

The Clockwork Universe: Isaac Newton, the Royal Society, and the Birth of the Modern World

By Edward Dolnick

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New York Times bestselling author Edward Dolnick brings to light the true story of one of the most pivotal moments in modern intellectual history—when a group of strange, tormented geniuses invented science as we know it, and remade our understanding of the world. Dolnick's earth-changing story of Isaac Newton, the Royal Society, and the birth of modern science is at once an entertaining romp through the annals of academic history, in the vein of Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, and a captivating exploration of a defining time for scientific progress, in the tradition of Richard Holmes' *The Age of Wonder*.

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
For this narrative of the seventeenth century's scientific revolution, Dolnick embeds the mathematical discoveries of Kepler, Galileo, Newton, and Leibniz in the prevailing outlook of their time. God was presumed integral to the universe, so discerning how it worked was a quest as theological as it was intellectual. By directing readers to the deistic drive in their famous achievements, Dolnick accents what otherwise strikes moderns as strange, such as Newton's obsession with alchemy and biblical hermeneutics. Those pursuits held codes to God's mind, as did motion and, especially, planetary motion, and Dolnick's substance follows the greats' progress in code-breaking, depicting Kepler's mathematical thought process in devising his laws, Galileo's in breaking out the vectors of falling objects, Newton's and Leibniz's in inventing calculus, and Newton's in formulating his laws of gravitation. Including apt biographical detail, Dolnick humanizes the group, socializes them by means of their connections to such coevals as the members of the nascent Royal Society, and captures their mental coexistence in mysticism and rationality. A concise explainer, Dolnick furnishes a fine survey introduction to a fertile field of scientific biography and history. -- Gilbert Taylor

Review
"Edward Dolnick's smoothly written history of the scientific revolution tells the stories of the key players and events that transformed society."

From the Back Cover

In a world of chaos and disease, one group of driven, idiosyncratic geniuses envisioned a universe that ran like clockwork. They were the Royal Society, the men who made the modern world.

At the end of the seventeenth century, sickness was divine punishment, astronomy and astrology were indistinguishable, and the world's most brilliant, ambitious, and curious scientists were tormented by contradiction. They believed in angels, devils, and alchemy yet also believed that the universe followed precise mathematical laws that were as intricate and perfectly regulated as the mechanisms of a great clock.

The Clockwork Universe captures these monolithic thinkers as they wrestled with nature's most sweeping mysteries. Award-winning writer Edward Dolnick illuminates the fascinating personalities of Newton, Leibniz, Kepler, and others, and vividly animates their momentous struggle during an era when little was known and everything was new—battles of will, faith, and intellect that would change the course of history itself.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Goodspeed:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite book and reading a book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled The Clockwork Universe: Isaac Newton, the Royal Society, and the Birth

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Bertha Greene:

The feeling that you get from The Clockwork Universe: Isaac Newton, the Royal Society, and the Birth of the Modern World may be the more deep you rooting the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but The Clockwork Universe: Isaac Newton, the Royal Society, and the Birth of the Modern World giving you joy feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood simply by anyone who read it because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having that The Clockwork Universe: Isaac Newton, the Royal Society, and the Birth of the Modern World instantly.

Joshua Atkins:

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Gloria Castaldo:

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