



This Explains Everything: Deep, Beautiful, and Elegant Theories of How the World Works (Edge Question Series)

By John Brockman

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In *This Explains Everything*, John Brockman, founder and publisher of Edge.org, asked experts in numerous fields and disciplines to come up with their favorite explanations for everyday occurrences. Why do we recognize patterns? Is there such a thing as positive stress? Are we genetically programmed to be in conflict with each other? Those are just some of the 150 questions that the world's best scientific minds answer with elegant simplicity.

With contributions from Jared Diamond, Richard Dawkins, Nassim Taleb, Brian Eno, Steven Pinker, and more, everything is explained in fun, uncomplicated terms that make the most complex concepts easy to comprehend.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Every year, the website Edge.org—a sort of online round table where experts in various fields trade ideas—asks its contributors a specific question. The 2012 Edge question was, “What is your favorite deep, elegant, or beautiful explanation?” (A beautiful or elegant explanation is one that reduces a complex puzzle to a simple set of principles or assumptions.) The responses Brockman, founder of Edge, received range from the obvious (Darwin’s theory of natural selection; DNA’s double helix shape; the principle of inertia) to the obscure (the Higgs Mechanism, for example, or the Faurie-Raymond hypothesis). The more than 100 responses have a couple of things in common: they are clearly written, and their authors are enthusiastic, in some cases downright passionate, about selling their response as the one true answer to the Edge question. It’s an eclectic collection of contributors, too: famed theoretical physicist Freeman Dyson is here, but also actor and writer Alan Alda; noted psychologist Susan Blackmore weighs in, as does musician and producer Brian Eno. A thought-provoking collection that should appeal to both general readers and trained scientists. -David Pitt

Review

“A smorgasbord of ideas.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Offers a rare chance to discover big ideas before they hit the mainstream.” (New York Times Book Review)

“Fun and inspirational. … This engaging collection can be read from cover to cover or browsed as interest dictates, but all inquisitive readers will enjoy it. Highly recommended….” (Library Journal)

“Characteristically thought-provoking and reliably cross-disciplinary, *This Explains Everything* is a must-read in its entirety.” (Brain Pickings)

“A collection of essays by big thinkers answering big questions [should be] deeply satisfying. And *This Explains Everything* delivers.” (New Scientist)

“The most stimulating English-language reading to be had from anywhere in the world.” (The Canberra Times)

“Delivers an intellectual mélange you can dip into and savor. … The reader gets something new at each turn of the page.” (New York Journal of Books)

“A collection that reads like the best TED talks ever. It’s an absolute pleasure to read.” (FAREED ZAKARIA)

“Rich in mental fodder. … An indispensable way to sample thinking from many corners of the intellectual spectrum.” (Pop Matters)

From the Back Cover

Drawn from the cutting-edge frontiers of science, *This Explains Everything* will revolutionize your understanding of the world.

What is your favorite deep, elegant, or beautiful explanation?

This is the question John Brockman, publisher of Edge.org ("The world's smartest website"—*The Guardian*), posed to the world's most influential minds. Flowing from the horizons of physics, economics, psychology, neuroscience, and more, *This Explains Everything* presents 150 of the most surprising and brilliant theories of the way of our minds, societies, and universe work.

Jared Diamond on biological electricity • Nassim Nicholas Taleb on positive stress • Steven Pinker on the deep genetic roots of human conflict • Richard Dawkins on pattern recognition • Nobel Prize-winning physicist Frank Wilczek on simplicity • Lisa Randall on the Higgs mechanism • BRIAN Eno on the limits of intuition • Richard Thaler on the power of commitment • V. S. Ramachandran on the "neural code" of consciousness • Nobel Prize winner ERIC KANDEL on the power of psychotherapy • Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi on "Lord Acton's Dictum" • Lawrence M. Krauss on the unification of electricity and magnetism • plus contributions by Martin J. Rees • Kevin Kelly • Clay Shirky • Daniel C. Dennett • Sherry Turkle • Philip Zimbardo • Lee Smolin • Rebecca Newberger Goldstein • Seth Lloyd • Stewart Brand • George Dyson • Matt Ridley

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Henry Hedrick:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world could share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire all their reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only situation that share in the books. But also they write about the information about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors these days always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some study before they write with their book. One of them is this *This Explains Everything: Deep, Beautiful, and Elegant Theories of How the World Works* (Edge Question Series).

Judy Newberry:

The e-book with title *This Explains Everything: Deep, Beautiful, and Elegant Theories of How the World Works* (Edge Question Series) contains a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. This particular book exist new information the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world now. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you in new era of the global growth. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

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Kenneth Jordan:

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