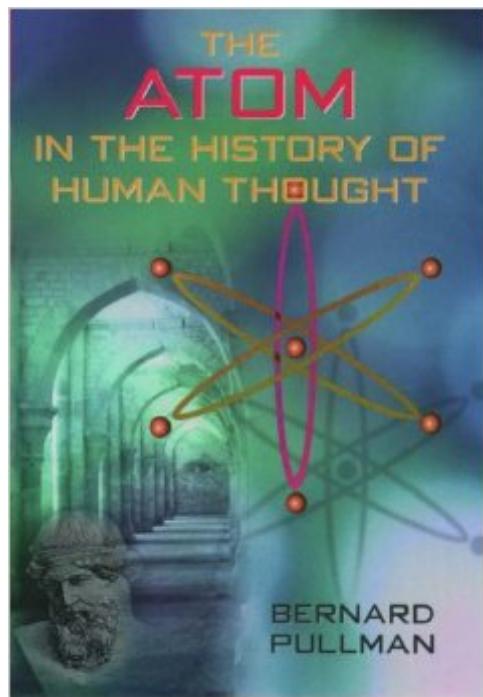


The book was found

# The Atom In The History Of Human Thought



## Synopsis

The idea of the atom--the ultimate essence of physical reality, indivisible and eternal--has been the focus of a quest that has engaged humanity for 2,500 years. That quest is captured in *The Atom in the History of Human Thought*. Here is a panoramic intellectual history that begins in ancient Greece, ranges across the entire span of Western philosophy and science, and ends with the first direct visual proof of the atom's existence, just ten years ago. Bernard Pullman deftly captures the richness and depth of this remarkable debate, giving us not only the ideas of philosophers, church leaders, and scientists, but also the historical and social context from which these thoughts evolved. We have marvelous accounts of the work of such thinkers as Plato and Aristotle, Aquinas and Maimonides, Galileo and Descartes, Newton and Einstein--indeed, virtually every major philosopher of Western civilization, with excursions into the Hindu and Arab world--all presented against the backdrop of history. But perhaps most fascinating is the gradual shift in the book from a philosophical and religious perspective to a scientific perspective, especially in the 19th century, as science begins to dominate how humanity understands the world. Thus a book that begins with pre-Socratic philosophers such as Democritus and Empedocles ends with nuclear physicists such as Werner Heisenberg and Richard Feynman, and with a very different world view. Ably translated by Axel Reisinger, this is a vibrant look at humanity's search to understand the ultimate nature of physical reality, a quest that has spanned the entire course of Western civilization.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 403 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1st edition (January 15, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195114477

ISBN-13: 978-0195114478

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.2 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,625,410 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Books > Science & Math > Chemistry > Physical & Theoretical > Quantum Chemistry #237 in Books > Science & Math > Physics > Nuclear Physics > Atomic & Nuclear Physics #4311 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Physics

## Customer Reviews

could have written this opus on the history of atomic theory AND felt compelled to cite the views of both Nietzsche (the phenomenalist Antichrist) and Marx ("Hadrons of the World Unite"??). To round things out, there's even a quote from Levi-Strauss! To be sure, this is a flawed opus. Published posthumously in 1998 (the author died in 1996), the text has a hurried feel to it, as if compiled from notes by an anonymous editor. As a consequence, the coverage is as uneven as the chapter lengths variable. Chapter 6 ("Principles and Primordial Substances") consists of one very helpful figure with a one-paragraph description, together occupying the better part of a single page. The chapter on "Hindu Atomism" (much touted in the pages of the journal, *Science*) rightly attributes atomism to the Hindu Nyaya-Vaishisheka school. But it neglects the much more prominent place of atomism in Buddhism (with its doctrine of momentariness), devoting only 1/2 page (of 8 total!) to Buddhist thought. In contrast, the chapter on the 20th century takes up nearly 100 pages. On the whole, Western philosophy fares better; yet the hackneyed phrasing of Whitehead's famous quote about footnotes to Plato--"All of Western philosophy is but a long commentary on the writings of Plato" [p.49]--indicates that the translation leaves something to be desired. Still, the work does have its "moments." Part I on the Greek inception of atomic theory, 4 element theory, Platonic/Pythagorean modifications, and the Aristotelean arch-enemy (of undifferentiated substance and divinely impressed form) is excellent, as is Part IV, which focuses on the scientific developments of the 19th & 20th centuries.

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

7 BOOKS ON MENTAL POWER AND THOUGHT FORCE. THOUGHT-FORCE IN BUSINESS AND EVERYDAY LIFE; MEMORY CULTURE; DYNAMIC THOUGHT; THOUGHT VIBRATION; MENTAL POWER; ... OF LESSONS (Timeless Wisdom Collection) The Atom in the History of Human Thought 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) American Interpretations of Natural Law: A Study in the History of Political Thought (Library of Liberal Thought) Auras: Master the Art of Sensing, Seeing, and Knowing the Human Aura (Auras,Human Aura,Astral Colors,Thought Forms,Chakras) Poetry, Language, Thought (Harper Perennial Modern Thought) The Religious Thought of Hasidism: Text and Commentary (Sources and Studies in Kabbalah, Hasidism, and Jewish Thought, V. 4) Getting Started with Intel Edison: Sensors, Actuators, Bluetooth, and Wi-Fi on the Tiny Atom-Powered Linux Module (Make : Technology on Your Time) Quantum Transport: Atom to Transistor Skis Against the Atom: The Exciting, First Hand Account of Heroism and Daring Sabotage During the Nazi Occupation of Norway The Consciousness of the Atom Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry : Comprehensive Heterocyclic

Chemistry, Six-Membered Rings With One Nitrogen Atom The Atom and the Fault: Experts, Earthquakes, and Nuclear Power (MIT Press) Mr Tompkins in Paperback: Containing Mr. Tompkins in Wonderland And Mr. Tompkins Explores the Atom Hidden In Plain Sight 5: Atom Boltzmanns Atom: The Great Debate That Launched A Revolution In Physics The Fly in the Cathedral: How a Group of Cambridge Scientists Won the International Race to Split the Atom Elements 2017 Calendar: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe 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) Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought)

[Dmca](#)