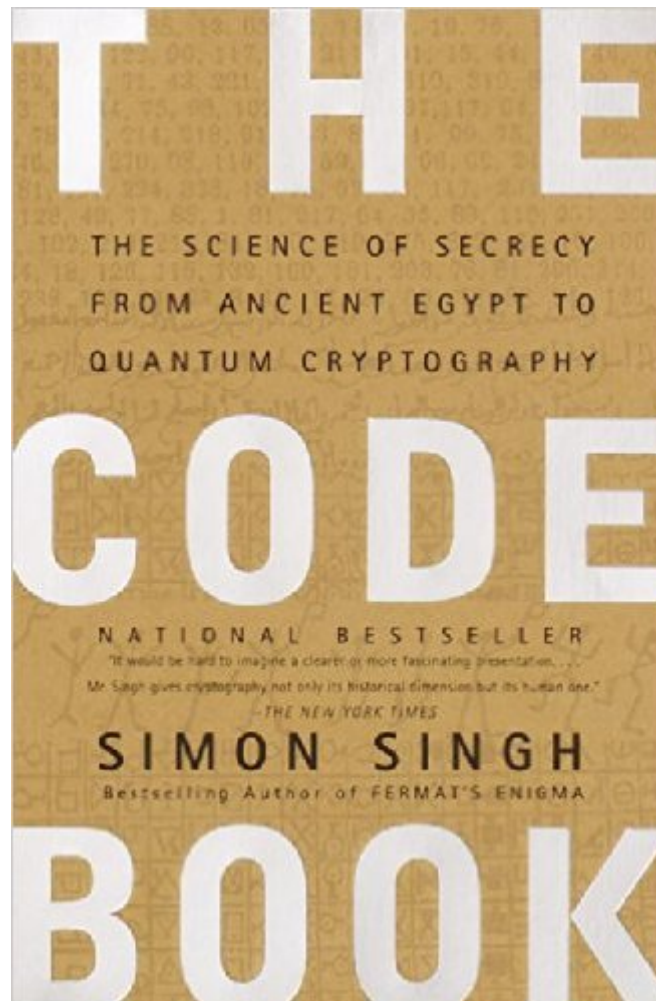# The Code Book: The Science Of Secrecy From Ancient Egypt To Quantum Cryptography

Synopsis

In his first book since the bestselling Fermat's Enigma, Simon Singh offers the first sweeping history of encryption, tracing its evolution and revealing the dramatic effects codes have had on wars, nations, and individual lives. From Mary, Queen of Scots, trapped by her own code, to the Navajo Code Talkers who helped the Allies win World War II, to the incredible (and incredibly simple) logisitical breakthrough that made Internet commerce secure, The Code Book tells the story of the most powerful intellectual weapon ever known: secrecy.Throughout the text are clear technical and mathematical explanations, and portraits of the remarkable personalities who wrote and broke the world's most difficult codes. Accessible, compelling, and remarkably far-reaching, this book will forever alter your view of history and what drives it. Â Â It will also make yo wonder how private that e-mail you just sent really is.

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Customer Reviews

Before Singh's "Code Book" came on the scene, the only other book I knew about is Kahn's "Codebreakers". I don't have the time to read such a large text as Kahn's book, so I was very pleased when this book became available.Singh has done a very nice job of demonstrating how deep an impact cryptography has on history. He opens the book by recounting Mary Queen of Scots' conspiracy to have Queen Elizabeth murdered and how she attempted to use encryption to cloak her intentions. It was a very exciting way to open the book.Singh has found the right combination of technical detail, historical detail, and character development.Singh's explanation of how the German WWII Enigma functioned is exceptional. He made it very easy (and fun) to

understand.Singh's last chapter is also very neat on the subject of quantum cryptography. Though I have a BS in computer science, I'm no physics genius and Singh did a nice job of making (what I consider) difficult physics concepts easy to understand and of showing how they can be applied to modern cryptography.Although I don't know a thing about "Fermat's last theorem", I've been so pleased with Singh's writing style that I'm considering reading that book also just to see what it is all about.If you like codes/ciphers and want to read about their impact on history without reading a thousand pages then get this book. You'll be happy you did.

