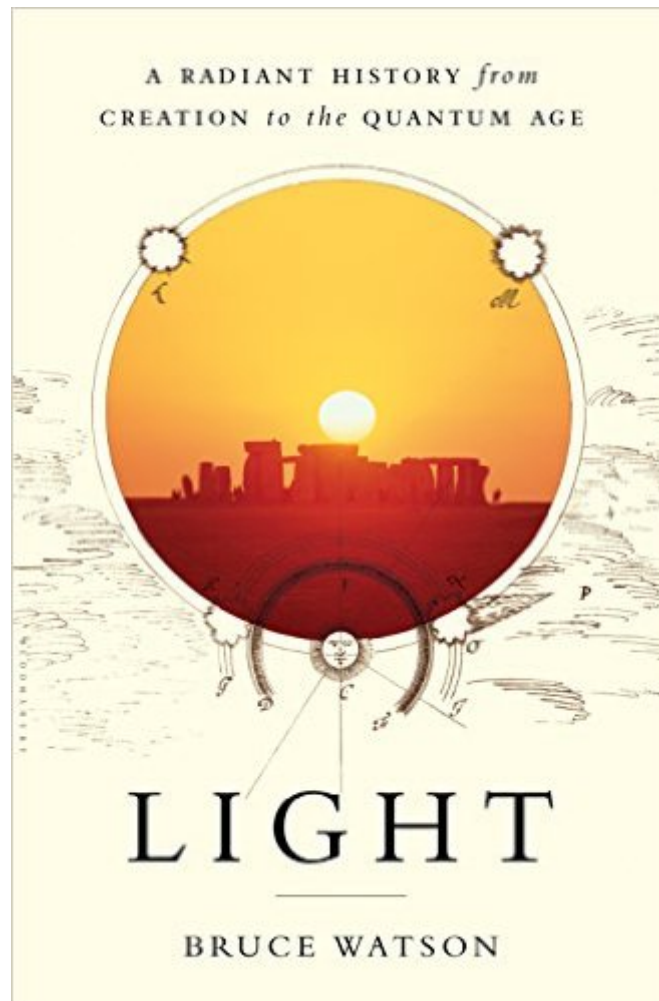


The book was found

Light: A Radiant History From Creation To The Quantum Age



Synopsis

Light begins at Stonehenge, where crowds cheer a solstice sunrise. After sampling myths explaining First Light, the story moves on to early philosophers' queries, then through the centuries, from Buddhist temples to Biblical scripture, when light was the soul of the divine. Battling darkness and despair, Gothic architects crafted radiant cathedrals while Dante dreamed a "heaven of pure light." Later, following Leonardo's advice, Renaissance artists learned to capture light on canvas. During the Scientific Revolution, Galileo gathered light in his telescope, Descartes measured the rainbow, and Newton used prisms to solidify the science of optics. But even after Newton, light was an enigma. Particle or wave? Did it flow through an invisible "ether"? Through the age of Edison and into the age of lasers, Light reveals how light sparked new wonders--relativity, quantum electrodynamics, fiber optics, and more. Although lasers now perform everyday miracles, light retains its eternal allure. "For the rest of my life," Einstein said, "I will reflect on what light is." Light explores and celebrates such curiosity.

Book Information

File Size: 6043 KB

Print Length: 277 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1620405598

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA; 1 edition (February 2, 2016)

Publication Date: February 2, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B015JJ8TVI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #264,340 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #10

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Physics > Optics #10 in Kindle Store

> Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Physics > Light #85 in Books > Science & Math >

