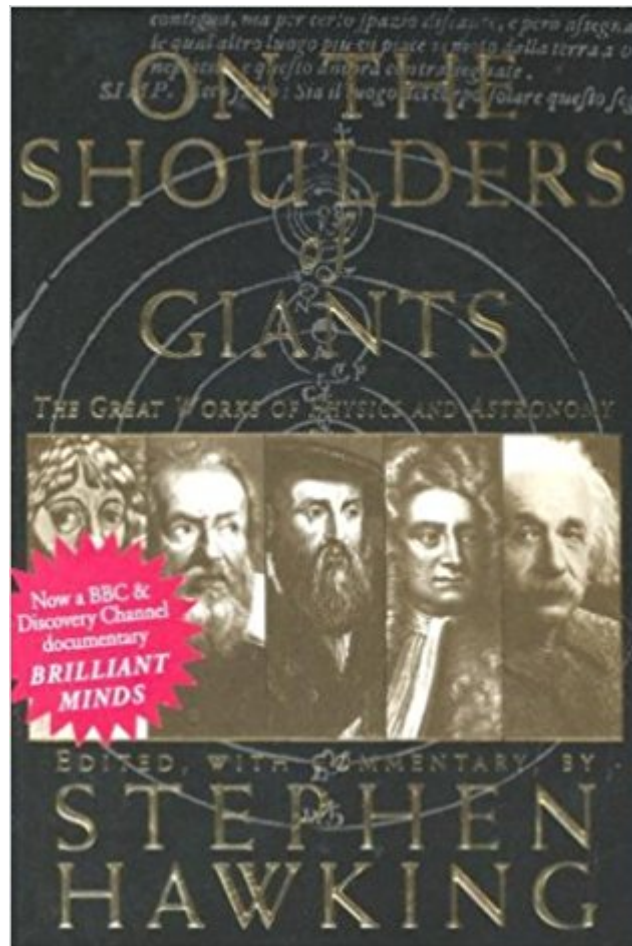




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On The Shoulders Of Giants



Synopsis

World-renowned physicist and bestselling author Stephen Hawking presents a revolutionary look at the momentous discoveries that changed our perception of the world with this first-ever compilation of seven classic works on physics and astronomy. His choice of landmark writings by some of the world's great thinkers traces the brilliant evolution of modern science and shows how each figure built upon the genius of his predecessors. *On the Shoulders of Giants* includes, in their entirety, *On the Revolution of Heavenly Spheres* by Nicolaus Copernicus; *Principia* by Sir Isaac Newton; *The Principle of Relativity* by Albert Einstein; *Dialogues Concerning Two Sciences* by Galileo Galilei with Alfonso De Salvio; plus *Mystery of the Cosmos*, *Harmony of the World*, and *Rudolphine Tables* by Johannes Kepler. It also includes five critical essays and a biography of each featured physicist, written by Hawking himself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Acclaimed physicist Hawking has collected in this single illuminating volume the classic works of physics and astronomy that in their day revolutionized humankind's perception of the world. Included are Copernicus's *On the Revolution of Heavenly Spheres*, Galileo's *Dialogues Concerning Two New Sciences*, Kepler's "Harmony of the World," Newton's *The Principia* and selections from *The Principle of Relativity* by Einstein. Taken together, these writings document the evolution of our conception of the universe from a pre-Copernican cosmos with a stationary earth at its center to one in which the very weave of time and space are relative. The editor's ability to step back and view the

sweep of his subject was first showcased in his bestselling *A Brief History of Time* and confirmed in his *The Universe in a Nutshell*. In an essay introducing each work here, he gives a short and sweet biography of its author and an explanation of its significance, as well as the occasional gem, like Galileo's handwritten renunciation of his beliefs before the Inquisition. To read the works themselves is to feel the thrill and mystery of intimacy with oft-cited source documents. Despite the volume's heftiness, Hawking has given these works a setting that is elegantly simple and, in its simplicity, effectively broadening. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In translation from the original Latin, Italian, or German, the revolutionary scientific writings of Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, and Einstein are here gathered into one monumental book. The texts appear to be unexpurgated, with little evidence of editing; Hawking's contribution is a biographical introduction to each of these icons of physics. The actual texts are largely unmediated by Hawking, so readers seriously willing to plunge into *De revolutionibus* or *Principia mathematica* would be well advised to be self-reliant, particularly in the mathematics absolutely central to understanding when reading the texts. This collection could be regarded as an intellectual fashion accessory for readers without the requisite mathematical ability, although some of the entries are more accessible, as with the Galileo offering, which Galileo wrote as a dialogue precisely for a general audience. In the Einstein selections, too, the math-impaired can find the Newton-toppling ideas among the equations: "Velocities greater than light . . . have no possibility of existence." It remains to be seen whether the publisher's audacious six-figure press run is justified. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

HUGE book to get into. I love Hawking, and I am excited as ever to learn more from him. I recommend this to anyone who has an extensive vocabulary and the know-with-all about physics. GREAT book!

Incredible read. It's very very long, over 1200 pages to be exact. Always good to pick up and learn something new.

compilation of the GREATS!!! all relevant work in one convenient book

outstanding book Virginia H

I was hoping for more critical analysis of each contributions in this volume. Perhaps, how each breakthrough was realized is elsewhere.

I am happy with this purchase and product. I find myself returning to my roots in sciences and math. Adore Stephen Hawking!

it's ok not what I thought it was

The five selections from these giants of Science reveal Hawking's genius as an editor. Who knew that Copernicus invoked the Pythagoreans already on the first page of his world-shaking tome, and then that he'd claim they inspired his heliocentric ideas? The Church stepped in and banned for two hundred years the "Pythagorean doctrine of the earth's mobility and the sun's immobility, a doctrine which is false and completely contrary to divine Scripture" (John Hopkins University Press, 1978). And why does Hawking include only a single chapter of Kepler's 'Harmony of the World?' Is it because that's where Kepler illustrates his Music of the Planets, a notion he borrowed from the Pythagoreans? Quite a ride.

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