If you like to read about how secrets, the protection of and the finding out, have affected and altered the course of history, this is a fun book to read. If you're interested in a very good, enjoyable overview of the history of secrets, this is a good book.Ultimately, though, it's light. The history of cryptography is enormous, and a book this size can only summarize. If you're into the history, then The Codebreakers by David Kahn is the more definitive work.If you're more interested in the personal stories of people involved with code making or breaking, there are some excellent works, such as Between Silk and Cyanide by Leo Marks, which give you more detail of particular people or times.If you're interested in modern-day issues with computer security and encryption, Bruce Schneier has written two outstanding books, one for the programmer and one for the layman, detailing modern cryptographic techniques and security issues.And if you're interested in a gripping fictional work, they don't come better than The Cryptonomicon by Neal Stephenson.That's not to take away from Singh's book at all. It's extremely enjoyable, and it was a perfect vacation read for me. If you're not seriously into cryptography the way I am, you might not find the above books interesting, but find Singh absolutely fascinating. Recommended to anyone.

Mr. Singh traces the history of cryptography from its recorded inception in roman times up through current applications. While all of the chapters held my interest it was Mr. Singh's work in chapters 4 through 6 that I feel deserve particular note.Chapter 4 deals with the war effort at Bletchley Park and the work on the Engima machine. Here Mr.Singh adds an additional dimension by providing some insight into the work of Alan Turning, the development of Colossus, the first (now reported) electronic programmable computer and the unrecognized cryptanalysts who broke Ultra and the other codes of WWII. Chapter 6 brings us up to present day cryptographic issues from RSA and PGP to philosophical issues of personal privacy in modern society with web centric commerce and online book reviews. At each step in the process Singh successfully combines the elements of a technical treatise with a human values and features. For those wanting to go a little further under the

hood and look at the processes and algorithms in some of the codes mentioned in the text, several appendices at the end of the book should fill that yearning. I found the book informative and enjoyable to read.

It took me a while to finding to the time to read this because I was expecting a rather dry book on cryptography. The subject was somewhat interesting to me, but I didn't feel like plodding through a long book on the subject.Once I started reading I realized The Code Book was totally different. Singh takes you on a tour of the history of cryptography through the history of the world. You will find that cryptography was an unexpected key element in several historical events.Through the entire history, Singh's writing is exceptionally clear and easy to follow. The material in the book is accessible to all levels of reader -- even those with no knowledge of cryptography.

The Code Book: The Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptography The Quantum World: Quantum Physics for Everyone Break the Code: Cryptography for Beginners (Dover Children's Activity Books) Alexander: The Great Leader and Hero of Macedonia and Ancient Greece (European History, Ancient History, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, Egyptian History, Roman Empire, Roman History) 2012 International Plumbing Code (Includes International Private Sewage Disposal Code) (International Code Council Series) Everyday Life in Ancient Egypt (JR. Graphic Ancient Civilizations) Ancient Peoples of Africa: From Egypt to the Great Zimbabwe Empire - History for Kids - Children's Ancient History Books History and Activities of Ancient Egypt (Hands-on Ancient History) The Money Code: Become a Millionaire With the Ancient Jewish Code Cryptography and Lattices: International Conference, CaLC 2001, Providence, RI, USA, March 29-30, 2001. Revised Papers (Lecture Notes in Computer Science) Clouds of Secrecy: The Army's Germ Warfare Tests Over Populated Areas The Corruption Chronicles: Obama's Big Secrecy, Big Corruption, and Big Government Rule by Secrecy: The Hidden History That Connects the Trilateral Commission, the Freemasons, and the Great Pyramids An Affair with My Mother: A Story of Adoption, Secrecy and Love Lucifer's Banker: The Untold Story of How I Destroyed Swiss Bank Secrecy Bank Secrecy Act/ Anti-Money Laundering Examination Manual (AML) :Examination Procedures: Narrative Guidance and Background Information Introduction to Quantum Mechanics: in Chemistry, Materials Science, and Biology (Complementary Science) Swift: Programming, Master's Handbook; A TRUE Beginner's Guide! Problem Solving, Code, Data Science, Data Structures & Algorithms (Code like a PRO in ... engineering, r programming, iOS development) Ruby: Programming, Master's Handbook: A TRUE Beginner's Guide! Problem Solving, Code, Data

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