointed. However, Deutsch is such a tremendous physicist and thinker that you can enjoy anything he writes.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Change The World By hellcats One of the most important books of the new millennia. Prof Deutsch describes how a way of thought is the key ingredient behind the rapid expanse in knowledge and technology beginning with the Enlightenment and continuing through to this day. The book is filled with bold claims that rankle on first encounter, but then you are led down a gentle path of deductive reasoning in which each step is easy and agreeable, only to find yourself standing at the exact place of that initial bold claim! And that is the very essence of the book: that an enquiring and critical mind can find solutions to seemingly intractable problems. The power of this mode of thought is so great that it benefits the whole of humanity while only requiring a tiny fraction of the population to actually understand it. How much better off would we all be if more people were aware of and applied these successful thought patterns in their daily lives? If you only buy one book this year, then this should be it; the world desperately needs more people who can think for themselves.

The New York Times bestseller: A provocative, imaginative exploration of the nature and progress of knowledge In this groundbreaking book, award-winning physicist David Deutsch argues that explanations have a fundamental place in the universe and that improving them is the basic regulating principle of all successful human endeavor. Taking us on a journey through every fundamental field of science, as well as the history of civilization, art, moral values, and the theory of political institutions, Deutsch tracks how we form new explanations and drop bad ones, explaining the conditions under which progress which he argues is potentially boundless can and cannot happen. Hugely ambitious and highly original, *The Beginning of Infinity* explores and establishes deep connections between the laws of nature, the human condition, knowledge, and the possibility for progress.

"Brilliant and exhilarating . . . Deutsch is so smart, and so strange, and so creative, and so inexhaustibly curious, and so vividly intellectually alive, that it is a distinct privilege to spend time in his head." --The New York Times Book

"[Deutsch] makes the case for infinite progress and such passion, imagination, and quirky brilliance that I couldn't help enjoying his argument. . . . [He] mounts a compelling challenge to scientific reductionism." --The Wall Street Journal

"Provocative and persuasive . . . Address[es] subjects from artificial intelligence to the evolution of culture and creativity." --The Economist [Deutsch's books] are among the most ambitious works of nonfiction I have read, in that their aim is no less than an explanation of all reality. . . . They are treatises that weave together not just physics and astronomy but biology, mathematics, computer science, political science, psychology, philosophy, aesthetics, and most important for Deutsch epistemology, among other fields, in fashioning a profound new view of the world and the universe. --The New Yorkers Book Bench

Deutsch has an important message . . . that our destiny is to be explainers of the world around us, and explaining is the key to our mastery. . . . He writes clearly and thinks wisely. His book could help the world toward better ways of dealing with its problems. --Freeman Dyson, The New York of Books

About the Author Born in Haifa, Israel, David Deutsch was educated at Cambridge and Oxford Universities. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and a professor of physics at the University of Oxford, where he is a member of the Centre for Quantum Computation. His papers on quantum computation laid the foundations for that field, and he is an authority on the theory of parallel universes. His honors include the Institute of Physics' Paul Dirac Prize and Medal. The author of *The Fabric of Reality*, he lives in England.