Physics > Optics

Customer Reviews

This unusual book describes the entire human conception of light through all modes of thought and creativity: scripture, visual art, literature, science, engineering, etc. The term "biography of light" is apt, since it shows how our understanding has developed over thousands of years and reads almost like a narrative showing the arc of a person/character's life. "Light: A Radiant History" reminds me of James Burke's "Connections," a television show from the 80s that I've never forgotten because it was so smart and stimulating. Each episode traced a complex modern invention or engineering accomplishment (space flight, atomic power, stuff like that) back to its intellectual roots, often originating in the ancient world and spanning thousands of years and many different cultures. Over the course of an hour (or 90 minutes or whatever it was), Burke showed us how scientific and engineering breakthroughs build on previous knowledge, take surprising turns along the way, ending up somewhere marvelous. Watson's book feels similar because it makes a comprehensible continuum out of widely disparate information and approaches to understanding. Where Watson's book differs is in its incorporation of writing, visual art, and spirituality. Although scientists and "creative" professionals don't hang out much in the US in 2016, I've always thought science and the arts are much more closely related intellectually than most people think. In my personal experience, conversations/parties where scientists and artists mix are often much more interesting than a bunch of people from the same field talking shop among themselves. For this reason, I got my dad a copy of this book because I thought it'd be just his thing.

Watson is an established historian with a keen attention to detail. I was introduced to him first through his book *Bread and Roses*, which, unexpectedly, Watson turned into a page-turner. From there I read his detailed, 'politically neutral' presentation of the controversial Sacco & Vanzetti Case. By then a committed fan of the author, I picked up *Freedom Summer* a few years back and have followed him ever since, as I learn so much from historical author's like Watson with well-established credentials. I have rarely read historical accounts that inspire me to read onward, well into the night. This man brings history to life. Having just completed his latest book *Light*, I must say this is his finest and most ambitious work to date. It is a slower read than Watson's previous books, primarily due to the amount of detailed material provided within. It deviates from the books mentioned above only in scope, as it is a very vivid presentation of the history of an amorphous phenomena; one taken for granted by a species that depends upon it for their very lives. It is an excellent presentation of disciplines as disparate as science, aesthetics and mysticism. It provides what is oftentimes esoteric material in a format easily understood by the layman, with the author's skillful prose maintaining a compellingly cohesive thread throughout. A truly encyclopedic exposition

into a topic gleaned from not only the detailed research I have come to rely upon from Watson, much is offered firsthand as he recounts his travels around the globe to witness the various examples of how light has been observed, employed and used by humanity throughout the centuries.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Light: A Radiant History from Creation to the Quantum Age The Creation: Axis Mundi (The Creation Series Book 1) Forever Young: The Science of Nutrigenomics for Glowing, Wrinkle-Free Skin and Radiant Health at Every Age The New Science of Perfect Skin: Understanding Skin Care Myths and Miracles For Radiant Skin at Any Age Radiant Science, Dark Politics: A Memoir of the Nuclear Age Quantum Grace: Lenten Reflections on Creation and Connectedness Towards Solid-State Quantum Repeaters: Ultrafast, Coherent Optical Control and Spin-Photon Entanglement in Charged InAs Quantum Dots (Springer Theses) Quantum Nanoelectronics: An introduction to electronic nanotechnology and quantum computing QUANTUM SELF HYPNOSIS STOP SMOKING NOW: Hypnosis Script & Inductions Included! (Quantum Self Hypnosis Singles Book 2) Quantum Runes: How to Create Your Perfect Reality Using Quantum Physics and Teutonic Rune Magic (Creating Magick with The Universal Laws of Attraction Book 1) Quantum Thermodynamics: Emergence of Thermodynamic Behavior Within Composite Quantum Systems (Lecture Notes in Physics) Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Field Theory: A Mathematical Primer Quantum Computation and Quantum Information: 10th Anniversary Edition History: Human History in 50 Events: From Ancient Civilizations to Modern Times (World History, History Books, People History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 1) History: British History in 50 Events: From First Immigration to Modern Empire (English History, History Books, British History Textbook) (History in 50 Events Series Book 11) Lectures on Light: Nonlinear and Quantum Optics using the Density Matrix Herbal Body Lotion: 25 Ways To Make Lotion In Your Own Kitchen For Gorgeous And Radiant Looking Skin BODY BUTTER: Homemade Body Butter Recipes - 30 DIY Body Butter Recipes For Softer, Healthier, And More Radiant Skin (Body Butter, Body Butter Recipes, natural remedies) Paleo For Vegetarians: 28-Day Meal Plan For Weight Loss and Radiant Health: Enjoy the Health Benefits of Paleo-Without the Meat! The Body Doesn't Lie: A 3-Step Program to End Chronic Pain and Become Positively Radiant

[Dmca](#)